

## Gina Villalobos, *Rock 'n' Roll Pony*



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ACOUSTIC  
GUITAR

**By Bill Meyer**

Gina Villalobos' *Rock 'n' Roll Pony* will remind you what a great rock album is supposed to sound like. It's not exactly new and daring, but it does have a real electricity and honesty that will open some eyes to this emerging Los Angeles, California-based talent. A skillful amalgam of indie rock, country, and power pop, *Rock 'n' Roll Pony* defies easy classification while still sounding familiar. Great tracks like "Why," "I'm Alright," and "Put the Message in a Box" (a World Party cover) will remind you as much of Matthew Sweet as country-rock angels like Lucinda Williams or Sheryl Crow. Villalobos' sweet but gritty vocals are a perfect complement to her provocative, self-deprecating lyrics ("I think I need an operation / Come on and cut me up") and her band's big, crunchy southern California sound. (Kick, [www.ginavillalobos.com](http://www.ginavillalobos.com)) □