



misdemeanors of missy

Music's newest "It Girl" is worth all the hype.

By Colleen M. Lee

lot of years I was one of those people who just loved the idea of being in love. I think I have stopped that now. I think something happened to me a couple years ago and now I'm just really enjoying getting to know myself.

Are you a multi-dater?

If I'm in a relationship, I'm definitely just committed to that one person.

Where do you see your music going?

I've never planned where my music was gonna go. At the moment, I think I'm really exploring my own sense of self and where I kind of sit in the world. I was on anti-depressants for a long time and I stopped them I think maybe about a couple of years ago, but at the moment I'm trying self-exploration and trying to get my head back on track—teach [my mind] to be more still and open, because I think at the moment it's way too crowded.

You now live in the States. Do you plan on hooking up with an American?

It's funny because that band the Waif, all of them met Americans and fell in love. You end up spending most of your time touring America, so its kind of half-inevitable that it happens.

And we can be very charming.

Oh you're alright. [Laughs] I could do a lot worse. [Laughs.] ■

After speaking one-on-one with Missy Higgins, I thought she was quite shy and reserved, not at all the person I saw performing in San Francisco a few days later. She is one of the few artists who sounds better live than on CD, and on stage she was all charm and bravado—she frequently teased the audience by adjusting a falling bra strap. Finally, after six songs, she said humorously, "I will never buy a Target bra again." Now if we could just get the enigma to open up about her sexuality...

In 2007, you had the best-selling album in Australia. How do you stay humble?

It helps having a grounded family. I think the people around me have always been completely honest with me and tell me how it is. They're not "yes" people. So I think you've just got to make the right choices in the beginning.

Would you ever date a fan?

I don't think I could. I would never completely rule it out, honestly, but—it's horrible to say—it's not attractive when somebody comes up and wants your autograph. You want to start a relationship off from equal footing, you know; you don't want to have the upper hand.

Your songs are intense. Is there anything that makes you happy?

I've gotten really into rock climbing the last year and a half. It's been a really amazing thing. It's pulled me out of the music industry, something I've been immersed in half of my life—to have something that is on the outside of all that, that I can just love for the sake of it and not because it's my career.

It sounds like you've been in love and have been hurt a few times.

I guess so. I'm definitely a romantic, so I have been in love quite a few times, but, you know, for a

GoGirls Is All About the Ladies

GoGirlsMusic.com is an online store, a record label, an event coordinator but, most of all, a community. And it's all about promoting indie women in music. Madalyn Sklar, the founder of GoGirls, began the organization in 1996 to connect female musicians and to offer them the support and guidance that the music establishment in Houston did not. Her efforts have exploded into a successful network of more than 8,000 members.

A major part of the GoGirls world is its lively music festivals. Just this past March, the annual Invasion of the GoGirls brought 60 performers to Austin, Texas in a number of

showcases that were free to the public. The annual GoGirlsMusicFest is a benefit that tours the country and features performances by some of its talented musicians.

According to Dawn Cook, the founder of Manifest Frequency, MusicFest is not only a treat for the audience, but for the performers as well. "Instead of the competitive distrust you find too often in the music industry, these events really highlight the power we can have when we connect with others." Vanessa Torres, who also plays with her band, Touching Ground, added that the sense of community was key

to playing GoGirls events. "The music industry is no different than any industry in the sense that it can be doubly challenging for women to get a foot in the door and really be taken seriously. Even in the folk world. GoGirls is such a valuable resource to female musicians."

The songs that both women contributed to the album are incred-

ibly meaningful—something else that is hard to find in the music industry these days. Torres says her song "I Don't Exist" was inspired by a group of kids she worked with who were "trying to dress and act the part of people who had nothing to do with their own experiences—people they were seeing on MTV, on reality TV shows," because their own experiences do not exist in the media.

The *MusicFest '07* album can be found on GoGirlsMusicFest.com and you can look forward to MusicFest '08, which kicks off in October and will benefit Hep C Aware.

—Kamala K. Puligandla



Madalyn Sklar (center) and members of The Locals