



Emma-Lee

THE STORY...

Armed with the kind of voice that could melt you with her rendition of the yellow pages, it's a testament to her artistry that Toronto singer Emma-Lee chose not to rest on this strength alone, but put sincere focus on becoming a great songwriter.

The foundation of **Never Just A Dream** is built on a collection of songs inspired by the sort of heartache that is universal to anyone who has lived a life worth living. Produced by Mitch Girio, the sound is at times swingin' jazz, at others dreamy 50's pop, with hints of folk and blues all delivered by a voice rich and sweet as a red velvet cupcake.

While she grew up listening to songwriting greats like Joni Mitchell and jazz legends such as Ella Fitzgerald, Emma-Lee's weakness still lay in the appreciation of a great pop melody. While penning *Never Just a Dream* she often listened to AM oldies radio, drawing on the power of disguising the complex with the kind of familiarity that warms you up like an episode of *Leave It To Beaver* on a snow day.

Matters of the heart certainly run rampant on the album, but not every tune is a wistful school girl's diary entry. The Dusty Springfield tinged "*An Older Man*" shows that Emma-Lee is all grown up and simultaneously gives hope to over-the-hill fellas across the nation. The title track – complete with haunting male backing vocals and Lynchian sax solo suggests darker tones and hints at regret of mistakes gone-by. The cinematic closer "*Until We Meet Again*" is a wild-card flashing promise of an intriguing career that's only just beginning.

In the fragile opening track, "*Bruise Easy*" she coos, "*It's hard to love a girl wearing sorrow.*" If it sounds like she knows what she's singing about, she does. For the better part of two years *Never Just A Dream* was almost just that; a dream. Emma-Lee has endured a double shot of a young singer's worst nightmare; a lump on her thyroid in 2006 chased with a polyp on her vocal cords in 2007. The first surgery required half of her thyroid to be removed — the most significant risk? Vocal cord paralysis. Almost one year later to the day revealed a totally unrelated polyp on her vocal cords which would require another operation and put her near-completed album on hold yet again. Two successful surgeries later her voice healed fully and she sprinted into the studio with bells on, proving it would take a lot more than a scalpel to stop her.

It's that kind of dedication and unwavering faith that sets Emma-Lee apart. With a strong DIY work ethic, Emma-Lee initially released *Never Just a Dream* on her own label. The album quickly garnered critical acclaim – which by a twist of fate enabled Larry Wanagas, owner of Bumstead Records, to discover a new talent. Emma-Lee recalls; "A writer for the Toronto Star had given my album a really lovely review and compared my sound to not one - but two artists that Larry had managed. By chance his wife read the paper that morning and the very next day I had an e-mail from Larry interested in meeting me. The rest, as they say – is history!"

Of recent note the album has been warmly embraced by **CBC Radio** and regularly receives spins on a variety of shows across the country. In addition, **iTunes Canada** has strongly supported *Never Just a Dream* — selecting the song "*That Sinking Feeling*" as their **Single of the Week** and also featured the album in their **Indie Spotlight**.

Talent like Emma-Lee's must be heard to be believed. Her voice cuts through a crowd with such clarity that she's become known for silencing the most boisterous audience. Anxious to reach her growing international fanbase, Emma-Lee will be hitting the road in 2009!

NEVER JUST A DREAM

Track Listing | **Key Tracks***

1. Bruise Easy
2. **That Sinking Feeling***
3. Never Just a Dream
4. **Jealousy***
5. Flow
5. **Isn't it Obvious***
7. Mr. Buttonlip
8. An Older Man
9. Where You Want to Be
10. **Until We Meet Again***

www.emma-lee.com

www.myspace.com/emmalee

PRESS REACTION

"Blessed with a delicate yet potent sound that harkens to k.d. lang and Madeleine Peyroux, Emma-Lee is a top-shelf songwriter, serving up tunes that explore all things romantic – jealousy, rebounding, May-December pairings – with Rickie Lee Jones honesty, Amy Winehouse sauciness and rapper-slick immortality. She's destined for big things.
- **The Toronto Star** (**** 4/4 star review)

"Clearly, *Never Just a Dream*, is an auspicious beginning."
- **The Globe & Mail** (***) 1/2 star 'disc of the week' review)

"Lyrics born from painful personal experience combined with soothing, soaring melodies make this freshman effort one of the more impressive debuts this year."
- **Mark Rheume, CBC Radio**

"Emma-Lee's debut sounds like it could have been born somewhere between San Antonio, Texas and Sao Paulo, Brazil. It's a big, luscious album with a touch of Patsy Cline's country heartbreak set against Astrud Gilberto's ease-and-flow bossa nova. We love it."
- **iTunes Canada**

"Lots of jazzy vocalists can sing nice, comfortable music, but not many play with the conventions creatively, which is where she shines."
- **NOW Magazine**

"The luscious landscape of 'That Sinking Feeling' sets the proper mood for what you're going to get; a genre-defying balance of songs that are flawlessly produced to compliment one of Canada's best-undiscovered secrets: Emma-Lee's voice."
- **Oxyfication.net**



Bumstead Productions Ltd.

Larry Wanagas - Management/Label
P.O. Box 158, Stn. E
Toronto, ON M6H 4E2
Ph: (416) 656-2600
info@bumstead.com
www.bumstead.com

Killbeat Music

Ken Beattie - Press/Publicity/Radio
P.O. Box # 2136, Station Main
Vancouver, BC V6B 3T8
Ph: (604)683-2124
kb@killbeatmusic.com
www.killbeatmusic.com