

Ndidi Onukwulu

The Contradictor

On her debut *No, I Never*, Ndidi Onukwulu proved she can wrap her silky voice around anything from country blues to her own rootsy salon sound. Now we have *The Contradictor*, all about focus, training that formidable silk edge on everyone's private pain, and contradicting the anguish with a full, upbeat, resonance.

The Contradictor is personal and universal, built on Ndidi's songwriting mining the extremes of intimacy, with the bigger sounds and tones she is most interested in uncovering. These are songs of heartache, heartbreak, and longing. 'Not nice,' as she says, but as full as these can be. And as rich.

The album opens with the brass-laden 'SK Final,' and moves breathlessly to the anthemic 'The Lady & E.' Other standouts are 'Rise,' which harkens back to the blues of Ndidi's first release, and 'No Everybody,' that sneaks an anti-conformity rock message under a reggae opening.

Joining Ndidi on the CD is a fearsome roster of world-class players: including Jesse Zubot (strings/mandolin), Paul Pigat (guitars), Steve Dawson (guitars), Roey Shemesh (bass), Barry Mirochnick (drums) and Tyson Naylor (keyboards). Dawson produced the CD with Zubot producing some of the tracks.



Praise for *No, I Never*

Anyone who thinks there's nothing more that can be done with the blues hasn't heard this fantastic record. And if there's any justice, everyone will have heard this record before long.
~ Mark Rheume, *CBC Radio*

It's rare indeed that a voice like Ndidi's comes along. With nuances of Billie Holiday and Bessie Smith, Ndidi's own unique style hits you where you live. Whether she's singing a slow torchy blues or a driving knock-out fast tune, Ndidi nails it every time.

~ Phyllis Stenson, Artistic Director, *Harrison Festival of the Arts*



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track listing

SK Final
The Lady & E
Forever SZ
Almost JD
Goodnight JF
Move Together
No Everybody
Her House is
Empty KH
Boogie MB
Cry All Day
Rise
He Needs Me

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