

Rachel Taylor Beales 06

bio

www.racheltaylor-beales.com

Rachel takes the stage, shuts her eyes and **sings**. **Soulful** and **resonant** like some fallen chorister, hers is a voice thick enough to stand a spoon in. The blend of the **acoustic** and the jazz, the soft and the sceptical, the old and the new, are punctuated by an instinct to examine life and sift out little **pieces of truth**. In essence she is a **storyteller** re-counting her observations with humour, anger, sweetness and all of them dressed in her mesmeric, dancing voice. These are songs to celebrate our extra-ordinary ordinariness, the dignity in the mundane and the good in the sad.

By the age of 12 Rachel had notched up **13 different houses**, 7 schools and 5 relocations between **Australia and the UK**. Surrounded by a family of musicians she picked up a spare guitar and 2 years later began by writing a song about the death of her best friend's granddad. She remembers hearing **Tori Amos on the radio**, late during one sleepless night, already on a borrowed diet of Joni Mitchell, Suzanne Vega, and the Beach Boys, music soon became as natural as breathing.

She **began performing** regularly on the Nottingham scene; **met Bill** (a visual artist) got hitched and left for Australia. They spent the **next 4 years** travelling round on variety of modes of transport from push bikes **to station wagons held together with string**, and after playing and painting in all kinds of places, they formed a performing arts company, 3 Chord Trick (Now Collective AM). Along the way they picked up other singer-songwriters, dancers and a rainmaker and **decided firmly** never to get **proper jobs**. Since then they have composed and performed their way through theatres, schools, prisons, pubs, clubs, festivals and even an audio book and played an **extensive tour** of the **UK and America**.

Now based in **Cardiff, Wales**, **Rachel** has established herself as a solo artist, self-releasing **her debut album Brilliant Blue** and subsequently being signed to Martyn Joseph's own label, **Pipe Records**. Her tastes range from Jasper Fforde to Camus, Green and Blacks to Haribo fixes, G 'n' T to communion wine. And her CD player these days is stocked with Waits, Orton, Dylan, Cave as well as Iron and Wine, Di Franco, Sufjan Stevens and much more.

Rachel has a **searing soul filled** voice that wraps itself around her seamless blend of **acoustic folk and jazz** arrangements. The songs are full of quirky melodies and rich harmonies with beautifully observed **narratives of the human condition**. The **Brilliant Blue** songs are a collection of stories about **waking up in the middle of a storm** and asking yourself "**how the **** am I going to get through today?**" Rachel is keen to point out, however, that this album is **still, at its heart, about hope**. "I love the idea that the eye of the storm is actually a very still place- it's just getting in there and getting out again that might cause you to break your neck!"

'Here are ten torch songs put together with a whole bunch of heart'
Americana-UK

'Stark, striking and coldly affecting'
Venue Magazine, Bristol

'Rachel feels for her songs and delivers them as if they are the most precious thing to her at that moment...an album about a journey, both physical and emotional, this is brought about by some superbly penned lyrics'
Cambridge and Beyond website

'I loved it from the moment I heard the first note. It literally stopped me in my tracks'.

Martyn Joseph

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