



DIANA REIN

INTERVIEWED BY BRIAN LUSH

The art of lead guitar playing doesn't have that special place in rock music that it used to have. And lets not even get started about it's near absence from what they are calling indie rock these days so we are really excited to hear that singer-songwriter DIANA REIN is not only a champion of the lost art but the making of her forthcoming release LONG ROAD was contingent upon it. Her fascination with the six string had begun when her parents had purchased the pay-per-view special MOSCOW PEACE FESTIVAL where metal bands had stormed Gorly Park all in the name of peace. REIN was only eleven years old but the pursuit of the instrument was delayed by an acting career. She was one MACAULEY CULKIN's cousins in the first two HOME ALONE movies. Eventually she found her way back to music and found herself looking to the chops of the legendary STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN for inspiration. After the release of one album REIN decided to take complete control over her newest release by playing all of the instruments and learning lead guitar. This sense of freedom, initiative and enthusiasm can be heard on the tracks of LONG ROAD and REIN's songwriting and performance rings true and clear.

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are being mixed and I love it and I can't wait for people to hear it but it's kind of tedious going back and forth through email to get these songs finalized but it's what you have to do. You know? But I'm loving how everything sounds so I can't wait for the album to be out.

I can't imagine that that whole process of recording music and then leaving it to someone else to be mixed is an easy one. The thing is before I sent it to someone to have mixed when I was doing this particular album I recorded it on my own. In my house. I played rhythm guitar, lead guitar, bass guitar and ended up using a software program called EASY DRUMMER to program the drums. This album as opposed to my first album which I only played rhythm guitar on and no lead at all because I didn't know how to play lead at that time. I've only been playing lead guitar for two and a half to three years. I decided that this time I'm going to do it all on my own. I was even ambitious enough to try to

I've had a chance to listen to the upcoming album LONG ROAD. It's great work and now that it's almost out there for people to hear how do you feel about the finished work?

The newest album isn't out yet. It'll be coming out May 18th. I'm so anxious to get it out there. I keep hearing the songs as they

mix and master this thing myself but when it came down to mixing it I was just going crazy. There is no way that I can do this. What was I thinking?

Sometimes no one can make it on their own. So right now I'm happy to send it off to

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somebody else. If it's a friend it's harder because you don't want to ruin friendships. If it's someone who is simply working for you then it is easier to collaborate I feel. Unless it's someone that you're friends with that is on the same page as you.

With these songs that your about to release - where did they come from? What kind of place were you coming from as a writer?

It was a rebirth. I had gone away from music for a while for a couple of reasons. One was that I wasn't playing guitar the way that I wanted to play it. I wanted to play lead guitar and I just felt limited. I was hearing things in my head and I wasn't able to produce them and that just frustrated me. The second reason was that I had a vocal polyp on my throat. It was there from before my music career ever started. I don't know exactly when but it was there right from the start. I was always challenged to sing despite that and I did pretty good until one day in an acting class I was told to scream and stomp on stage and after that I couldn't talk for two weeks. It was a constant challenge with the vocals. I took care of that in 2011 with surgery so it's been gone for a while. Then in 2012 I have my son VAUGHAN. He's named after STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN. Right before I had my son I produced and starred in a film that I wrote called GYPSY GIFT and it had music in it. Even when I was doing acting there was always music involved. When I had my son I really wasn't doing much because I was with him 24/7. It was almost he time for him to turn one year old that I started feeling this depression come over me and I had to come to terms with how things were going to look from then on. I remember bouncing him one night and singing to him to get him to sleep and I just remember tears coming down my face because I was so far removed from purpose. I love being a mom

and I love him to death but I just wasn't sure. There was this big question mark over my head. I didn't know what I was supposed to do next. He did give me a focus though. I'm way more disciplined and focused after having him. I have a whole different perspective.

But you've come around and have really taken charge on this new CD. You say that you've played most of the instruments but was there a producer at your side to help you?

No. It was just me. I knew that I wanted to do blues rock. I knew that I wanted to play guitar. I knew that I wanted the music to be guitar driven. I had a great teacher KELLY RITCHEY. She's a blues rock lady who has been out here for many many years. She taught me for about a year and when I separated from her I just started writing. It was on January 1, 2015 that I started writing and words and music just started spilling out of me. It was a very fruitful musical time. I wrote twelve songs in eleven days and then I started recording them. I was in control this time. I wanted to be in control this time because I felt very empowered by knowing how to play lead guitar this time. For my first album that wasn't the case and I did have a producer who was a friend of mine named TED WOLFERS. It's just different when you know all of the components of something and hear something in your head and know how to produce it. When I was doing my first album I was pretty clueless but it was a very valuable experience. I knew this time around exactly what I wanted. I just wanted to make sure that I was at the helm and I was the captain of the ship this time. If anyone was to blame this time it would be me and I would be okay with it. If I like what I'm hearing not everyone is going to like it but if I like it then I'm golden.

How did music get started for you?

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I have to say that the biggest influence over me was STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN. I went to TARGET one day and I was looking for some CDs and I saw the front cover of the DVD LIVE IN AUSTIN and it intrigued me. I hadn't heard of him before. I'm sure growing up I had heard PRIDE AND JOY but I didn't put one and one together. So I went home and put in the DVD and I was just floored. At that point if had only been playing acoustic. From that point on I wanted to learn to play electric guitar so I was pretty obsessed with him. The very first time that I remember hearing a guitar I was eleven years old and my parents rented the PAY-PER-VIEW of the MOSCOW PEACE FESTIVAL with all of these headbanging bands. Remember that one.

I remember. I was fifteen years old or something like that. I was a kid.

Me too! It's like what happened? I remember seeing CINDERELLA's TOM KEEFER playing NOBODY'S FOOL. The intro to it had this really heavy arena sound to it. It had all of this reverb and it was just airy and beautiful. It consumed me. I remember looking at the TV and not being able to move because I loved that sound. I did play piano when I was younger but I didn't pick yup the guitar until I was about sixteen. I pretty much taught myself but that got interrupted when I went to college in California to study acting. For me it was very disjointed because I would study acting and then do music. I was eleven years old when I saw that MOSCOW PEACE FESTIVAL but a few months later I go a part in HOME ALONE. I was one of the children in HOME ALONE 1 and HOME ALONE 2. I was one of the cousins. That took me on a different path. You take an eleven year old girl and put her on the set of a feature film and it does something. It was this amazing experience. I was infatuated and felt that this was what I had to do with

the rest of my life. I sometimes wonder if that had not happened what sort of twists and turns in my musical path would've taken place. I don't regret anything and I'm very happy with where I'm at right now. But sometimes you wonder.

And describe the songwriting process for you. How do you go about it?

For me what I like to do is start with a guitar riff and just play a series of chords and then start singing. I usually sing gibberish with melodies and I record myself doing so because I know that when the muse is happening it can fly away so quickly so I always make sure that I'm recording myself. When the words start coming out I usually keep those and start building them into an idea. Once I have the crux of a song then I'll start to figure out how to decorate it with the lead guitar.

What songs off this upcoming release have you the most excited and why?

All of these songs are my babies. These are my twelve babies. I've never written an instrumental before. It was last year in May that my dog ZOE passed away and I wrote two instrumental songs for her. One is called PEACE and the other is called ZOE and that one will be on the new album. I'm really excited for people to hear it because it's very moving. I think it will really transcend people's feelings about loss in their lives. I played it for my father and I didn't tell him what it was about and he started crying. He said that it really reminded him of his parents who have passed. It's a melancholy guitar tune. The other songs on the album are really rocking songs. They're blues rock songs. That was something that I couldn't pull off with my first album. It's something that I couldn't pull off had I never learned to play lead guitar.