



Diana Rein

Hi Diana, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?

Great thank you! Just overwhelmed with a great response for the single "Down Down Down" from my new album Long Road which is being released May 18th. I am working really hard day in and day out for everything to go smoothly and somehow still finding time to practice guitar and find my little slice of heaven when I get to play music.

Can you talk to us more about your latest single "While We Cry"?

Well, I did do a cover called While We Cry. It's a song by Kenny Wayne Shepherd and I loved it so much that I wanted to do my own version. But it's not on my new album. I give it to people for free when they sign up for my newsletter on my website dianarein.com. My first single "Down Down Down" from my new album is a no holds barred guitar driven anthem song that will get you rockin' out of your chair. It starts with a blues introduction with just me on guitar and vocals which gives an homage to my Blues roots and then it tears into a strong lyrical message that came to me when I was dealing with some health issues a year ago. I wanted the lead guitars and the melody to reflect the strength that was building up inside of me to not let anything get me Down. It's a very inspirational song for me. Keeps me grounded and in the present moment. And I love to revel in being a tough chick!!!

Did any event in particular inspired you to write this song?

I was just dealing with more visits to the Doctor than I would like and not getting any conclusive answers. It was getting me depressed because I was in the middle of writing and recording my album and I had this dark cloud over me. So writing this song and another song on the album called "Come Back Home" was very therapeutic for me during this time. I can't think of a better way to give fear or worry a kick in the butt than to write a song about it and have it transform you.

Any plans to release a video for the single?

Right now, I am working on shooting a teaser video for the album. I do everything myself. I don't know if that makes me controlling or what but I definitely have clear visions for what I want and sometimes it is just easier to not argue about something and just do it yourself. I can be pretty stubborn too which I suppose comes from me being a Taurus. But my personality has been advantageous because I have learned how to record on my own and play all the instruments or in the case of the drums I programmed them. I also edit all of my videos. So it's made me a more educated and artistic person. I do have an idea for the video for "Down Down Down" and once the album is released I feel like I will have more time to get a set date to shoot the video. I certainly feel it is a necessity to have a video in this day and age. We are all very visual people and I get that. I spend hours on youtube sometimes!!

The single comes off your new material Long Road what's the story behind the title?

I wrote the song Long Road when my son turned one years old and I had decided that my hiatus from music was over and I would never subject myself to the depression that not having music in my life gave me. I sat down after not writing for over a year and I just let it all out. I didn't even know how to play lead guitar yet when I wrote it. But I wrote it and kept it and embellished it two and a half years later after I had worked my butt off to play lead guitar and was at a place where I was ready to add to the song. So it all started with "Long Road". It is a ballad and it takes the first playing spot on the album because it just made sense to place it first. Then I come at you with an electric fire after that with most of the other songs on the album. There's a lot of fire in me just ready to come out. I've kept it inside too long!

How was the recording and writing process?

Other than the song "Long Road", I sat down on January 1st, 2015 and started writing. I wrote 12 songs in 11 days. One of the songs will be on my next album that I have waiting in the wings. After writing them, I taught myself how to record and laid down the drums, rhythm guitars and bass guitar. I did this any spare chance I had when either my family was watching my son or mostly when he was sleeping at night. When that was done, I recorded the vocals. Then my dog Zoe passed away in May of 2015 and I was just devastated. So that spun me in a hole of just writing more and I came out with 12 more songs that I programmed drums for and recorded bass and rhythm guitar and vocals for. When I finished that process I was ready to record leads but I had to wait for an amp to get made for me. So that pushed me back a few months. But during this off time I was teaching myself how to mix and master. I was finally able to finish the lead guitar recordings and instead of mixing and mastering it myself, I found someone who retained my vision and had more tools to deliver the final product than I did. So it was a good match up.

How has Mythology influence your music, especially the lyrics on this record?

Mythology wasn't at the forefront of my mind in making the album although I have always had a penchant for learning about the Roman Goddess Diana, always trying to find some clues about myself through descriptions of her. I love to think that I am an animal whisperer since animals tend to gravitate towards me and I sure do love the mystical nature of the moon and the metaphysical world. But back the to the album, the lyrics on the album came from a place of liberation and confidence that came as I was getting better and better at playing guitar. I feel like I have the strength of a hundred men when I am playing guitar. There's no better feeling. And to be able to tell it like it is with my lyrics and stand strong in what it is to be a woman is just a gift from this whole experience. I can't believe all that I have accomplished in such a short span of time but that's more evidence to me that I am fulfilling my purpose and I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

Does Chicago plays a role in your music as well?

I was raised in Chicago and it influenced my ear for music while growing up. Chicago is such adverse music town, everywhere you turn in the summertime there are music festivals happening. One of the biggest Blues Festivals around is held in Chicago every year. So I am thankful that I had the Blues in my awareness from a very young age because of the fact that I lived there. And living in the snow and cold weather 9 months out of the year can definitely get you in touch with the Blues, that's for sure. But seriously, I learned the ropes there and played my first solo and band gigs in the city. It's obviously a part of me. With the making of this album though and what plays a bigger part in my musical influences while making this album is just listening to all of the great Blues Rock players and then developing my own sound. I like to watch videos of great players like Hendrix, SRV, and Clapton. I get annoyed learning anything note for note though. But I study them and then I get an overall impression of what they are doing and then I make it my own. I feel that if I learned licks note for note it would limit my expression. And whenever I have tried learning guitar licks note for note, they never stick with me anyway. I just need to be free when playing. But I will never stop watching them and learning. I will never be done learning.

Any plans to hit the road?

Rig ht now I am assembling a band and looking for the right fit of people. Once that is in place, performing live is definitely going to happen. It's definitely an exciting and fresh time!

What else is happening next in Diana Rein's world?

My life is basically split into two clear sections. The Mom/Wife and the Musician. So I am constantly working at that balance. My family keeps me grounded and my music gives my life an extra bit of magic. You'll find me constantly working and learning to be a better version of myself everyday. My son being born focused me more than ever on how I wanted to live out my purpose in life. And being a musician allows me to be a great example for my son. Even though I say there are two different sections of my World, maybe I'm wrong. They might just be a perfect and complete fit for each other. I am going to keep working as hard as I can and just be grateful for all of the opportunities and blessings that come my way. Thank you so much for this opportunity Vents magazine!