

A new Marshall in town

by Eddi Laechswarm
Brunswickan Entertainment

Despite being only 23 years old, Amanda Marshall has already proven herself as a force to be reckoned with in the Canadian music scene. She cut her teeth performing in nightclubs in Toronto; something which caught the eye of Jeff Healey, and led to a wealth of touring throughout Canada without even stepping into a recording studio. A certain amount of buzz came from her performance on *Borrowed Tunes*, a Neil Young tribute album, but she still had not recorded her own full length record. But that has changed in the past year or so, culminating in the release of her self-titled debut album, and the successful first single 'Let It Rain'. And if all that wasn't enough, she is supporting Tom Cochrane on his cross-Canada tour - something which is bound to win her even more fans as more people discover her own particular type of music. I was fortunate enough to talk to Amanda a couple of weeks ago, just before she hit the road.



Amanda relaxes in her spacious apartment

So, you're heading off on tour - is this your first really big tour?

It is for the new record, but we did tour around Canada with Tom before about two years ago, and before that with Jeff Healey. I'm kind of an old hand at it, but it is still pretty exciting.

Things have been moving very fast for you over the past year or so, haven't they?

Well, the record itself took a year and a half to make, and that was a good experience for me. It was a real growth experience for me as I was living for the first time on a steady basis on my own, and it was the first studio work that I had done where I was in the studio every day working on some facet of the record. I was also working with a bunch of people that I hadn't worked with before, so that was an adventure. So while the press and the people buying the record thought that it appeared very quickly, for me it was a steady work process.

A lot of the songwriting on the record was done by some other people - is that something that you'd like to change?

I was a bit of a late bloomer - song writing was something that came to me as a necessity rather than something that I was inspired to sit down and do. Writing songs is like using a muscle - the more you do it, the stronger it becomes. I'm a singer by trade, and that's what I really love to do but it was important to me that I do contribute as a writer to the record, and also that I was able to communicate to the people

around me in their own language. And when you are working with a group of writers, they have their own way of communicating and if you're not part of that circle it can be very hard to communicate and get ideas across, so it was important to me on that level. But in saying that, a lot of the contributions I made to the writing were spontaneous as I have a good ear for phrasing and placement - for arrangement - and that really helps when you are working with another writer.

How would you describe your music to someone who hasn't heard it?

To me, once something gets played on the radio and people start buying it, it becomes pop music. Green Day is pop music. But at the same time, it makes sense to try and categorise it so people know what they are dealing with... I don't know, I guess I would say "Pop Rock".

You're not afraid to be called a pop artist?

Not at all - people don't tip their hats enough to pop radio. It's really hard to be a pop artist, it's hard to make music that is accessible to a large group of people. I'd imagine that it is pretty easy to be in Green Day as those guys do what they do, and that's all they do really. They make music for a select group of people - they don't cater for anyone over a certain age or outside a certain mindset. But it's hard to make

music that a bunch of people will like. **You don't feel that pop music has to be disposable?**

I think that you can be artistic and creative in a medium that is kind of disposable. Every medium, at some level, is trashy and disposable. You don't always have to cater to that particular element.

The record's been selling well too - you're almost famous.

God forbid! It's been doing really well, and I am very proud of the record and the way it has been received. And for the most part, the people who have bought the record do get it, and they do understand what we tried to do. It's done well in a small country like Canada in a short period of time, and that's a real achievement.

What about outside Canada?

It's slated for international release on the second week of March. The first single in the US is the second one in Canada, 'Birmingham', and the first single in Canada, 'Let It Rain', is also the first single in Europe.

Do you see the US as a tough nut to crack?

We made the album down in the US, so I don't see it as a foreign market, and the record company is being unconditionally supportive of the album, so I think we'll do okay. We'll wait and see what happens. We're heading down there after we finish with Tom, so we'll see.

PROTRACTING THE ANGLES

by PETER J.

I'm never satisfied. For some reason I constantly notice quirks and oddities that correlate with daily life for no apparent reason - and it bothers me. It disturbs me immensely. It agitates me to such an extent that I really feel compelled to put away that bag of cheese doodles, crawl out from under my bed, brush the crumbs off my clothes, and actually do something.

Although I never wanted to assume a publicly authoritative role, that might be an option I'm forced to pursue. See, I want to implement some changes that will benefit me. Oh, and everyone else too, of course. No sense being a selfish politician. Now where should I begin...

I guess I'd start on a global level. And what is something the world could honestly do without? That's right - Leap Year. What was Gregory XIII *thinking* when he revised the calendar year? Quite frankly, my deepest sympathies extend to those poor souls born upon February 29. Happy birthday to you, indeed. Imagine the humiliation one must suffer, being able to celebrate their natal day only once every four years. A true tragedy. Shame on those calendar creating Popes. Of course, Leap Year really serves as a method to harmonize the calendar and the weather. As each year really contains 365 1/4 days, the addition of February 29 accounts for this anomaly.

So by voting for me and my plan to abolish the Leap Year, I roughly estimate that by the year 2928 we could be celebrating the first day of summer on December 21. Well, we'd all be dead, of course, but the wheels would be in motion.

No, that probably wouldn't work. Celebrating Christmas in June would nullify the majority of those snow-associated carols. Plus there's no doubt tons of paperwork to wade through in order to commence global modifications.

But it's just too much of a hassle.

Maybe I could be a mayor, though. Yeah, perhaps if I start on a smaller scale. I look around Fredericton and notice that I *don't* notice a really cool tourist attraction. Hmm. We need something that everyone can enjoy. Something like... a giant Pez dispenser! Wow! *Millions* would flock here to observe a mile-high sugar silo. And Fredericton could have its own theme year, except instead of using entities like the rat, boar, or dingo, we could have 'Year of the Mickey Mouse' or 'Year of the Spider Man'. The beauty of it, though, is that it doesn't even have to possess Pez all the time. Maybe it could dispense macaroons or something once a year. Maybe even on February 29!

So by voting for me and my plan to incorporate immense proportions of junk food into the community, I roughly estimate that the city would require 2928 new dentists to cover the cavity occurrences.

No, that probably wouldn't work either. Kids today don't even know what Pez is anymore. What are they learning in school these days!

Plus I wouldn't know how to go about it.

So where can I start? Maybe in Student Union politics. Well, I do want to make all those changes, but it's just too much of a hassle, plus I wouldn't know how to go about it. Hmm, pretty lame excuses, eh? Definitely.

So why do I hide under my bed, eating cheese doodles and silently complaining about the Student Union's highly paid, self-appointed summer jobs? Each week I'm reading and hearing about their decisions and actions, such as their: withholding of money from people to pay their salaries and costly conference fees (i.e. drastically hacking funding for campus clubs and societies); inappropriate allocation of grants (i.e. giving engineers and rugby players an approximate total of \$3,000 for out-of-province trips while the sexual aggressive deterrence centre doesn't receive their measly \$150); plus unnecessary policing and attempts at media restraint (i.e. attempting to convince CHSR to go Top 40, while trying to curtail The Brunswickan's reporting of Student Council activities).

You know, if I actually ran *against* the executives then I wouldn't have anything to complain about. Hey, if you ran against the executives then you wouldn't have anything to complain about. If we ran against the executives then... well, you get the point. If the notion of being an SU exec crosses your mind, *run* with it. Hey, you shouldn't worry about screwing up if you're elected.

Oh, and if you do decide to participate in the election, come see me about the super Pez dispenser. I've been working on the blue prints all night...



Mafia Fioriote "Hey! You didn't put any alcohol on my arm!"

Don't forget - T1 General is due April 30th!

It pays to finish at least one paper on time this semester

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