



CITY GIRL

BY **DARYL KIRKUP**

Brisbane-based singer/songwriter **KAT LA KEY** is refreshingly honest.

It's a risky thing to set out to go totally original, but having the attitude of 'that's the done thing' and 'that's what works so don't try anything new' is not creative at all to me," admits this talented artist. "That's not what music should be about."

Kat has just released her fifth album, *In The City*, featuring 16 self-penned tracks, and as the

album's producer Tim Feswick explains, "Kat's music weaves and crosses over specific genres within the same album, it remains musically consistent. This is because the common thread is her unmistakable voice and unique songwriting ability."

Kat started writing and recording her original material as a child after moving to Perth from New South Wales as an eight year old. The spark to begin songwriting was ignited at school when, as a 14 year old, Kat penned a song for an environmental essay.

"I actually asked if I could write a song instead of an essay because I didn't like writing essays!" laughs Kat, "So I wrote an environmental rap song called *Battle Of Survival*. The Principal loved it and it turned out that her son had friends who were in a band in Perth and they recorded it for me. It's from that moment on I realised this is what I was meant to do."

Kat's musical dream has seen her travel throughout Europe, the USA and, most recently, Canada where her latest album was produced and recorded by renowned producer Tim Feswick.

"I'd heard a few albums that Tim had produced and had to get in touch with him," Kat explains. "He works with every genre of music so, after 10 years of searching, he was the only producer who embraced my thoughts and ideas about my own music."

Kat's previous releases were very country orientated, but the direction towards country crossover began in the last five years. *In The City* has distinct country overtones, but with drum loops on some tracks, they are already being played on the nightclub scene in Halifax in Canada.

Her introduction to country music grew through an interesting avenue. "Country bands were actually the first to let me come up on stage and sing with them, even though I was a passionate lover of Rock n Roll," said Kat "I loved **ELVIS**, **ROY ORBISON** and **BUDDY HOLLY**, but the chance to sing on stage only came about through the country bands at the time."

Kat's first release off the new album, *Tradin' In My Old Man*, has received positive attention in various parts of the world, being described as the new cutting edge sound of alternative country.

One listen to *In The City* endorses this perfectly with tracks such as *Sure Do*, *Done My Dough* (her first single release in Canada), *Turn Up The Sound*, *I'm City*, *He's Country* and *Dog House* being standout tracks.

Like so many songs before it, *Dog House* grew through an interesting tale. "The track *Dog House* was originally titled *Dark Horse*," explains Kat, "but because of my Aussie accent when I sent the demo versions over to Tim, he heard it as *Dog House*, coming up with the solo to feature a stand-up *Dog House* bass, so I changed the title and just two words in the chorus. The song worked out better than I could have hoped with some great **PINK FLOYD** guitar on the track. In fact, all the members of Pink Floyd have signed the guitar that was used to play on *Dog House*!"

It's been an amazing musical and personal journey for Kat La Key and, after honing her songwriting skills over the last decade, she is now in a position to place her name strongly in the hearts of a legion of new fans with *In The City*, and that is something this extremely talented lady richly deserves.