

## SALLY DWORSKY

### Habit Trail

To Sally Dworsky, love is like being submerged beneath the ocean, its floor filled

with fantastic sights. The problem is, when the air runs out, it's difficult to resurface. Her six-song EP, the Minnesota native sings convincingly of the sometimes suffocating pressure of love on songs such as "Mother Tongue," "Before It Falls" and the Cheryl Crow-ish "Lullaby," which has a blime and unexpected melodic interval pop on the chorus and the couplet: *I will sink your tears and tattoo you with mine / Taking love until we love each other blind. He drops another fathom on the moody, atmospheric "Down": Stripped down to our senses / Yeah, your rope is wearing thin and bound to snap / Taking you down.*

Dworsky's impressive resume includes background singing with REM, Peter Dinklage and Don Henley, as well as a stint with the national touring company of Les Miserables. But judging from her performances on this solid debut, she's found her place front and center. - BD

**Rondor Music • 360 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048 • 310-289-3500**

## JEFF FINLIN

### Highway Diaries

If Jeff Finlin were not a songwriter, it's likely he'd be a novelist and he'd fall somewhere between Kerouac, Twain and Vonnegut. With sly wit and a keen eye for detail, Finlin tells his tales of the disenfranchised, the disillusioned and the dreamers that are as American as Route 66.

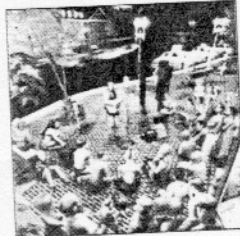
As the title suggests, there's a lot of space and motion in the ten songs here. There's the sad tale of the luckless New York newcomer in "Only An Immigrant". There's the slightly deluded character who sees himself coming between two very famous lovers in "Napoleon, Josephine and Me". "She don't dig his petty wars," he surmises. And then there's the slightly hungover Joe doing a little Sunday morning pondering in "Sunday's Forgiveness". "A little bit of hell's good for a change," is the final word there.

Finlin was formerly the drummer for The Thieves, who were signed to Capitol in

the late Eighties. He co-produced this effort and the sound is something like polished, roots rock. *Highway Diaries* was released by Finlin and has since been picked up by Pete Anderson's Little Dog Records label.

### Little Dog Records

**223 West Alameda Ave., #201  
Burbank, CA 91502 • 818-557-1595**



## FLATHEAD

### Corner Of My Heart

Some artists like the spotlight. Flathead loves the streetlights. As a street performer in New York's Central

Park or Boston's Cambridge Square, he's been known to draw as many 200 listeners and fans. Rain or shine. So there, all you prima donnas. I'm sure his contract rider says nothing about his preference between halogen and neon streetlamps.

*Corner Of My Heart* is Flathead the way most folks hear Flathead. Voice and guitar. He sings in an intimate conversational style that pulls you in. His guitar work is solid. Many of his tunes seem to be sketches of the souls he's seen on the street corners. "Some Days (Tracy)" and "Autumn" both bring to mind those images. "Daddy, Daddy" deals with a boy growing up not only physically but mentally and emotionally as well, and learning the only thing you really have control over is yourself.

For someone so adept at interacting and entertaining people, up close and personal, it's no surprise that the bulk of the material here deals with people and their interactions. Flathead's lyrics are rich and real, totally free of false pretense and clichés. This is definitely the music of a man who has been out among the masses and who wants to share all that he's seen.

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## GYPSY SOUL

### Gypsy Soul

Gypsy Soul is Cilette Swann and Roman Morykit. Gypsy Soul is a lot easier to say than Cilette Swann and

Roman Morykit. And for those ready to go, Gypsy Soul will take you to pop heaven. Amen.

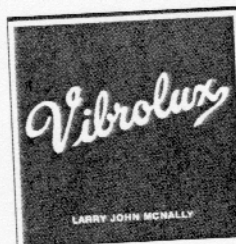
The lush opener, "Test Of Time" is

the first step up. Swann has the voice of a diva, often recalling Anita Baker, but like her lyrics, she keeps things simple, shying away from showy vocal acrobatics. In it's production and performance, it's the kind of ballad you have to hear at least twice before moving on.

Morykit's handiwork on the bass and guitars is every bit a part of their success here as Swann's voice. He locks into some very righteous grooves on tracks like "You Know The Feeling" and "Silent Tears". With it's penny whistle and squeeze box samples, "Take Me Back Where I Belong" gets closest to the heart of the gypsy in their soul.

For music lovers who believe good pop need not be an oxymoron, Gypsy Soul will restore their faith.

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## LARRY JOHN McNALLY

### Vibrolux

Larry John McNally must be living right. Usually without the benefit

of a publisher or a song plugger, he's had his songs recorded by some of the best voices in the world. Rod Stewart, Bonnie Raitt, Mavis Staples, Joe Cocker and Aaron Neville have all covered McNally's tunes. That alone should be all the prodding you need to check out this man.

*Vibrolux* was a labor of love between McNally and producer, Marvin Etzioni, formerly of L.A.'s seminal band Lone Justice. They bring in former Lone Justice drummer, Don Heffington to keep the beat and bassist Jerry Scheff to hit the low notes. Scheff has the unique claim of having played with both Elvis Presley and Elvis Costello. McNally's acoustic guitar is played through a Fender Vibrolux amp and the whole record has a sparse, almost jazzy feel. He includes his version of "Nobody's Girl" which first appeared on Raitt's breakthrough album *Nick Of Time*. Lyrically, McNally is usually simple and direct. No hidden meanings, no over-reaching metaphors, just adult contemplations on life, love and people. There's a bonus CD included, too. A companion disc featuring 10 out-takes make this more satisfying than a blue light special at K-mart.

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