

## ONE on ONE

Multi-tasking isn't new to Kreviazuk. Since 1997, when her debut disc 'Under These Rocks and Stones' catapulted her into the spotlight, she's had to handle touring, writing, interviews, supporting War Child Canada, and everything else that goes along with being a national superstar. Somewhere between all the gigs and recording sessions she married Our Lady Peace frontman Raine Maida, and gave birth to Rowan, now 2, and one-year-old Lucca.

So, if you're wondering why she hasn't released an album in four years, it's because she's been busy being a mom. Oh, and she's also been

writing huge hits for Avril Lavigne, Gwen Stefani and Kelly Clarkson.

With no other commitments on the horizon, she was finally able to concentrate on her own work. Last August she released 'Ghost Stories', a sober, and at times, haunting look at the joys and pains of life.

When Bobbi spoke to Kreviazuk she was spending time with her children, about to guest star on Canadian Idol and recently attended the international AIDS conference in Toronto. Somehow she found time to talk to us about her kids, her rock star hubby and what it's like to have Avril Lavigne as a house guest.

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**BOBBI:** It's been four years since you've released an album. Why the long wait?

**Chantal Kreviazuk:** I was doing other projects and having babies. I wanted to make my album a few times, but it just didn't work out. I had a couple of painful moments where I was so pissed that I wasn't making my record, but then, a baby came and I got distracted.

**BOBBI:** Has having kids affected your work?

**CK:** It has affected my songwriting and every facet of my life. Having kids makes me that much more true to myself, that much more sure of who I am. It reinforces that I have a responsibility to be as unflaky and as uncompromising as possible. It reaffirms all of my integrity. It takes me to this other level of truth.

**BOBBI:** You don't want to compromise so that years down the line they'll look at you and say you did things on your terms?

**CK:** Even for right now. I feel like we already have this amazing connection. They need me to be exactly who I am. It's important for them to see a mother who's serious. It's not going to be this thing

later that presents itself. These are the rules of life, and I need to live them now. This is when they absorb everything.

**BOBBI:** Now that you've had some hits with other musicians, has your own songwriting process changed?

**CK:** Here's the honest truth, unedited. (Sighs). After getting projects that were big, nobody calls me anymore, I don't have to answer to people, I can make my album in my bathroom if I want to. Raine and I were able to go into the studio and make the album we wanted to make. I believe the bar is set higher than people think. We can make an album and experience the moments that are so infectious and so radio and so massive, but with a lot of creative gems that are thought provoking.

**BOBBI:** The song, 'Blame Yourself' reminds me of growing up in Winnipeg a bit. The small town isolation.

**CK:** It's totally about Winnipeg. I have these roller coaster trips to Winnipeg. Some of them ache and some of them are euphoric. I was in Winnipeg on June 21. I love the summer there so much. The winter is hard, and I look at what people endure there and they

don't know 'cause they're in it, how tough you have to be. When I see the brokenness there in some of the people and what they're trying to get through every day it's a wonder. It's a commentary on circumstances.

**BOBBI:** What's it like working so closely with Raine?

**CK:** Raine is a genius. He wastes no time in life. He blows my mind. He's the most dedicated professional person, he makes me look good. I can sing his praises all day. Here's a guy I know, a guy that I'm married to, that I get to have kids with and then he gets to have his hand in my music, and now he's producing my music. I'm really the luckiest person in the world. I'm so happy with the outcome of the record and it's him. I tried to put his name in the biggest possible letters on the back of the album.

**BOBBI:** Do you guys fight when you work together?

**CK:** Absolutely we do, but we scream it out and whoever is more passionate and has the better reasoning wins. After we get over ourselves and wait and listen to the other person's explanation of why they're more right, usually there's an answer.

# CHANTAL KREVIASUK

BY BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

CHANTAL KREVIASUK IS TAKING A MOMENT TO HERSELF. SHE'S OUTSIDE HER TORONTO HOME sipping a coffee and enjoying a warm summer day. The winniepeg-born songstress deserves a break – she's busy promoting a new album and finishing a movie that she directed, all the while raising two young kids.



## PEOPLE ARE MUCH BETTER AT BEING POLITICIANS AND LIARS AND I'M NOT

**BOBBI:** How did you end up writing songs for Avril's last record?

**CK:** I walked up to her at a concert she did with my husband – she was still a kid and shy – and I just said, “hey we've done a couple of shows together, you've been playing

with my husband for a while, what's going on?” She revealed to me over time that she grew up listening to my music and she respected me as a writer and we thought it would be really fun to sit down and write a couple of songs together. And then she lived in our house in California

for 8 months. The next thing I know I get a phone call and there are seven of our songs on the record including six I wrote, one Raine wrote and five Raine produced.

**BOBBI:** What did you get out of that experience?

**CK:** I'm really grateful to Avril. It's not the money or the cache or any of the crap. For me it's the freedom it's offered me as an artist. One of the characteristics of Avril that I like the most is that she's always from the hip, she very much goes on feel and she really honours that all the time.

**BOBBI:** You also have songs on Gwen Stefani's last record and Kelly Clarkson's 'Breakaway'. How did those come about?

**CK:** It's just putting myself out there. I've never asked people to do things for me. I've always gone right to the source and said hi, this is who I am, this is what I want to do.

**BOBBI:** It must be hard at times to work with all these big personalities.

**CK:** I'll be honest, it's tough. I'm not compromising so ya, I'm sure you burn bridges (when) you're honest. Some people are much better at being politicians and liars and I'm not.

**BOBBI:** With all the song writing, recording, raising kids – how do you find time for the humanitarian work you do?

**CK:** That's who we are, that's what we do. I find it interesting when I see people who do one thing and then show up at the cause du jour party. (There's this) other picture of them in their personal life and I'm like wow, which one are you? I'm not judging, but for me the way that I can handle my life, so I can feel good and be true to myself, I like to be exactly who I am all the time and wear that hat no matter what.