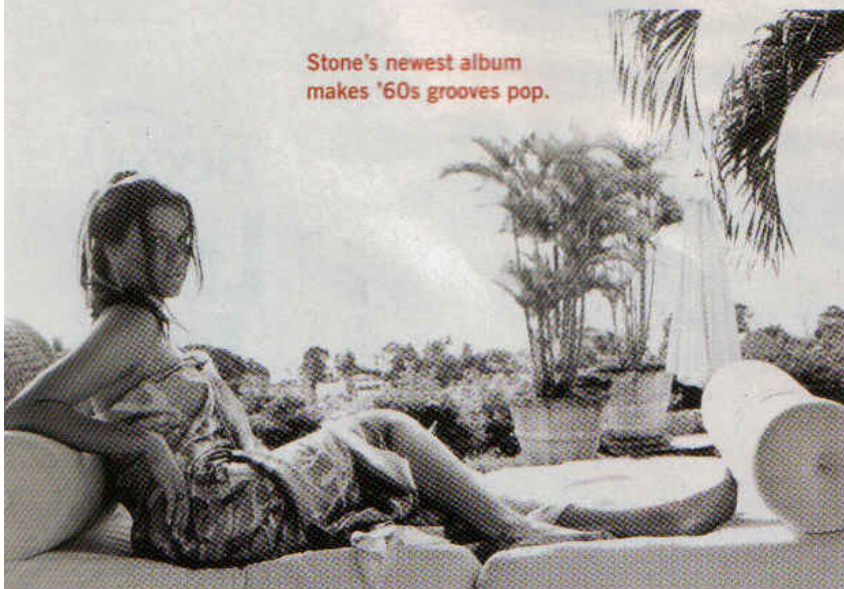


TALKING TO

Joss Stone

The soul sensation speaks up and gets down

Stone's newest album makes '60s grooves pop.



What do you get when you cross Aretha Franklin's booming vocals with Christina Aguilera's pop prowess? Who else but 19-year-old British wonder Joss Stone. At 16, she was belting out Isley Brothers tunes on her debut album, *Soul Sessions*, while her 2004 follow-up, *Mind, Body & Soul*, fused classic R&B with Britney Spears-like jams. On her new disc, *Introducing Joss Stone*, the musical phenom combines '60s grooves with catchy 21st-century sounds.

CHATELAINE: *Introducing Joss Stone* marks your third album. Why call it that?

STONE: I was first signed when I was 14. Back then, I was singing on somebody else's vision. This time I did everything, from the music to the cover art. I was in control.

Does that go for the instrumentation, too, all the layered bass and horns? I don't play an instrument, though I'd love to learn. I'll sing a part, a melody, and my producer, Raphael Saadiq, will play it. If there's anything I don't like, I'll say so.

How did you approach the Fugees' lead singer, Lauryn Hill, to sing on "Music"? I couldn't get a hold of Lauryn, so I called her mother, whose number I got from my old tour manager. Her mom would say, "Nope, I haven't heard from her." Then one day Lauryn heard my track and said, "I need to find a studio." She recorded her part and sent it to me. I never spoke with her, though. We've still never met.

You sing about love, but the words come off angry at times. It's about being hurt but also about finding new love. I was in a relationship for two years [with Beau Dozier, son of Motown songwriter-producer Lamont Dozier] that didn't work out. I've grown up very quickly in the last five years.

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

PLAYLIST of the month

IF YOU LIKE James Blunt
CHECK OUT

James Morrison's Undiscovered (Polydor)

Now that James Blunt's star has reached its zenith, fans looking for a new emotional singer-songwriter to get behind should grab James Morrison's debut disc. The British artist

combines Blunt's sensitivity and pop aesthetic with a dose of blues and soul. Despite being 22, Morrison has perfected the role of tortured artist, especially on "One Last Chance," a lament to past mistakes and ruined relationships.



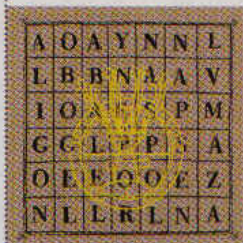
IF YOU LIKE Bob Dylan

CHECK OUT

Bright Eyes' Four Winds (Saddle Creek)

In 2005, Nebraska native Conor Oberst, also known as Bright Eyes' main man, released two masterful albums to critical acclaim. *Four Winds*, a folky six-song precursor to his soon-to-be-

released full-length album, is full of delicate, laid-back strumming and introspective lyrics. Songs range from raucous ("Reinvent the Wheel") to minimal ("Smoke Without Fire").

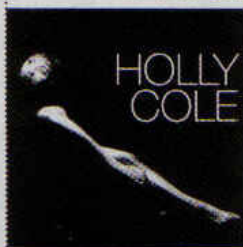


IF YOU LIKE Diana Krall

CHECK OUT Holly Cole's self-titled release (Alert)

Diana Krall might be Canada's go-to gal for warm jazz these days, but Holly Cole was here first; the Nova Scotian's been laying down smoldering jazz tracks since 1990.

Her new release is full of variety, from stripped-down acoustic pop songs to more traditional jazz numbers. With its bevy of bright, boozy horns, delicate piano riffs and deep, seductive vocals, Cole's first album in four years is her best yet. B.B.



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