

Kyrie Kristmanson

Origin of Stars

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Label: No Format! 0013363

With her signature white woolly hat, guitar and trumpet, twenty year old singer / songwriter **Kyrie Kristmanson** cuts a slightly eccentric, shambolic figure. Her voice though is like crystal and her songs – a mixture of North American folk and jazz – are mesmerising.

Origin of Stars, her first album for the No Format! label, allows us to hear not only a melodic writing-style close to that of her predecessors but a refreshingly unique approach to singing and song-writing. There is an innocence and clarity to her music which makes it very direct and one of the reasons she has been described as sounding like an 'acoustic meeting between Joni Mitchell and Björk'.

Born in Ottawa, **Kyrie Kristmanson**'s youth was spent travelling around Canada. Her father, a musician, had his own home-studio, and evenings in the house had a certain ritual as her father's songs lulled the young Kyrie to sleep. They were quickly replaced by the sounds of PJ Harvey, Sinéad O'Connor and Daniel Lanois. The landscape of her home country, the heart of the Canadian wilderness, proved inspirational to her *"winter is extremely cold and summer extremely hot and dry. I wondered why people lived there and it took me a while to understand. In fact, the beauty of the landscape is awesome. You are often the only vertical object in a totally horizontal landscape. You have the feeling you're naked and vulnerable, but you can yell and sing without any inhibitions because there's nobody there. You take inspiration from it..."*. So where does the rest come from? *"I get the impression that in Europe they don't believe in ghosts as much as they do in Canada. Our whole story isn't concentrated like yours inside old churches and old castles; it lies in the earth in the shape of raw energy."* As a result, her songs so often speak of the wind, the sky and the night.

Her first guitar came when she was nine; her first trumpet followed at thirteen; her first songs a year later, then producing her first album at seventeen. She balks at the suggestion that she was precocious: *"The writer puts the song to paper but didn't necessarily write it. A good song takes generations to suddenly spring up; it exists before the singer. If you're sensitive enough, you can feel the people and the world in the story, and concentrate it all into three minutes of song. But that's only 10% of the process."*

Recognition outside Canada came in France, when she came to the attention of spectators at the Printemps de Bourges Festival in 2009, and singer Emily Loizeau invited her to open for her. She now plans to move to Paris in order to write a thesis at Sorbonne University on the *trobairitz*, the Occitan female troubadours of the 12th and 13th centuries.

Kyrie Kristmanson Live Dates:

- 16 Nov** Vortex Jazz Club (midnight show)
- 17 Nov** Café Oto (part of the London Jazz Festival)
- 18 Nov** Slaughtered Lamb, Clerkenwell
- 19 Nov** King's Head, Crouch End

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