

SASS JORDAN

Sass Jordan is an omnivore. And we're not just talking about music. The U.K.-born, Montréal-raised Juno winner has a knack for taking whatever she comes across—provocative theater, crowd-pleasing television, legendary rock outfits and her own chameleonic solo work—and stamping it with pure cool. And nowhere is that stamp more vividly soulful than her latest full-length, *From Dusk Til Dawn*, a spirited collection of pop, soul and rock that will keep fans humming along for the duration of that title and then some.

Whether she's conjuring longtime favorites the Eagles on plaintive lullabies like "Awake" ("I lie awake listening for cars/I lie awake all of the night") or classic Motown with the rambunctious horn arrangements of "Fell in Love Again," *Dusk's* linchpin is Jordan's earnest, weathered rasp. She blends the emotional rawness of contemporaries Susan Tedeschi and Melissa Etheridge with the hellacious attitude of Black Crowes and Janis Joplin, all the while maintaining a voice that is distinctly and proudly her own.

That latter influence is a given—Jordan starred as Joplin in the off-Broadway sensation *Love Janis*, one of many unusual roles she's commanded outside of her critically renowned discography. That would also include a show-stopping Canadian run of *The Vagina Monologues* and six years coaching young talent to their potential as a judge on the wildly popular *Canadian Idol*. But for all of Jordan's success on the stage—and even a guest role in NBC hit *Sisters*—she claims acting opportunities just happen to fall in her lap ("I've been told it's not really about acting; it's about an 'energy,'" the still-modest chatterbox laughs. "Some energy I can transmit through electronic media.") Ultimately, Jordan always returns to her studio work, which has long permeated your consciousness on shows like *Melrose Place*, *Party of Five*, *Baywatch* and *Knight Rider*. That is, when she's not recording and/or touring with the likes of superstars Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Cheap Trick, Van Halen, Carlos Santana and Joe Cocker—yes, she and Cocker delivered an epic duet on the multi-platinum *Bodyguard* soundtrack, right alongside Whitney's "I Will Always Love You."

"I would do film, or even [more] TV, I suppose, if it was something that changed all the time," Jordan muses. "But doing the *same thing*? It's odd, because singing [seems like] the same thing, but it's not! Singing the same song always feels slightly different because of the people that you're singing for. They are an integral part of the whole experience—the energy you get from the audience is always different."

So, other than a burning desire to branch out into sci-fi ("I'm into *Stargate Atlantis*, *Firefly*, *Battlestar Galactica*. Exploding spaceships—I love that stuff!"), for now Jordan is more than content with another excellent album to honor her résumé. Leadoff single "Why Did You" sizzles with longing and honesty, she does Tom Waits proud on a

powerful cover of his “Ol 55” and a distinguished four-man horn section renders the aforementioned “*Fell in Love Again*” an instant classic.

“[2006 predecessor *Get What You Give*] was a little more off the cuff,” Jordan concludes. “[On *Dusk*], we spent a little bit more time working on the songs exactly, and the arrangements. There are phenomenal musicians here, just from a different school.”