

September 16, 2008

Hi Guys-

Here's a cd review of Gabriella Cilmi. Good Stuff. She's the next big something. I think. I'll be in touch later today about Madonna, Jennifer Lopez, etc. Christy, you don't know how to live if you don't like Julia Alexandratou. She's life itself. One day you'll understand. Talk soon, kiddies, Big P

Gabriella Cilmi  
*Lessons to be Learned* CD Review  
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16-year-old, that's right folks, 16-year-old Gabriella Cilmi (pronounced Chill-me) is a terrifyingly cool and cute kid who hails from Australia. She is the current Euro-MTV telegenic sweetheart and sings solid pop songs that have intellectually playful undercurrents of sexual deviance, noire fun, and just plain teen-girl weirdness and confusion.

However, there is an unmistakable maturity in her voice and delivery that sets her head and shoulders above girly-girl hormone groups like Pussycat Dolls and Sugah-babes. She is an unmistakable talent that actually deserves your time and a good listen.

Universal Records appear to share the idea of her potential to connect with the great amount of big-forebrained, prep-school teens. The ones who are too self-inflictedly cool to listen to sexy, albeit superficial stuff like Rhianna and Jennifer Lopez, while still too young to connect with smart-guy bands like REM, Sting, Peter Gabriel and their gradschool-esque ilk. Universal has produced two very trick and slick videos that are currently on the panic play-list charts of MTV-Europe.

After several listenings to the CD, it appears that Gabriella is anything but an accident that happened into good luck, but part of a well-constructed and professional team that has a wide range of musical writing skill and production talent.

The CD, which is a mish-mash of musical styles ranges in sound from Manhattan lounge jazz to twangy southwestern rock. All songs have an infectious pop-edge to them which make these diverse pieces seem homogenous despite their stylistic differences. It reminds one of Cyndi Lauper's *She's so Unusual* smash album of the early-mid 80s which combined an endless array of pop styles. But while Cyndi played up the camp-fun element on her record, Gabriella has more sophisticated and intellectual leanings in her material.

Gabriella is part of a several-member song writing team who appear to be anything but kids; something on the order of early 70s Motown records 'the corporation' which penned many of the great early Jackson-5 pop classics. At times one can hear the profound influences of groups such as Soundgarden, Led Zeppelin, Kim Wilde, Diana Ross and Stevie Ray Vaughn in the presented pieces. The lyrics are never corny or saccharine as is pervasive in teen-pop and the playing and production on all tracks is separated, clean and perfectly mixed.

If you're looking for some good, straight-up, brainy teen-pop then look no further than this disc. Gabriella Cilmi delivers the goods in spades with her debut CD, *Lessons to be Learned*.

