



Paula Toledo – Stay Awhile

Stay Awhile is the debut album from singer/songwriter **Paula Toledo**. Co-produced by **Paula Toledo & Jonathan Anderson** (Jonathan Inc. Stabilo, Radiogram, Hinterland), the album was recorded mainly, over a two year period, in Vancouver, Canada with additional production and mixing by ex-Frames guitarist and Irish producer **David Odlum** (Josh Ritter, The Frames, Gemma Hayes) at **Black Box Studios in La Dionnaie, France**.

Intimate, hopeful and wistful; *Stay Awhile* dreams out loud, 11 undisguised, poignant melodic-pop/folk songs that weave through life's optimistic restlessness while capturing the innocence of its ripened discoveries. From the hopeful jangle of the lead-off track, 'Pride' to the heart-wrenching alone together melancholy of 'Passport', to the intense wall-of-noise-to-hushed-vocal of the title track and the perfectly titled solo acoustic closer 'Atmosphere', *Stay Awhile* is a moving collection of honest and tightly-penned songs.

Stay Awhile is the follow up to Paula's five song self-titled EP (2003), which received success in film and television placements - credits include '**Missing**' (LifetimeTV), '**Secret Lives**' (LifetimeTV & feature film release in Asia & Europe), '**15/Love**' (YTV & France2) and '**RenegadePress.com**' (Global). '**RenegadePress.com**' has already licensed two songs from *Stay Awhile* with '**Tell Me A Lie**' written into the script of a scene where the main characters drive and sing along to the song as it plays on the radio. North American-wide magazine coverage also ensued when Paula's EP found its way into the hands of Creative Director for Larrivé Guitars. Impressed by her songwriting, he asked Paula to appear in a Larrivé Guitar ad and featured her in a double-page spread, titled 'Art'. The ad ran in several music magazines, spawning a run of on-line purchases for her EP.

Growing up in Montreal, as the second youngest of six children, at the age of ten, when Paula's parents told her they couldn't afford guitar lessons, she struck a deal with her musical older sister – guitar and singing lessons in exchange for her maid services to keep her sister's bedroom clean. Paula studied the classic chord progressions of Beatles' tunes, the tight harmonies of Simon & Garfunkel and the warm and husky timber of a young Stevie Nicks. As soon as she could, an under-aged Paula would find her own way and sneak into Montreal bars as the lead singer of an alternative-ska band. When the band broke up, Paula headed to Vancouver to give academia a try. Quickly becoming restless in her sophomore year, she impulsively hopped on a plane on a study exchange in Barcelona, Spain. Yearning to play music, Paula borrowed guitars hanging from the ceiling of a sangria bar so that she could sing and play for locals.

Eventually, Paula tried her hand at several desk-jobs but couldn't find the fit until she was asked to go on tour in France as a back-up singer to her French singer/songwriter neighbour who happened to overhear her singing through the apartment walls. It was while on tour in France that Paula was overcome with the urge to write and record her own songs. Inspired and uninterrupted, Paula forged ahead and *Stay Awhile* is the result.

"Her first full-length, the ironically named *Stay Awhile*, is bubbling with movement. It's wistful, hopeful and sung beautifully. ... it's warm and lovely without a lot of the nasal tricks and leg-showing that Canadian chanteuses often resort to instead of coming up with good pop-folk melodies. Listening to this, I feel nostalgic. And that's worth something." **The Edmonton Sun**

"Paula's music finds its way into your soul and never leaves. Her beautiful and rich voice adds a layer of complexity to the original lyrics and playing..." **Accident Hash, U-Turn Café**.

"...the kind of album that makes household names out of talented, beautiful singer/songwriters..." **24 Hours (Vancouver)**

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