

Kim Novak
Luck & Accident
Talitres Records



Since 2005, Kim Novak have built an excellent reputation with an innovative approach that creates a sublime feel. In the first 6 months, their myspace site reached 50,000 hits and popularity has soared throughout France.

With a melodic and haunting sound that recalls Interpol, Editors and Tindersticks, Kim Novak introduce a sound in which each song has its own style that is not driven by one instrument, rather working in harmony producing music that is ethereal and energetic.

Under the tutelage of French producer, François Chevallier with contributions from Markus Dravs (who previously worked with Brian Eno, Björk, and more recently Arcade Fire), Kim Novak recorded *Luck & Accident* throughout 2007.

Luck & Accident is a succulent debut album, with an emotional feel that enthral the listener throughout the album's eleven tracks. The album's second track, *Swallow* is about relationships and how sometimes everything can go wrong. *Crash*, the album's longest song at 5:10 minutes long is like walking down a dark alley. With a superb sound, Kim Novak is a great way to start 2008.

Shirley Stevenson

Madam
Calling For Love
Reveal Records



Madam aka Sukie Smith is a breath of fresh air. Her warm and fragile vocals along with sharp production (one song on her forthcoming album includes a windscreen wiper solo) distinguish Madam from the crowd. Her song writing displays extreme emotion with love and grief, which recalls Kate Bush or Tim Buckley. Throughout her music, Madam affects the listener in many ways; her evocative vocals leave you wanting more.

Calling For Love is a gripping little number, with distinct instrumentation and a Mazzy Star-esq feel; you could be driving down a highway both literally and figuratively. We're not short of female singer songwriters these days, but Madam's music is explorative and intriguing. She is a well-known socialite of Soho, which adds to the intrigue of her music. With distinct vocals and a great all around feel, there will be a lot more to come from Madam.

Currently signed to Reveal Records, home of Joan As Police Woman, Kris Drever and Poppy & The Jezebels, Madam's album *In Case of Emergency* will be released on 25 February 2008.

Cherie Federico

alice mclaughlin

"In day to day life, I often find a song comes from a feeling or thought I want to express."

Alice McLaughlin is not one for convention. She writes and sings beautiful, soulful pop, which draws on an extensive range of influences from blues to folk and country. After spending her early twenties travelling around South East Asia, with her trusty guitar, gathering inspiration, Alice ended up in Edinburgh, collaborating with musicians and then moved to London to pursue her dreams. Following the death of her mother and an intense period of grief, Alice decided to escape the grind of city life and took a road trip across America in a 1979 Dodge Winnebago. Alice explains how her travels have influenced her: "It's on a subconscious level, I picked up a lot in Nashville, especially those riff-heavy roots driven sounds."

Inspiration for Alice stems from everyday normal situations. "In day to day life, I often find a song comes from a feeling or thought I want to express." Alice recently signed to Rob da Bank's Sunday Best Recordings record label, which her October single *Dolly Figured* was released on. "I love the vibe from the label, it really fits-in well with me. There's a nurturing atmosphere and I think it is fantastic that Rob da Bank supports new music. You often see him knocking around London, going to gigs and looking out for new artists."

Alice's songs are exquisitely layered and serve to enhance her fantastic vocal range. "I visualise for the album a soundscape, like



Radiohead's *OK Computer* in terms of layering." Equally Alice's voice has the power and diversity to stand alone, with her accompanying on guitar.

Alice has played live at this year's Isle of Wight's Bestival and in other venues from Moscow's Central Park to a crowd of 12,000, to London's ICA and Jazz Café. "When I've performed certain songs, like *The Dream* it has really touched people and they have cried. I believe as a musician you are a messenger, you deliver the song and it takes on a life of its own, I don't have ownership of it and it is a gift for other people."

With a highly anticipated album due out in early 2008, Alice's plans for the future include: "Touring all over the UK and Europe and then hitting the festival circuit where I will be introducing myself to people." For further information please see: www.alicemclaughlin.co.uk.

Shona Fairweather