

Holly Lerski and Angelou *Bio*

*"Quietly brilliant folk-pop with a gorgeous voice."
The Sunday Times*

"You'll be hard pressed to find sounds more achingly lovely" – Mojo

Dubbed by Uncut magazine the spiritual sister of Jeff Buckley, Holly Lerski first appeared on the UK music scene in 1997 with the folk rock group Angelou, and their Jeff Buckley inspired E.P., 'Hallelujah'.

Born in London, England, Lerski began playing guitar aged 6. By the age of 9 her family had relocated to rural Norfolk where the budding boho penned songs, painted pictures, and spent her pocket money on punk records, with particular devotion to The Stranglers.

After a few years of playing in bands and riding motorbikes, she found herself graduating from art school to the dole queue. Around this time she put down her paint brush and picked up her guitar to form Angelou with old school friend and band-mate Jo Baker. The first fruit of this partnership was the Hallelujah e.p., picked up by Boo Hewerdine's label Haven Records and released in 1997, alongside a UK tour supporting Boo and ex-Fairground Attraction songstress Eddi Reader. They made two critically acclaimed albums; 1998's 'Automiracles' (produced by Calum MacColl, son of folk legends Peggy Seeger and Ewan MacColl) and 2000's self produced 'While You Were Sleeping'. Further releases and tours followed abroad in Spain on El Diablo Records, with new member, multi-instrumentalist, Cath Evans.



By 2002 the band were back from an extensive tour of Scandinavia & Europe with John Hiatt, having signed to large independent label, Sanctuary Records, and were recording the poppier third album 'Life is Beautiful'. Assisted by Johnny Marr /Healers guitarist James Doviak, and released almost a year later in June 2003, Sanctuary mysteriously credited it solely to Lerski on the cover, earning her favourable comparisons to fellow singer songwriters Jeff

Buckley and Beth Orton. Live dates with the Cranberries, Jason Mraz and Josh Rouse followed, as did BBC Radio's support of the album, play listing of the first single, the Ben Hillier re-mix of 'My Love', and a Janice Long session.

2004, and Life Is Beautiful was crossing the Atlantic to feature in the US indie film 'Fish Without A Bicycle'. By the end of that same year however, Holly had left Sanctuary and was busy setting up her own DIY label. Their first release, the limited edition sampler 'Greetings from N.Y.', received weekly plays on BBC Radio 2 till the end of that year. By 2005, Holly was back writing and playing with her band in their basement studio in Manchester. With news that Starbucks Coffee Company would be featuring several of her songs on their Herbie Hancock in-store summer compilation, Holly continued to spend the rest of the year working towards record number 4.

And so to 2006 – Holly and the band will begin recording their new album, with a plan to release it on their own imprint, the Laundry Label, in 2007, while looking forward to touring the United States for the first time.

For more information:

please visit www.hollylerski.com or www.myspace.com/hollylerski

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Holly Lerski and Angelou Reviews

"Quietly brilliant folk-pop with a gorgeous voice. For those willing to upturn a stone or two, there are treasures here. This album is a real find"

- The Sunday Times



"Lerski's songs have a deft touch and, like her musical hero Jeff Buckley, an air of spiritual redemption'."

- Q

"You'll be hard pressed to find sounds more achingly lovely"

- Mojo

"Sounds like a cross between those two fine vocalists Sandy Denny and Eddi Reader, with

a bittersweet melancholy to her songs, especially on the outstanding 'Little Sister', a moving tribute to Jeff Buckley".

- Uncut

"One of the sweeter secrets of the late Nineties was Lerski's Angelou. Here she is again with old Angelou mucker Jo Baker - her voice is still lovely, the lyrics observe every-day love through a poetic filter, the guitars swoop and jingle-jangle. It's a proper record"

- The Independent on Sunday

"voice of a resurrected sylph and the kudos of touring with acclaimed storyteller John Hiatt, a combination that, by rights, should see her sitting atop the charts within a week. That she probably won't be speaks more for the parlous state of the industry than it does for the depth of talent at work here.

- Logo Magazine

"Introspection has rarely sounded stronger"

- FRoots

"Outshines many of her contemporaries"

- Classic Rock

"An emotive, acoustic-based collection of highly personal, folk-tinged songs"

- Billboard "

Holly Lerski, Reviews
Page 2

"A fabulous record, full of summer pop-tunes of the kind that filled Coldplay's 'Parachutes'.

- Play Music

"Accurately described as the 'spiritual sister of Jeff Buckley', Holly is the mistress of wistful, heartfelt masterpieces. Anyone who enjoys Ryan Adams, Gemma Hayes and Beth Orton will dig songs like 'Fools Gold and 'Everyone's Lonely'".

- OK

"Folksy, dream-filled affair with rich, life-affirming vocals that form the ideal soundtrack to a sunny summer's afternoon".

- Rocksound

"Luminous creations that seem to exist within their own glow, overflowing with such disarming sincerity from a soul whose language can be nothing but music."

- Losing Today

"An assured solo debut album that combines The Smiths' tunefulness and Jeff Buckley's angelic voice with shimmering guitars and brilliantly understated tunes. Those who loved The Sundays will find much to adore." - Red

"A delightfully fresh sounding album, with Holly's voice sounding superb over acoustic lead backing. 'Firefly' sounds like she's sitting in the room with you...if only! Give this one a listen"

- Guitarist