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SF Music Speaks: An Interview with Tiffany Joy

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Tiffany Joy is a worldly woman who has traveled and performed in South America and who moved to San Francisco in 2006 to pursue her lifelong dream of living in the city. As a strong female performer making her way in a world which is often still dominated by men and as a bilingual musician who has recorded in both English and Spanish, Tiffany Joy is an inspiration to creative young, multi-cultural women. Her strength lies in her ability to admit her own weaknesses (yes, even here in this interview), her self-motivation and self-promotion efforts and her unflagging belief in the importance of following your passion. Mark your calendars for August when her CD release party will happen at The Purple Onion and check her website for other dates when you can see her perform live in the city. Check out [her website](#) and [her MySpace](#) for more info.

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What can you tell us about your musical career so far?

Well, I drove illegally to audition for my first rock band when I was 15...they were a male driven group unwilling to listen to my poetic Rantings and it was then and there that I decided to teach myself to play a portable instrument (the guitar) and become my own one-woman show. That was nearly 10 years ago and it's been quite a ride since then. After locking myself in my room for a couple of years, composing and polishing my songs, I finally felt ready to perform in front of an audience and played my very first show in January of 2002 to a crowd of over 60 people packed into a tiny coffee shop/venue in downtown San Jose. I released an EP called Return to Bliss around the same time which sold over 1,000 copies.

In 2004, after touring independently around California as well as abroad (two months in Chile), I was offered an amazing opportunity to record my first full length bi-lingual album with producer/artist Marcio Brenes. I decided to return to school while the album was in production stages so that I could finish my degree. In 2006, I graduated with my BA in Spanish Linguistics. To celebrate, I packed up all my things and moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina for a three-month self-promoted tour. When I returned, I decided to pursue a childhood dream of mine which was to live in San Francisco. I am now preparing for the upcoming, long anticipated release of my bi-lingual album "El Ritmo del Mundo ... The Rhythm of The World" due out August 2007.

If you had to sum up your sound, what would you say?

I have split musical personalities: I'm half latin jazz pop and half indie pop rock. The album that is coming out is very much latin pop with a strong

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Jazz/acoustic influence. It's lazy Sunday afternoon music. That was the goal.

I am in the studio now recording a very indie-pop album. All of my music is incredibly rhythmic with strong melody lines and unintentionally catchy choruses.

Are there differences between the music you write in English and the music you write in Spanish? Would you say they both appeal to the same people?

Most definitely. My Spanish music is a bit more metaphorical and dare I say hopeful, while the English music is rawer, more in your face, more emotional. They may appeal to different groups of people, but it is my hope that I can somehow find a way to combine the styles and present it all as me.




How does San Francisco inspire your music?

God, how doesn't San Francisco inspire me?! I find inspiration on my morning MUNI ride, my lunchtimes tucked away in the corner of my favorite Indian restaurant, and in just about everything really. I sat on my rooftop yesterday as the sun was setting with a glass of wine, my classical guitar and a journal with handmade pages. It was pretty close to perfection.

Which spots in the city can you be found in when you're just out and about?

I try to make it out to the open mic on Mondays at Hotel Utah as often as I can. Friends, drinks, good live raw talent...what more could a girl ask for? I like to explore - try a new restaurant every week, that kind of thing.

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I'm a sucker for the Mission. Klezmer brunch at Cafe Revolution on Sunday mornings. Sangria and appetizers at Limon. Oseonto for a little relaxing jacuzzi dip. I like to spend Sundays tripping around checking out galleries and window shopping. Shoe-shopping in the Haight. Shabu Shabu in Japantown. Drinks, pool, and loud indie bands at Edinburg Castle there's always something to do here.

Do you have a favorite SF venue?

I love Cafe Du Nord. It was originally an old speakeasy during prohibition and somehow that whole feeling of a hidden and forbidden place for expression carried through to today. It's as if the walls soaked in the energy of years of dancing and drinking and music. But really, there are so many great little venues.... Cafe Revolution, Hotel Utah ... it's a long list.

Do you have any upcoming live shows?

As far as a tour schedule goes, I'll probably be staying close to home this summer ... I have a dinner show booked on July 28th at the Red Victorian on Haight St. plus a few other local shows (dates pending).

The show that I'm most excited about is my CD release party which is planned for Friday, August 17th. It will be held at the historic Purple Onion and I couldn't be happier with the venue or the amazing drummer and bassist that I have pinned down to play with me that evening.

I have a few more summer dates pending, so make sure to check the concert page on my website, or send me an e-mail if you would like to be included on my on-line mailing list.

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Where do you want to be a year from now?

I'd like to have shared my music with as many people as possible, secured some radio play, and have released my third independent album, Real Joy, (which I'm now in the process of recording). By then I'll probably be thinking about moving back to Buenos Aires where I'll work, perform and live in a beautiful little apartment with a balcony and a view of the city streets. I'm such a romantic.

If there was anything that you could make sure your fans knew, what would it be?

I get really sad sometimes...it's true. I feel hopeless and helpless. I cry and complain and feel like I'm being eaten alive ... and I've almost given up on music more times than I can count.

So here's what I've discovered: Following your passion is rarely the easy road. But in my experience it's the only way. And in finding and following what moves you, you have those really priceless moments... like for me, when I'm making really beautiful music with amazing players and I look out and see someone...eyes closed....swaying back and forth. Those moments that make you go..." ah, yes, I remember why I'm here" ... and all is well in your world.

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