

CLAIRE TRENTAIN

TABLES-A-TURNING



Claire awoke one morning and said to herself, 'Y'know, this whole being flown around the world to write songs is all well and good but, I dunno, I want more ...'

So she aptly got to it and is now pedalling her first album, 'Loving the Blue and Green', an independent pop release. Yep, seems the tables have turned and it's not the grungy rock bands that are anti-establishment anymore - afterall, they've got the undying support of triple j and the like - it's pop artists who are now doing the hard yards off their own bat - with all but no assistance. Afterall, how many indie-pop venues do you know about town?

"It's really hard as a pop artist to get gigs without being on the radio," Claire explains. "Like the triple j Unearthed sort of bands have festivals and that, but pop is really hard ... [but] we'll play to anyone that wants to listen!"

Claire's day job involves travelling around the world as a songwriter, working as part of a team creating songs for other people. Swedish song factory, Murlyn Music turns over at least one song a day as the company's creatives sit around brainstorming ideas and melodies.

When Claire went overseas to get in on this, she was coming up with songs that her counterparts decided she should perform, and that brings us to 'Loving the Blue and Green'. A twelve-track debut that has songs she wrote in high school through to the title track, which Claire wrote as the plane was flying into Sweden.

"That one's probably the most personal one on there for me," Claire says of 'Loving the Blue and Green'. "It was when I was sent overseas to work with Murlyn and I hadn't met them yet. So I was sitting on the plane and looking down on the blue and green. I was just so excited and so nervous at the same time, so I wrote a song about it!"

The album is a genre and theme bending combination. Loosely, yes it's sugary pop with hooky melodies, but each song stands on its own thematically and Claire says this is the joy of being independent.

"I didn't have someone saying that they all have to sound the same and they all have to be to a formula. So I thought, 'I want to incorporate everything that's happened in my life so far'. I had songs that I'd written in uni and back in high school, so I just brought them to the table."

Alison Mooney

To catch the sounds of Claire Trentain's independent pop, she's launching her CD @ Brisbane's Powerhouse, December 13. 'Loving the Blue and Green' is available now.