

CRYBABY

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CRYBABY REUNITED AFTER 20 YEARS...

In 1996 Toronto alt-country band **Crybaby** released their sole and seminal recording, **Paintings** (produced by Peter J. Moore). The band lasted just four years, but won critical acclaim with Toronto's Eye Magazine placing it alongside offerings from Lyle Lovett and Blackie & The Rodeo Kings as one of the **Top Three Country Albums of 1996**.

The band also elicited kudos south of the border, specifically at Austin's **South By Southwest Music Festival**. Among the many positive reviews, **Nashville Scene** writer, **Michael McCall**, characterized their music as "tangy country soul" and called Crybaby one of the "notable moments" of the festival.

Lead singer and songwriter **Rae Billing** has a voice described as "honest and pure, assured and desperate at the same time" and "shiver-inducing;" her lyrics and music as "full of wide open spaces and bittersweet emotions," and "late night, pan-Americana rootsy songs... handled with gutsy femininity."

After Crybaby, Rae went on to record three albums under her own name with a number of Canadian powerhouse musicians. Her 2001 'solo' album was praised. On his cool Top Ten list of 'Anti-Hits', the **Toronto Sun/CANOE's John Sakamoto** placed "Walking In A Dream", the closing cut, as number three, describing it as "a heartbreaking rumination on a mind 'slipping sideways.'"

Her 2008 recording, **Blue Black Night**, again received critical acclaim, with **CBC Radio's Jeff Goodes** choosing it as his top **Pick Of The Month**.

And 2013's **Walls and Fences** was chosen as the monthly **Number One Album** by Canada's respected national roots magazine **Penguin Eggs**.

Late in 2016, Crybaby came back together to play two **20 year anniversary shows**. Alongside Rae, the reunited band included **Steve Koch** (Ron Sexsmith) on guitar and **Lucky Pete Lambert** (Kensington Hillbillies) on drums and backups with the addition of respected Hamilton musicians, **Andrew Aldridge** (Sarah Slean) on guitar, **Greg Brisco** (Junkhouse) on keys and **Scott Bell** (Dinner Belles) on bass.

With the music sounding so good, they went back in the studio to do their version of the renowned Bobby Gentry single **Ode to Billie Joe**, and while the music was flowing, they couldn't resist recording one of Rae's songs... and that was the beginning of a new album.

The album due for release in April of 2018, Crybaby (redux!) is stronger than ever.



"There is a depth to Billing's voice that reaches into the soul,"
GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM, HAMILTON SPECTATOR

"Billing has one of those goose bumps-inducing voices... and she writes powerfully poetic songs," KERRY DOOLE, NEW CANADIAN MUSIC

"There are not many albums that catch you by the throat as this one and no matter how often you hear it, the feeling remains."
ROOTSTIME, BELGIUM

"A purely great, soulful album that adds even more credibility to alternative country," MAVERICK MAGAZINE, UK