

# Rae Billing & CRYBABY

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## CRYBABY REUNITED AFTER 20 YEARS...

In 1996 Toronto alt-country band **Crybaby** released their sole recording, **Paintings** (produced by Peter J. Moore). The band lasted just four years, but won critical acclaim with Toronto's Eye Magazine placing the album 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 noted Canadian musicians. Her 2001 self-titled 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, Rae's **Blue Black Night**, again received critical acclaim, with **CBC Radio's Jeff Goodes** choosing it as his top **Pick Of The Month**.

And in 2013, Rae released **Walls and Fences**, which was chosen as the monthly **Number One Album** by Canada's respected national roots magazine **Penguin Eggs**, describing it as "captivating from start to finish".

Late in 2016, Rae brought Crybaby back together to play two **20 year anniversary shows**. Alongside Rae, the reunited band includes **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 into the studio to do their version of the renowned Bobby Gentry single **Ode to Billie Joe**. While the music was flowing, they couldn't resist recording one of Rae's original songs... and that led to recording ten more songs scribed by Rae.

The album, **Still**, released in the spring of 2018, Crybaby (redux!) is better than ever.

# Rae Billing & Crybaby

## 'STILL' REVIEWS



*Pick Of The Day April 13, 2018*

*"The resonant twang of the guitars neatly complements the melancholia-tinged vocals of Rae Billing. Gripping stuff."*  
KERRY DOOLE • FYI MUSIC NEWS TORONTO

*"Full of honest emotion and the kind of instrumental prowess many bands can only aspire to. Check this out."*

MAY 2018

ROD NICHOLSON • SCENE MAGAZINE LONDON

*View Magazine Cover Story*

APRIL 12 2018

RIC TAYLOR • VIEW MAGAZINE HAMILTON

*"Really take time to listen to the lyrics as they have an honesty to them you don't often find in music today."*

JUNE 2018

KATE JONES • ORCASOUND MONTREAL

*"New album called 'Still' contains tales of aching hearts and lost landscapes and a spine-shilling version of Bobby Gentry's classic 'Ode to Billy Joe.'"*

JUNE 2018

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM • HAMILTON SPECTATOR

*Simply impressive and breathtakingly beautiful, this second album "Still" by singer Rae Billing and "Crybaby".*

JUNE 2018

FREDDY CELIS • ROOTSTIME BELGIUM

## PREVIOUS ALBUM REVIEWS

*"With her character-filled, one of a kind voice and incredible lyrics, Rae weaves a unique, rootsy, alt-country atmosphere."*

LUIS PEREIRA • HAMILTON BLUES LOVERS

*"If you are looking for a purely great, soulful album that adds even more credibility to alternative country, then buying Blue Black Night wouldn't be a foolish thing to do."*

MAVERICK MAGAZINE UK

*"There are not many albums that catch you by the throat as this one does... Blue Black Night is such a rare moment."*

FREDDY CELIS • ROOTSTIME BELGIUM

*"There is a depth to her songs that few contemporaries have yet to hone."*

JASON MACNEIL • ALL MUSIC GUIDE

check out YOUTUBE videos for



Rae Billing & Crybaby - Ode To Billie Joe



Crybaby - A Melody Behind