

Rae Billing



*Sometimes things just shake so bad
And I have to burn them off
Spill into another place and time
And start a new life off
But I'm breathing through the roughest moments*

*And I'm holding hard to this new skin
And I'll do my best, baby I will do my best
Not to give in*

BIO



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NEW ALBUM...

WALLS & FENCES RELEASED

After 5 years...Walls and Fences released September of 2013

Rae's voice and lyrics create a touchstone that is unique on the Canadian landscape. Her voice has been described as "shiver-inducing," "honest and pure, assured and desperate at the same time." And her lyrics and music have been lauded - "full of wide open spaces and bittersweet emotions," and called "late night, pan-Americana rootsy songs... handled with gutsy femininity."

After five years, Rae has recorded her fourth alt-country album. And it is a fluid and passionate recording. Working with the multi-talented **Unpayables**, consisting of **Matt Coleman** on violin/fiddle, **Andrew Aldredge** on electric guitar, **K. Michael Hickey** on electric and upright bass, **Nick Burson** on drums, plus the talents of **Ed Roth** on accordion and organ, producer **Michael J. Birthelmer** on piano and guitars, and **Wayne Krawchuk** on backups.

Rae was the previous lead singer and songwriter of the Toronto alt-country band **Crybaby**. Lasting just three years, Crybaby won serious critical acclaim with the 1996 debut, *Paintings* (produced by Peter J. Moore). Toronto's Eye Magazine placed it alongside offerings from Lyle Lovett and Blackie & The Rodeo Kings as one of the Top Three Country Albums of 1996, with scribe Greg Boyd praising "the weary sensuality" of Rae's vocals.

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

In 2001, Rae put together a 'solo' album, again working with noted Toronto producer Peter J. Moore. This sonic sculptor has a well-deserved reputation for his distinct sound. Rae's first solo album was highly 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 from the album, as number 3, describing it as "a heartbreaking rumination on a mind 'slipping sideways.'"

With her 2008 recording, *Blue Black Night*, Rae re-established her connection with old friends, Cleave Anderson (Blue Rodeo) on drums, Steve Koch (Ron Sexsmith) on guitar and Derrick Brady (Hawksley Workman) on bass. On B3 and piano is Matt Horner (Mary Margaret O'Hara) and providing backups are Greg Clarke (Corndogs) and 'Lucky' Pete Lambert (Kensington Hillbillies), from Crybaby. The album again won critical acclaim, with CBC Radio's Jeff Goodes choosing it as his top pick for the month of August 2008...

"There is a depth to Billing's voice that reaches into the soul," Graham Rockingham, Hamilton Spectator

"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

"There is a depth to her songs few contemporaries have yet to hone," Jason MacNeil, All Music Guide

"Superb stuff," Kerry Doole, Exclaim Magazine, TO

North by Northeast Critic's Pic for 2008