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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAE BILLING IS... NO CLOSER... TO JESUS
Third Album of Stellar Alt-Country Offerings
'Blue Black Night' for Release June 1st in *The Hammer*

No, this is not Christian music... just alt-country the way it oughta be done. **Rae Billing**, insurgent country chanteuse and previous lead singer and songwriter of the lauded Toronto alt-country band, *Crybaby*, is set to release her third album of original offerings, **Blue Black Night**... her first release in seven long years.

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 highly praised - *"full of wide open spaces and bittersweet emotions,"* and called *"late night, pan-Americana rootsy ballads... handled with gutsy femininity."*

With **Blue Black Night**, Rae re-established her connection with old friends, *Cleave Anderson* on drums (Blue Rodeo, The Screwed), *Steve Koch* on guitar (Handsome Ned, Ron Sexsmith), *Derrick Brady* on bass (Serena Ryder, Hawksley Workman) and *Matt Horner* (Mary Margaret O'Hara) on B3 and Piano. Special Guest Appearance by *Garth Hudson* playing Rhodes on "The Dream" and *Maud Hudson* singing backup on "Personal Jesus."

Together they offer up a stellar album in which the 'alt' nature of Rae's music is especially apparent on "No Closer," (*go to www.raebilling.com to hear "No Closer"*) which follows in the footsteps of *Gram Parson's* "Sin City" to create a riveting commentary on the times, and "Shatter," which peels back the skin to reveal a small agony.

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

'Blue Black Night' Release Party
THE CASBAH LOUNGE
EARLY SHOW: 8-10pm
Sunday June 1 2008
306 King St. West (at Queen), Hamilton, ON

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