

Tori Sparks

BIOGRAPHY

Tori Sparks is known for her gut-wrenchingly emotive voice, her habit of playing her guitar as if it were a drum kit, and her ability to take an audience from laughter to tears and back in point-oh-four seconds. Her stage show is equal parts soulful singing and zany stand-up-style humor. Tori's 2007 tour dates took her as far as California, New York, Florida, Canada, and Ireland in support of highly-anticipated sophomore album *Under This Yellow Sun*. It was released to radio in Fall 2007, and quickly broke the RIYL Top 100 (Weighted Charts). *Under This Yellow Sun* was licensed to MTV and Lifetime net works, and has been praised by *Harp*, *Relix*, and *Maverick* magazines, among others.

The mélange of textures contained within *Under This Yellow Sun's* twelve songs defies the bounds of expectation. David Henry (R.E.M., Ben Folds, Vienna Teng, Josh Rouse, Jill Sobule, Widespread Panic, Indigo Girls, Cowboy Junkies) and Tori co-produced the album. Steve Bowman from the Counting Crows, Aaron Sands from Jars of Clay, and many other crack players added their personal panache to the raw energy of Tori's music. *Under This Yellow Sun* features a bonus music video for "Cold War," directed by Wayne Hall. It was the first record released under the auspices of Tori's own label (Glass Mountain Records) and publishing company (Hand Over Foot Publishing, ASCAP).

So, from whence does this crazy chick come? Tori Sparks recorded her first EP, *Tidewaters*, in 2003, which attracted the attention of an independent label based in Nashville. They snapped her up, promptly recorded her debut album and music video *Rivers + Roads* in 2005, moved her to Nashville, and even more promptly went belly-up. Where some would crumble, Tori emerged from the wreckage and dove into eight solid months of exhaustive touring, radio, and video promotion. (The radio and video thing went shockingly well in the ol' U.S. of A., Belgium, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, France, and England.)

One of the aforementioned eight months was devoted to The Feed Your Soul Guitar Project, a tour and folk art auction benefiting Oxfam America. ASCAP, *The Village Voice*, *Paste Magazine Online*, *Northeast InTune Magazine*, NBC, ABC, FOX, the Women's Right to Rock Music Festival and other papers and publications thought this was pretty cool and said so. Tori now has a big map of the U.S. and Europe, full of little colored pins marking cities she's played. Tori's debut music video, "Rivers + Roads," was screened at the Flint Film Festival, later that year, and was selected "Best Pop Video" at the Indie Gathering 2006. She was selected as a Unisong International Songwriting Contest Finalist for her politically-charged alterna-blues tune "The Poster Child," and again in 2007 for "Cold War."

Tori Sparks' show has been a marked success in listening rooms in Nashville, theaters in Cork, clubs in L.A., coffee houses in West Virginia, art houses in NYC, pubs in London, juke joints in Florida, and more. The fearless chanteuse makes the audience her own in any setting. She basically grabs them by the hair and swings them around and... ok, no. She has shared the stage with internationally-known artists such as Justin Earle (Steve Earle's son), and John and Mary of the 10,000 Maniacs. Besides her big black boots and nomadic tendencies, Tori is known for being a part of and/or organizing benefit concerts on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind, F.A.C.E., the March of Dimes, and the One Campaign.

Under This Yellow Sun and *Rivers + Roads* can each be purchased for less than the price of a veggie burger in L.A. at one of 100+ digital distributors in 25 countries, including the ubiquitous iTunes, and 39 CD retailers, including BestBuy.com, Target.com, more. For more information, please see www.torisparks.com or www.glassmountainrecords.com.