

BREAKING NEWS

Sydney based dark-pop artist Valencia James Releases 'Dreamers'

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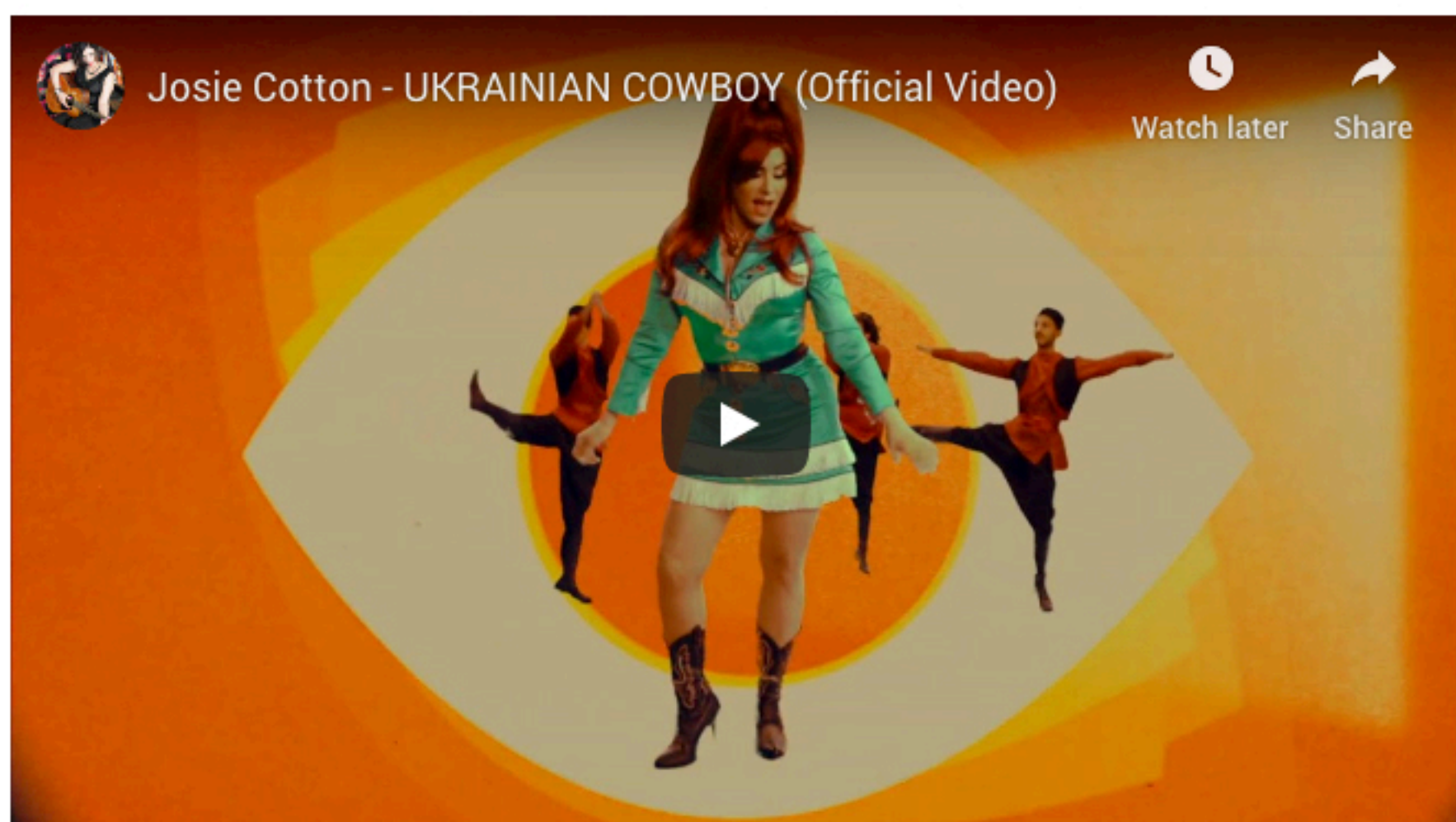
Pic by Piper Ferguson

Hi Josie, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?

Thanks so much. Never better.

Can you talk to us more about your latest single "Ukrainian Cowboy"?

I thought maybe I had finally gone off the deep end with this single. There's no roadmap for something so outside of the box but that's always been the part I enjoy. And people seem to be getting it so that's music to my ears..



Did any event in particular inspire you to write this song?

Yea an event called the world! I've always held a fascination with that part of the world and its history from Rasputin to the Cold War . But now it's everywhere non-stop. In the media, in our elections etc... you can't get away from it. I think my brain had to process it somehow and this is the result.

How was the filming process and experience behind the video?

That was an amazing experience. I had worked with James Slater, the director, before on "See The New Hong Kong" so I knew he was brilliant. I had presented the song and my ideas about what I thought it should look like to 2 different directors I had worked with and he was the one who it resonated with. We brainstormed back and forth and it was hilarious. So I went to him in London and that's where we made the video. It's a very campy and absurd video I would say but it's strange that no one seems to notice it's an incredibly sad song. Kind of like life I guess.

The single comes off your new album Everything Is Oh Yeah – what's the story behind the title?

It's actually they're separate records. The new album is actually something I recorded back in the 80's but never released. It was supposed to be my 3rd record on Elektra. I thought the tapes were lost..The title comes from a song I wrote with the same title. You could call it an affirmation of life. Some part of me probably wrote it to myself in one of my darker phases but it's more universal than that. It's something I believe to be true.

How was the recording and writing process?

That was a long time ago but I vividly remember when I wrote Far Away From The Crowd. I had just finished recording From The Hip in London with Roy Thomas Baker and I had gone to Berlin for some publicity junket. Outside my hotel window you could see the Berlin wall and it was so ominous a feeling. Complete desolation. I stared at it for the longest time. I had my guitar with me and this song just came out like it was already written.

What role did Dallas play on this record in particular? I can hear a lot of Country and Western throughout the album.

There's an element of rockabilly for sure. That's something I didn't fully appreciate till I came to Los Angeles and met my future producers, the Paine Brothers. They were master songwriters and made me listen to a lot of Tammy Wynette who I fell in love with. But when I was still in Texas I rejected Country and Western music categorically. Probably because my Mom played it non- stop. My influence was more British Invasion and girl groups.

Known for playing with the old-fashioned – does it get easier for you to blend the old with the new?

I don't think about it like that. My last album, Pussycat Babylon, was purely Electronica.

Having found major success back in the 80s and with this decade getting so much momentum on the media – did you feel tempted to deep dive into this era?

I think in the 80's I was more infamous than famous and more famous than I was successful. I did much better with my electronica album from 2009.. Tiesto remixed my song If A Lie Was Love" and LoveRush remixed "See The New Hong Kong" which did really well in Europe and was the only time I went #1 ever. I've managed to avoid all 80's tours until recently this year. I've immensely enjoyed experimenting on every single record I've ever done. And I don't see a reason to stop now.

Watch "If A Lie Was Love" : <https://youtu.be/86rMTqVyx8I>

Watch "See The New Hong Kong": <https://youtu.be/jsO9uKdOmsw>

How has the likes of Nancy Sinatra influenced your music?

Not at all. That's so funny I keep hearing that comparison. Maybe image wise and the tongue in cheek nature of her records and videos.. But I think of my self more as Lee Hazelwood in a huge wig..

Where did you find the inspiration for the songs and lyrics?

I honestly don't know where it comes from. It's a mysterious process. You just have to be always listening in the moment. A certain phrase, a melody that comes to you, an emotion that overtakes you, an idea. Or just a beat. You have to get it down on paper right away or record it on the spot because you can lose it just as fast. It's always changing its face.

Any plans to hit the road?

Lot's of shows coming. I'm really looking forward to playing in Japan , Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

What else is happening next in Kitty Kat Fan Club's world?

I love that! Can I steal it? The next thing is the B side of Ukranian Cowboy which is called "Cold War Spy". And this coming year we're re-releasing all my records that no-one heard which I'm super excited about. I'm also working on a new record called "I Want To Die Don't You?" That's it for now....

Watch "Cold War Spy": <https://youtu.be/4-0ImjKhRUo>

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ABOUT RJ FROMETA



Head Honcho, Editor in Chief and writer here on VENTS. I don't like walking on the beach, but I love playing the guitar and geeking out about music. I am also a movie maniac and 6 hours sleeper.

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