

DEBORAH LOMBARDI
ON THE FRINGE

Sound Beach's Deborah Lombardi has produced a gem of a folk rock record with her debut album *On the Fringe*.

Lombardi opens the record with *City Limits*, a true alt-country rocker with some great twang and a real barroom feel. As she sings about living outside of one's comfort zone, singing to her counterpart, "You've got too much fear to cross these city limits," she certainly sets a precedence for the rest of the album and pushes herself to rise above her limit on each song. The next tune, *Keep Lookin'*, Lombardi slows it down just a little bit, but sticks to the same alt-country/folk-rock vein.

Despite a definitive alt-country style, Lombardi certainly sounds like she has been influenced by '90s alternative and grunge rock. On *Almost Beautiful*, her vocals sound a bit like Courtney Love, as she challenges unreasonable ideals placed on women by society. She sarcastically sings, "Why don't you put some makeup on/because you're almost perfect/almost beautiful." The title track, *On the Fringe*, is something akin to Throwing Muses or Liz Phair if they played country music.



She gets a bit bluegrass on *My Dog's Life*, which has been featured on Animal Planet's *Horse Power*. At times her vocals seem to mirror Chrissie Hynde of the Pretenders, as she cleverly sings about how her life would be easier if she had the life her dog lives. "I wish I had my dog's life," she sings. "Love is always unconditional."

One of the most powerful songs on the album is *City on the Potomac*. This piano ballad oozes with nostalgia and emotion, as Lombardi revisits Washington D.C., a city of her past. She is confronted and haunted by old memories, much like listeners will be haunted by this song.

- Tiffany Razzano

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