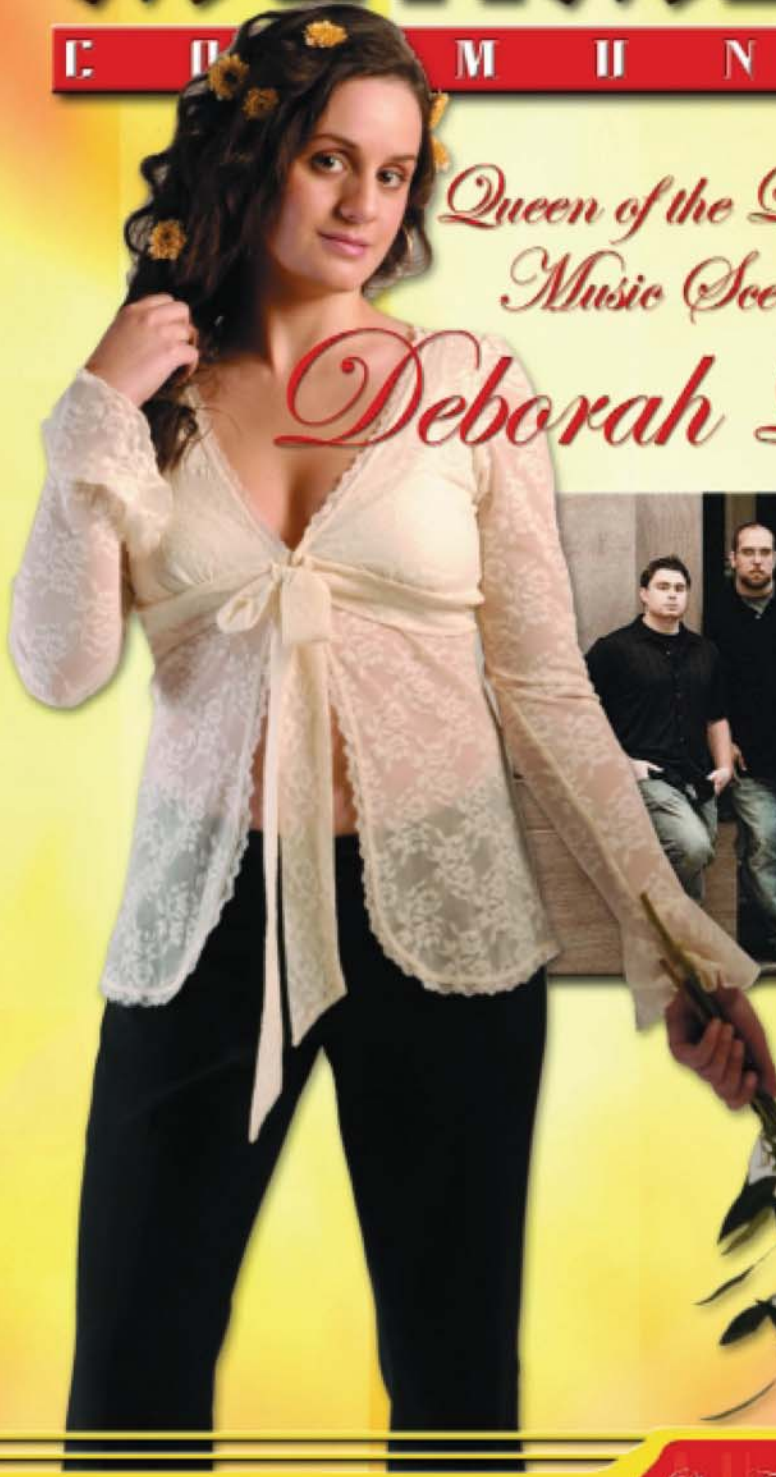


YOUR SOURCE FOR THE LONG ISLAND MUSIC SCENE

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AURAL FIX

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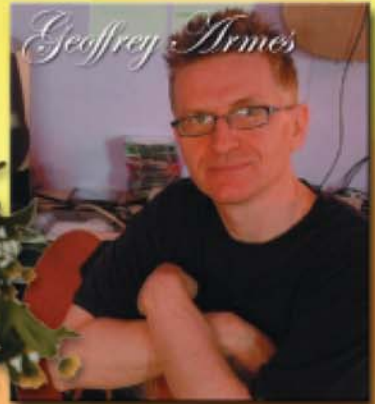


*Queen of the Long Island
Music Scene 2006*

Deborah Lombardi



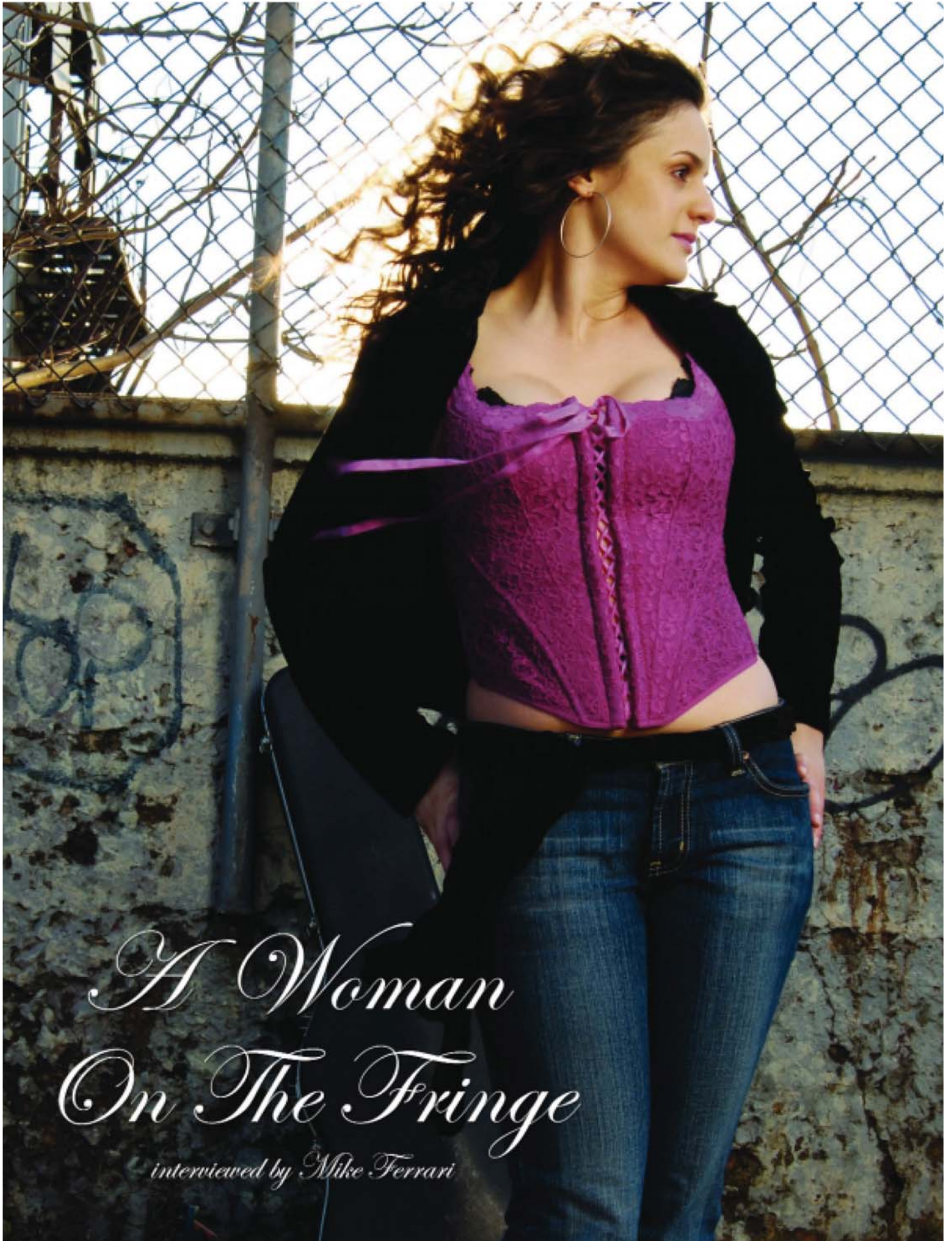
Soundside



Geoffrey Armes

Plus... Femme Fest Preview, and August CD releases!

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*A Woman
On The Fringe*

interviewed by Mike Ferrari



DEBORAH LOMBARDI

Queen of The Long Island Music Scene 2006

People often ask me what the Queen of the Music Scene contest is all about. It's about the ability of an artist to connect with their fans. Why a Queen? Well the music industry tends to be dominated by men, so Aural Fix being the champion of the underdogs decided to recognize the women in our local Music Scene. Since our first year in print back in 2001 we ask the readers of Aural Fix Communicate to vote for their favorite female artist from the Long Island Music Scene. This year you chose Deborah Lombardi!

AF: How did you first get involved with making music? What inspires you to make music?

I've been performing music in one form or another since I was a kid, whether it was playing piano or singing, but didn't start writing songs and playing guitar until my late teens. What's inspired me over the years are my experiences in life – be it positive or negative ones. It's a therapeutic process to write a song about something that's happened or something I'm feeling. My songwriting has also allowed me to get out and say what I really want to say, but can't say in normal conversation because I'm not confrontational enough, or just can't find the right words – but I can come up with something poetic and melodic in a song that people will want to listen to, and so that's how I can get my point across.

AF: Who or What are your musical influences?

I wouldn't say there's one musical act or even genre that's influenced me. I've listened to all kinds of music over the years. Lately, I'm more into country, and singer-songwriters like Pete Dinklage and Sheryl Crow, but I've also been a fan of many rock bands which may not come through in my sound, but something lyrically or hook-driven about their music may have influenced me.

AF: How did you develop your sound? Are you happy with the direction it has taken?

I think my sound has developed partly by the instrumentation I'm using – my acoustic guitar based songs may be more country folk-y while my piano based songs are more pop. My sound also varies from song to song based on whatever I'm singing about; it may call for a different type of arrangement to complement the lyrics. I'm pretty happy with the direction it takes me – it's constantly different and

interesting.

AF: Do you prefer the control of the studio or the spontaneity of a live performance?

Vocally I'm at my best live – I throw in a lot more vocal ornaments. But in the studio it's great creatively, to be able to add layer upon layer of different sounds, harmonies and instruments, which I don't emulate live because I mainly perform solo acoustic.

AF: When was your first ever live performance? How did it go?

My first performance as a solo act was at a café in New York City, the Vintage Café, that's now closed. Kathy Fleischmann used to host an original music night there. The gig went really well but it was freezing and the dead of winter. I think that started a bad habit for me because I seem to get most of my city



“Luckily for independent artists like myself, I am free to be just who I am”

gigs when it's cold outside. Nothing like carrying a guitar case with frozen fingers when I've got like 10 blocks to go!

AF: What are some of your favorite places to play these days?

Since it's summer I love to play outside. I've been playing a lot of outdoor gigs at parks, street fairs, and the Jones Beach boardwalk. I like the chance to play for as many spectators as possible.

AF: If you could record or tour with anyone, who would it be and why?

I'd love to record with Dave Grohl. I've always been a fan of his songwriting, his songs can get heavy but still be really melodic. The last Foo Fighters double CD included an acoustic disc – which makes me think he'd collaborate well with my style.

AF: Do you have any CD's or demos

available?

My 11-song CD “On The Fringe” is now available for sale on my website: www.deborahlombardi.com

AF: Do you think it's any different being a woman in the music industry than it is for men?

On a major label scale there's probably more pressure to have a certain image or look a certain way. Luckily for independent artists like myself, I am free to be just who I am. I haven't experienced sexism luckily and hopefully it'll stay that way.

AF: Do you think there are any advantages to being a woman in the music industry?

Sure. Because women are traditionally considered the minority, I think people work extra hard to support our music. There are many radio and webradio shows that spotlight female musicians, as well as online networking groups and organizations.

AF: What are some of the challenges of being an independent artist for you?

Money. It all comes down to “do I have the budget?” to do this or that. I would've released a full length CD years ago but it took a lot of investment to pull it off. It may be years before I do another CD again because I want it to be as professional, or even more polished, than my current project. Money also determines how far away I get to tour, and how much I can promote myself.

AF: What is the Long Island Acoustic Movement?

It's a networking group I started for singer-songwriters and acoustic musicians. We network via our yahoo group and we've showcased acts on webradio shows and live events. We're always looking to expand our membership and bring in people willing to volunteer their time, so we can be found at www.longislandacousticmovement.com

AF: What do you like about being a musician or playing Long Island? What don't you like?

I like the fact that there are so many venues and events to play at on Long Island – but I wish there was more of an audience who appreciated original music. I can't understand why people will pay \$20 for parking and then a \$20 cover to get into a dance club in the Hamptons,

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QUEEN CONT'D FROM PAGE 9...

just to stand around a crowded bar and not even dance... when they can be having a relaxed, hassle-free time at a local music venue listening to an up and coming band or singer for a lot less money. I mean with everyone so obsessed with who's going to be the next American Idol, they should be checking out the talent in their own back yard – they might be missing out on some future big stars.

AF: What changes do you think lies ahead for the music industry? How do you think that will affect your music career?

The internet has revolutionized the music industry. While it's been hurt financially by illegal downloads, the net has grown an audience for unsigned talent. Look at myspace and all the mp3 sites and webradio stations. And video is now becoming the next big attraction on the internet – people won't even need the corporately run radio or TV stations in the near future. That's a big advantage to people like me, but the disadvantage is there are thousands of indie acts to weed through to get to my music. It's going to be hard to stick out but hopefully I can evolve with it.

AF: What goals do you have for your music career and how do you plan to accomplish them?

I want to sell my CD's, put on great performances and constantly win over new fans. Whatever it takes to reach new fans - whether it's touring or internet promotion or licensing my music to TV and film – I want there to be a steady

stream of exposure to accomplish that.

AF: Anything else you want to share with AURAL FIX readers?

I'd like to thank all those who voted for me and those who continue to support original music.

*www.deborahlombardi.com
or on myspace at
myspace.com/deborahlombardi*

