

## **Medical Records presents... The Understudy**

~~Objectively judging the art of a friend is...~~

The Understudy is Lucy Hearn, and Lucy Hearn is the type of person you could spend every day with for an entire year, and still be no closer to understanding. It is her songs that start to give insight to this otherwise impenetrable girl. These are honest, considered and powerful songs, all towering barriers suddenly pulled away from an alarmingly sharp mind, if only for three minutes.

She is the type of person who decides that the ideal place to meet for the first time is in by the greasy, green-brown Brisbane river, and who then proceeds to play you, a virtual stranger, some of the finest and craftiest pop songs you have ever heard. Granted, this may not be everyone's actual experience, but it's is an accurate parallel to hearing her music for the first time - all who see her play her songs are surely as taken aback as I was that day, and those who hear them on record can no doubt also recognize the work of a real singer/songwriter auteur.

We live in a workaday world of female singer-songwriters - some are brilliant, some are completely devoid of redeeming qualities. But somehow The Understudy is not like any of these musicians. Her songs and her style hark back across the concluded century, recalling such luminaries as Annie Lennox, Joni Mitchell, and a generation of cabaret/jazz chanteuses. Yet through all this, her songs do not sound dated - they are of modern concerns and ordeals. They are simply conjured in a style that reflects a careful and learned ear. Lucy has been writing songs since she was 12 years old, and the experience shows clearly.

When Lucy told me she was going to New York to make a record or two, I was less surprised than you might imagine - this is, after all, a person who (rather successfully) moved to interstate to progress her songwriting. When she came back and played me the end result though, there was no lack of surprise. I offered to help her any way I could, and am sincerely proud to present to all who will listen, a truly adventurous, studious and intelligent collection of first class songs.

- Nick Smethurst, Medical Records

### **CONTACT**

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