

## **Interview with JAZZMIN**

### **How did you come up with the title, „Chocolate Baby“?**

On one hand, it's also the title of one of my favorite songs on the album. On the other, I was looking for an unusual title that would not be clear at first glance. As far as the first part of the title, "Chocolate", I absolutely love chocolate! Of course also important is that chocolate is linked to the Swiss identity, and so I already have a little "Swissness" in the CD title.

The second half refers to my experience that producing a CD is a little like going through a pregnancy. Something brand new is being created, and sometimes with a few complications along the way. Then comes the joy when the baby is finally here. And a CD is always a little part of you. Actually, "Part Of Me" was the working title of the record, but it seemed a little too obvious to me. A few years ago a journalist wrote something like, 'Jazzmin's sweet sound is a little like chocolate- once you try it you can't get enough'. Well, I hope that with "Chocolate Baby" that will be the case!

### **If your new CD were a soundtrack to life, in what scene would it appear?**

Hmmm, a vacation on a tropical beach, on a veranda at sunset with a cocktail in hand, or maybe driving in a convertible with the sun on your skin and the wind in your hair. Or even a winter evening in front of the fire with a nice glass of red wine... and for sure as the perfect mood music in a lounge scene.

### **You've changed stylistically. How did you come to record an album of Bossa Nova-tinged songs?**

The idea came from Beni Mosele, who I wrote the songs with. He was inspired by musical trips to Cuba, Argentina and of course Brasil. Then we found out that this Bossa style went perfectly with my voice, that they are made to be sung "smooth". What I really like about this Bossa-Pop style is that it's relaxed and cool, and at the same time groovy and really makes you sway. Also I really like the light summery feel. I could imagine though, that the next project might well be different again. We'll see...

### **Tell us something about the songs.**

„Always There“ is a love song to music, which was always there for me. This was the first one that Beni and I wrote, and it motivated us to keep writing. I remember perfectly the moment I sang the lyrics to him in the car, and we both were swaying and smiling. I got the idea for "Paradise Is Here" on the Maldives, and "Every Little Bird" was written while soft waves swayed the boat I was on in the Philippines. "Cross the Bridge" is a song to give you courage when you can't see a way to go on.

With "Chocolate Baby", which is about a man that's so delicious you could just eat him, I experimented for the first time with humorous rhymes. It was so much fun that I just kept going in that direction with "Pay Me Rent". We all know the feeling of having someone in our head that just won't leave. I used this type of situation again in "My Favorite Drug". Beni and I used to play with this one as "My Favorite Duck" or "Truck". "Love Is Like A Butterfly" deals with love's need for space and freedom, while "What Would She Do" is about two women in love with the same man.

“It’s Been A Long Time” was an idea that I had back in 1999, and took literally a long time before I finally made a song out of it. I tried to give the feeling of the first beautiful warm summer day of the year on “Easy Breezy”. I feel especially close to “Part Of Me”. It talks about the deep influences a person can have on you in so many ways, even if they are not anymore in your life. Finally, I chose the title “Rolls Royce” simply because I was hoping for product placement sponsorship! (Laughs).

**That you are now performing under the name „Jazzmin“ is new. What made you decide this?**

Actually, I’ve been using the name Jazzmin for a long time. Already in 1997, “Jazzmin Music” appeared as the label on my CD “Sink of Swim”. I’ve been looking for an artistic name for a while, one that would help me make the distinction between Jasmin Schmid the private person, and the singer Jasmin. I had a problem with the idea of using a name completely different than mine. But since I’ve been using “Jazzmin” already for a long time, it’s fairly close to my real name, and at the same time gives a little idea of the jazzy tinge that my new songs have, it seemed perfect.

**And now finally: What was the funniest experience involved with this CD production?**

Oh, there were for sure a few stories worth telling... like when my photographer Maja Beck and I met for a photo shoot. We drove together to an old castle ruin where we had the intention to take some shots. We couldn’t drive directly to the ruin, so in the full heat of summer we hiked up the hill with all the photography equipment, my clothes and make-up, the whole load. As we got to the top, we were more than a little surprised to see that the entire ruin had been taken over by a scout troop, and was covered with tents. No chance to take pictures. So we dragged the whole mess back down the hill. We called a meeting and figured out that we had two choices: find another date, or find another ruin. We decided on the latter. After a while driving around, we finally found something, but same problem: couldn’t get close with the car. We didn’t want to repeat the experience that we had just made, so we hiked the quarter-hour up through the forest without any gear. It was perfect, so there was nothing else to do but head back through the forest down to the car, grab the gear and head once again up the hill. All this on a hot summer day when I should look nice and fresh for the photos. But it all came out good, especially by then we had a beautiful evening sunlight!

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