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HOUSTON SPECIAL EDITION

Joey Daniels

On the Road to the Top

By David Serafine

I grew up listening to all types of music. I still dream of the songs that played on the radio as a teenager in my tricked out '68 Buick Skylark Convertible. Those were the days! Lately, I haven't found much worth listening to, nothing that puts a smile on my face when I hear it. That was until I went to Nashville this past June. I was there on business; I was covering my first Country Musical Festival, better known the CMA Fest. I had no clue of what to expect. It was wild! I met people from all over the world, fans of the music scene coming to Nashville to pay homage to where it all began. One day while I was waiting for the press shuttle to take me down to the center stages, I begin singing this song that was playing all around me. "Your train don't stop here, anymore. I ain't your swinging door!" Wow! What a line. A young lady painfully listening to me singing informed me that the artist was Joey Daniels and she was signing autographs in the convention center. I decided to peek inside to see what was happening. In the crowd of frenzied fans, I finally came across Joey Daniels' booth, which had over 100 people waiting in line for autographs. I decided to join them. Standing in line, I was watching clips of her on a flat screen television behind her, while "Swinging Door" played in the background. Now this is a face that I can remember! Joey is very pretty; she has a smile that lights up a room. When my turn came up to meet her, I picked up a copy of her single, showed her my reporter's badge and asked her for a future interview. It has now been a few weeks since Nashville; I have played "Swinging Door" over and over again in my CD player in the car as well as burned a copy to my laptop. I even received cool points from my daughter because she loves it too. I finally had an opportunity of catching up with Joey to find out more about this new face to the country scene and what we can expect from her next.

MMN: Hi Joey, how have you been doing?

JD: Good. Thank you.

MNN: At the CMA Fest you were everywhere! How did that feel?

JD: Well it was my first time there, so I really did not know what to expect. I have seen and read about it, but it was exciting to actually be there and get to meet and talk to the people who are listening to my music. The best part of the trip for me was getting to meet the people who will hopefully buy my CD, *Take Me Off The Market*, which will be released on September 13th, 2005. They were really sweet people. Performing was great too!

MNN: Tell me more about yourself?

JD: I was born and raised in Creston, British Columbia. I started singing at a young age. My mom has tapes of me when I was two years old, I would make up songs, while she

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recorded them. When I was a teenager, Whitney Houston was my idol. I just thought she was gorgeous, had the greatest songs and had a great voice, I knew then that singing was what I wanted to do. Also, I come from a musically talented family, my dad and grandparents had a family act back home. When I go home for the holidays, we still get together and have a big jam session!

MNN: Tell more about the album.

JD: I have worked with some really cool people, Mark Bright, James Stroud, Jim "Pinky" Beeman, Jason Pennock, my brother, and Bill Edwards; Chairman and CEO of Big3 Nashville, my record label. There are 13 songs on the album and I wrote 8 of them.

MNN: Is "Swinging Door" the first single?

JD: Yes it is. The single is out at radio right now. I will be shooting the "Swinging Door" video with Peter Zavadil, who directed Sugarland's "Babygirl" video, in the next few weeks. He came up with some really cool concepts...I am really excited about that. You can also download the single from iTunes.

MNN: Does songwriting come easy for you?

JD: I don't consider it work, it is a creative process. Sometimes I write at eleven at night or three in the morning, whenever it hits me. I go through periods when I don't write. Then it will be a phase where I write and write.

MNN: What is the song on the album that speaks to your heart the most?

JD: "Miracle" and "Do It Again" both are ballads, I just love ballads.

MNN: How did you get signed to Big3 Records?

JD: My brother was working in the studio and a guy by the name of Ted Howard, who my brother worked with on a few projects, was there when he was mixing my demo. Ted asked if he could have a copy to take to his boss in Florida. A couple of months later, Bill Edwards called me and told me how much he loved my music and wanted to hear me live the next time he was in town. When he came to town, I performed for him and he signed me.

MNN: Do you work with other artists on the label?

JD: I have done some shows with Jon Secada, I am actually writing some songs on his upcoming album. In Nashville, I performed a song with Cheap Trick. They are an unbelievable band. I am also working with a label mate Carnie Wilson, of Wilson Philips; I am doing some writing on her upcoming album "Lolaby" which was named after her baby girl Lola Sophia.

MNN: Who is some of your favorite artists?

JD: Faith Hill, John Mayer, Shania Twain, Keith Urban, his new album I keep playing over and over again. He is great live, he kicks butt, he can play guitar, and writes all his songs.

MNN: I understand that your next event is in Houston, what will you be doing there?

JD: I am actually performing after the Astros baseball game on Saturday, August 13th at the Minute Maid Stadium.

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Joey signing autographs at the 2005 CMA Music Fest



Joey performing live at the 2005 CMA Music Fest

MNN: How does one purchase a ticket?

JD: The concert is free with the purchase of a game ticket that night. It is right after the game, so all ticket holders can stay and enjoy the show.

MNN: How successful do you see yourself in the next year?

JD: In a perfect world, it would be great if my career can skyrocket like Gretchen Wilson's.

MNN: You understand that launching a successful album is no easy commitment. Are you prepared for the hard work, dedication and time that are necessary to be at the top?

JD: Yes! I understand that it is never an overnight success. I feel that I have been working for years in order to be prepared for what is headed my way. There is nothing that I want to be doing more.

MNN: Well, Joey I would like to thank you for your time, I wish you all the best of luck and success.

JD: Thank you. I really appreciate it, thank you.

