

WithGuitars

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REVIEWS

Shawna Virago – Heaven Sent Delinquent (Electric Single Mix)

By My Nguyen, In Reviews, Tags: Shawna Virago

Transgender music pioneer and cult solo acoustic artist Shawna Virago is releasing her latest single, an electric version of her song “Heaven Sent Delinquent” (Tranimal Records). A video accompaniment also supports the single.

On the MV, the video features Virago at a bus stop and various locations, trying to get a ride out of town. This in-transit vibe gets realized with a sound that brings to life the full-on sound of guitars, both acoustic and electric. The remix is a more flavorful offering with more guitars and a more explosive sound than the original stripped-down acoustic version. This rendition gives off a more fully embodied rock vibe. The melody and tone of the track really comes together here as drums, basslines and tons of guitars add to the rock feels. The bluesy sounds of the harmonica also hone into a revved sound.

I thought Virago really does a good job of bringing forth a warm singer-songwriter vibe encompassed in her soulful vocals and music. Her sound and style really transported me. This is as much a tale about escape, as it is an

anthem for outsiders too timid or shackled by family and economics to make it out of the oppressive towns they were born in.

While described as anti-folk and punk, Virago's latest offering is a voice for the oppressed. Those searching for a way out will find something in Virago's music that will be that much-needed escape from their circumstances.

Celebrated as a music pioneer, she was one of the nation's first openly transgender woman to perform and tour nationally, and has performed as an out transwoman since the early 1990's.

Virago knows first-hand what it is like to be different, to embrace that difference and push back on the very same status quo that held her back. She writes songs that roots for the underdog, the delinquent, the renegade and outcast. Before celebrities, the Internet and the media started making all things queer or transgender a rising trend, Virago was already marching to her own beat. She makes music on her own terms, and the sounds that surface are not only ear-pleasing, they are unforgettable, staying with the listeners long after the record has stopped spinning.

"Heaven Sent Delinquent," the electric single version (Tranimal Records) is currently out now.