



Interview: Heidi Duss / Foto: Marco Duss

Interview with Tammy Cochran at the CMA Music Festival Nashville 2007

Q: How did you get started in country music?

A: Well, I grew up in a household that was filled with country music. My parents were huge country music fans, so there was always George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Merle Haggard and all that kind of stuff on the radio. I just grew up listening to country and therefore loving country music. I showed an interest in singing when I was about 8 years old. I used to do little concerts and things like that in my room for my parents. When I was about 12, I entered a talent contest and won. It kind of started from there, I started entering contests. Then when I was 15, I joined a local country band in Ohio. From there, I formed my own band and moved to Nashville in 1991, did some demos and started writing. Then in 1998 I got my record deal at Sony.

Q: Have you ever thought about doing anything different than country music?

A: No, music was always what I wanted to do. It's kind of funny, when you're young, you have no idea that you can actually fail at something, so I kind of went for it.

Q: Who are your heroes?

A: My heroes, in country music I grew up listening to Barbara Mandrell, Loretta Lynn, those were actually the people I think I learned to sing from. I met Loretta Lynn at the Opry a couple of years ago and I got my picture taken with her. She is awesome, the epitome of

country music for me. I told her, „you don't know this, but you kind of taught me how to sing.“ I love all that traditional stuff, Barbara Mandrell, Loretta Lynn, Vern Gosdin.

Q: Are your parents musicians?

A: No, they are not, my dad sings around the house, my mom used to play the Organ when we were kids. Not really professionally or anything. Just always loved music, it worked out good I think.

Q: You have written a lot of songs, has anybody ever recorded one of your songs?

A: No, I have not had anybody ever record any of my songs, but I've come close a couple of times. That's the reason I wanted to do this project, I call it a songwriters album. It's got 12 songs on there that I wrote, or co-wrote. It's funny, being a singer and a songwriter, people see what you do when you're on stage and doing a show, but they don't know when you're not on stage. So I kind of wanted to share what it is that I do when I'm not under the lights. I think, this is a cool way to do that.

Q: Your project, does this refer to your new CD?

A: Yes, the new one, it's got 12 songs.

Q: You also wrote a beautiful song called „Angels in waiting“, is this concerning your brothers?

A: Yes, „Angels in Waiting“ was one of those things that I went and spoke to my co-writers Jim Mc Bride and Stewart Harris. They are fabulous song writers, they have gold records all over the world. I went up to them and said, there is a song I want to write. I started this song but I couldn't quite finish it. I didn't quite know exactly where to go because it was so close to me. I told them, you're not going to make any money off this, you're not going to be famous, this will never even be played on the radio, this is something I have to do for me. Like so many other people, when you lose someone you love, we all kind of had the same experience, so we all pull together. That song amazes me, it wasn't supposed to be a single, and it was my first top ten. I think it's really cool, it kind of immortalizes my brothers, because music never dies. So, forever that song is going to be around and forever they are going to live thru that song.

Q: You do a lot of fundraising for Cistic Fibrosis?

A: Yes, I do try to participate in as many charitable things for the CFF that I can. I do shows, performances, participate in the great strides walkatons. I try to do all that I can, but schedules don't really allow me to do as much as I like. When I can't be there, I usually sent auction items, something to help that fundraiser to create awareness.

Q: Have you ever thought about touring Europe / Switzerland ?

A: Yes, I'm actually looking for an international booking Agent to try to get me over the pond. I love the US, but I love seeing new places, meeting new people and experiencing new things. So I'm kind of researching that. I was in Sweden 1 ½ years ago, but that's about it so far.

Q: Are you on tour a lot ?

A : I have about 20 shows on my books so far this year and probably will have a few more. I'm happy with about 30 – 40 Shows a year. There was a time when I was doing 120 shows a year and it was a little hard to say the least. I saw my band more than I saw my family.

Q : What are your hopes, your dreams for the future ?

A : I hope to continue doing what I love to do with the music. My album is going to be out real soon and I'm already working on my next, trying to get my songs together for that one. I just want to continue to do what I love and I am really fortunate, that the fans have allowed me to do that. My dream is just make music and hopefully the fans will like it.

Q : So you are working on the next album already?

A: Yes, I have seven songs already, I need about four more and then I get to do this process all over again.

Q : Are you also writing or co-writing these songs ?

A : Yes, the experience so far is, the fans really connect with you as an artist, if you write yourself. That might not be the case with everybody, but maybe it's because of "Angels in Waiting." I try to write about things in real life, whether they be funny, sarcastic or heartfelt. I think that the fans really can know who I am better if I do that. But if there is a great song that somebody writes that I will fall in love with, then yes I will definitely cut it, 'cause I'm all for cutting the best songs I can get.

Q : How would you describe your next album?

A : I think it is going to be a bit more up tempo, a little bit more funny. I got a couple of songs that are a bit more humorous in there. I think it will be good.

Q : When will it be released ?

A : I don't know, but my personal goal is by next CRS, I'm hoping to be able to make that.

Q : What would you ask yourself if you were interviewing you?

A : That is a very good question, I don't think I was ever asked that before. Well, I could talk about the new album, the songs. "Where I am" is the title of the new single and I co-wrote that with Verlon Thompson and Terry Polk. I had started it, but did not know where to go with it. In my mind I thought, if I could write a song for any country artist in the world, who would I write a song for and I thought, George Jones to cover my songs. I thought, if he was singing a song to his wife, what would he say to her? Like so many of us, that have gone thru some difficult times, it's wonderful, once you get past those difficult times, when you can look back and see the people that really, really love you still, standing next to you. It's kind of what I thought about that song. So it can be interpreted a couple of different ways, you can interpret it as that, or you can interpret it as a spiritual song. I thought it was a great choice for the first single, specially since I've been gone for a couple of years, working on the album. It's a nice way of saying, I'm here. Then there is a song called "Nobody's Home," which is kind of autobiographical to an extent, but not too much. It's a song about a woman who spends a lot of time working, getting ahead, making money, getting all the great things she always dreamed about. Then, turning around one day and realizing, that there was a couple of things she forgot to do along the way, which is, get married, have kids, a home. It's about

a woman getting everything she wants and then realizing that “everything she wants” isn’t really what she truly wants. That is one of my favorite songs on the album. It could be a possible single down the road. It really surprises me too, everytime I do that song , there are so many men that come up to me and say “thats my life”. I never thought men would relate to the song that way.