



## **BELINDA BRUCE & The TAWNY STARS – PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE GOOD LIFE (Bee-Side Records, 2007)**

**BELINDA BRUCE:** Vocals, Acoustic & Electric Guitar, Harmonica

**JON WOOD:** Electric Guitar, Lap-Steel, Vocals

**JANE GOWAN:** Accordion, Trumpet, Rhodes Piano, Vocals

**MATT BRAIN:** Drums & Percussion

**RYEN FROGGATT:** Bass Guitar

**Nominee:** Favourite Folk Artist - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Independent Music Awards, 2006

**Nominee:** Best New / Emerging Artist - Canadian Folk Music Awards, 2005

**Nominee:** Best Solo Artist - Canadian Folk Music Awards, 2005

**Semi-finalist:** International Songwriting Competition, 2005 ("Rust")

**#5 Album:** Galaxie Folk / Roots Channel Top 10 Folk Albums of 2005 and #23 Top Spins (Canadian) of 2005

**"Finally, a world awakes to the charms of Belinda Bruce." — The Globe and Mail**

Vancouver-based **Belinda Bruce** claims songwriting royalty amongst her influences: **Lucinda Williams, Gillian Welch, Fleetwood Mac, Suzanne Vega** and **Joni Mitchell**, just for starters. It's safe to say that in the wake of her brilliant sophomore album **The Good Life**, the name **Belinda Bruce** will soon be a regular on such lists of other artists inspirations.

Her beautiful 2005 debut **Dream Yourself Awake** (Maximum) presented a sublime collection of oft-playful, mildly psychedelic chamber-folk, receiving international plaudits and domestic award nominations galore. A highly melodic, yet understated first release, it nonetheless remains an auspicious debut that held promise spectacularly realized in **The Good Life**.

Whilst the rustic whimsy and masterful grasp of pop melody that so characterized **Dream Yourself Awake** remain undisturbed, **The Good Life** is a grittier proposition altogether. An exploration of themes relating to city life, **Belinda Bruce & The Tawny Stars** invite the listener into a world populated by somebody's and nobodies experiencing the unpredictable peaks and troughs, highs and heartaches of life, love 'n' everything. From the guarded intimacy of opener **Dirty Little Secrets** to the orch-pop ode to urban existence **Citysong**; from the frankness of cornerstone epic **Rust** to the ruminative sing-a-long of the closing title track, **The Good Life** is a personal journey of human experience in municipal environs. Though whether urban or rural dweller, it remains the story of us all.

Following the overseas charge led by Canadian indie parvenus in the last two years, there exists a healthy climate for Canadian musicians in the worldwide market. Female roots performers in particular have been quick to benefit; just ask **Alana Levandoski**, **The Be Good Tanyas**, **Angela Desveaux**, **Po' Girl** and **Kathleen Edwards**. With no sign of a weakened appetite setting in just yet, it seems just a little bit likely that **Belinda Bruce** will be at the crest of that next wave, riding in on the roots-rock opus that is **The Good Life**.

And in **The Tawny Stars**, **Belinda Bruce** has assembled pretty much the cream of Vancouver roots talent to accompany her. With a collective resume dovetailing with the careers of Canadian legends **The Paperboys**, **Flophouse Jr**, **Mazinaw**, **Rodney Decroo**, **Rich Hope**, **Spygirl**, **Herald Nix** and **Neko Case** amongst many just as impressive, we are talking Emmylou's Hot Band, and then some. You only need hear **The Good Life** to categorically concur.

The Good Life is available now on Bee-Side Records.