

SONIC REVIEW EP. 3 (BISHOP BRIGGS)

KATE FAIRMAN

[TEMPT MY TROUBLE IN]

FOR 91.3 WHJE, I'M KATE FAIRMAN AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO EPISODE THREE OF SONIC REVIEW. THIS EPISODE, I WILL BE PROVIDING BACKGROUND ON THE INDIE POP SINGER BISHOP BRIGGS AND BREAKING DOWN THE LYRICS OF SOME OF HER SONGS.

SARAH GRACE MCLAUGHLIN, KNOWN PROFESSIONALLY AS BISHOP BRIGGS, IS A BRITISH BORN AMERICAN SINGER AND SONGWRITER. SHE WAS BORN IN LONDON TO SCOTTISH PARENTS FROM BISHOPBRIGGS, SCOTLAND, WHICH INSPIRED HER PROFESSIONAL NAME. AT AGE FOUR, SHE MOVED TO TOKYO. SHE SANG IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME AT A TOKYO KARAOKE BAR, AND IMMEDIATELY REALIZED SHE WANTED TO PURSUE MUSIC. SHE LATER MOVED TO HONG KONG AT AGE 10, WHERE SHE LIVED UNTIL SHE WAS 18. AFTER GRADUATING FROM HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHE MOVED TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, AND ATTENDED COLLEGE AT THE MUSICIAN'S INSTITUTE.

[WILD HORSES IN]

SHORTLY AFTER A PERFORMANCE IN A LOCAL BAR IN 2015 THAT GAINED THE ATTENTION OF FORMER A&R REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE ROBERTSON, BISHOP BRIGGS RECORDED HER FIRST SINGLE "WILD HORSES" UNDER THE NAME BISHOP. IN LATE 2016, "WILD HORSES" BEGAN CLIMBING THE ALTERNATIVE MUSIC CHARTS, ENTERING THE TOP 30 ON THE BILLBOARD ALTERNATIVE SONGS CHART AND TOP 13 ON THE BILLBOARD TWITTER EMERGING ARTIST CHARTS. THIS SONG WAS LATER FEATURED IN A COMMERCIAL FOR THE CAR COMPANY ACCURA, BUT THIS NEWFOUND FAME CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF A HARD-ROCK BAND FROM UPSTATE NEW YORK, WHO'S BAND NAME WAS ALSO BISHOP. THIS BAND, WHICH ALREADY HAD

A WEBSITE USING THE NAME BISHOP AND HAD BEEN USING THE NAME FOR OVER 15 YEARS, THREATENED TO FILE AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE FEMALE SINGER IF SHE DID NOT CHANGE HER STAGE NAME. SO, TO AVOID ANY FURTHER LEGAL ISSUES, HER PERFORMANCE NAME WAS CHANGED TO BISHOP BRIGGS IN JANUARY OF 2016.

[PLAY SONG, FADE DOWN]

GOING BACK TO THE MORE MUSICAL ASPECT OF HER CAREER, SHE STATED IN AN INTERVIEW THAT SHE TENDS TO PREFER A DARKER SOUND TO HER LYRICS, EVEN WHEN SHE'S CONTENT IN HER PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE. WITH "WILD HORSES", SHE STATED THAT SHE WAS IN A HAPPY RELATIONSHIP AT THE TIME SHE WROTE THE SONG, AND SHE WANTED TO PORTRAY THAT SHE COULD BE BOTH FREE AND HAPPY AT THE SAME TIME.

[RIVER IN]

IN JANUARY 2016, BISHOP BRIGGS RELEASED HER NEXT SINGLE TITLED "RIVER". SHORTLY AFTER ITS RELEASE, THE SONG REACHED NUMBER 1 ON SPOTIFY'S US VIRAL 50 AND #2 ON THE GLOBAL VIRAL 50. "RIVER" CLIMBED INTO THE TOP 3 ON THE 'BILLBOARD ALTERNATIVE SONGS CHART AND TOP 10 ON THE BILLBOARD HOT ROCK, ROCK AIRPLAY AND TWITTER EMERGING ARTIST CHARTS.

[CHORUS IN]

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE SONG, BISHOP BRIGGS HAS SAID THAT "RIVER" IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT STARING SOMEONE IN THE FACE AND PUSHING THEM TO THEIR LIMITS - WHATEVER THOSE LIMITS MAY BE. TO ME, IT SEEMS LIKE THE LIMITS IN QUESTION ARE THE LIMITS OF A RELATIONSHIP. THE SONG SEEMS TO BE TALKING ABOUT A DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP AND SHE IS STARTING TO NOTICE THE DYSFUNCTION IN THE RELATIONSHIP. SHE CONTINUES TO ENDURE IT, BUT WITH MANY UPS AND DOWNS. IN AN INTERVIEW, BISHOP BRIGGS STATES THAT SHE WROTE THE SONG TO PORTRAY MULTIPLE EMOTIONS: STRONG, WEAK, TORN,

CONTROLLING, AND SUBMISSIVE. WHILE WRITING THE SONG, SHE RELATED THESE FEELINGS TO THE CURRENTS AND MOVEMENT OF A RIVER, WHICH CAN BE HEARD FROM A COMPOSITION ASPECT BY THE STEADY, HEAVY BEAT OF THE INSTRUMENTALS.

[DEAD MAN'S ARMS IN]

SHORTLY AFTER THE RELEASE OF RIVER, BISHOP BRIGGS' FIRST SELF-TITLED EP WAS RELEASED DIGITALLY ON APRIL 14, 2017, FEATURING SIX SONGS INCLUDING "WILD HORSES" AND "RIVER". SHE HAS SAID IN THE PAST THAT ONE OF THE SONGS OFF OF THE EP, TITLED DEAD MAN'S ARMS. IS ONE OF HER FAVORITE SONGS TO PERFORM LIVE BECAUSE SHE TRULY FEELS THE EMOTION THAT WENT INTO IT EVERY TIME SHE SINGS IT. DURING THE RECORDING PROCESS, SHE HAS SAID THAT SHE HAD TAKES WHERE SHE WAS GRITTING HER TEETH BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH EMOTION SHE PUT INTO THE LYRICS. WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE LYRICS AND MESSAGE OF THE SONG, SHE SAID IN THE SAME INTERVIEW THAT SHE TYPICALLY REACTS TO SITUATIONS WITH SADNESS, NOT ANGER, BUT IN THIS CASE, IT WAS THE OPPOSITE. TO ME, THIS SONG SEEMS LIKE IT IS WRITTEN ABOUT AN EMOTIONALLY DAMAGING RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE IN THE THIRD VERSE SHE SINGS

["MAYBE IT'S BUILT OF STONE, MAYBE IT'S DARK AS COAL, USED TO BE A HEART, I'M TOLD, BUT A HEART NEEDS BLOOD TO LOVE"]

THIS VERSE SHOWS THAT SHE BELIEVED THAT THE MAN SHE WAS WITH AT THE TIME WAS INCAPABLE OF LOVING, AND SHE EXPRESSES THIS BY COMPARING HIS HEART TO BOTH STONE AND COAL. IN THE CHORUS, SHE SINGS "THERE'S MORE LOVE IN A DEAD MAN'S ARMS" WHICH IS HER EXPLICITLY SAYING THAT THE MAN SHE IS SINGING ABOUT IS INCAPABLE OF LOVE.

[WHITE FLAG IN]

ALMOST EXACTLY ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF HER EP, BISHOP BRIGGS RELEASED HER FIRST FULL LENGTH ALBUM TITLED "CHURCH OF SCARS" ON APRIL 20, 2018. THE FIRST SINGLE RELEASED FROM THE ALBUM, TITLED "WHITE FLAG", WAS RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 22, 2018. THIS SONG PRESENTS MORE OF A FIGHTING, "I WON'T SURRENDER" TYPE OF MESSAGE, AND THIS CAN BE CLEARLY HEARD IN THE CHORUS OF THE SONG WHEN SHE SINGS

[WON'T WAVE MY WHITE FLAG, NO! THIS TIME I WON'T LET GO. I'D RATHER DIE THAN
GIVE UP THE FIGHT...]

IN THIS VERSE, SHE IS SAYING THAT SHE WON'T WAVE HER WHITE FLAG, WHICH IS SEEN A SYMBOL OF SURRENDER. IN AN INTERVIEW, BISHOP BRIGGS STATED THAT THIS SONG IS ABOUT PUSHING UNTIL THERE IS SWEAT IN YOUR EYES AND BLOOD ON YOUR NAILS, NEVER GIVING UP, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS, PAIRED WITH THE INTENSE, HEAVY INSTRUMENTALS IN THE BACKGROUND, GIVES OFF A VERY STRONG, POWERFUL VIBE THAT IS VERY COMMON IN MANY OF BISHOP BRIGGS' SONGS.

WITH THE RECENT RELEASE AND SUCCESS OF MANY OF HER SINGLES, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BISHOP BRIGGS WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD OF ALTERNATIVE MUSIC.

THIS CONCLUDES MY ANALYSIS OF THE MUSIC BY ARTIST BISHOP BRIGGS AND WRAPS UP MY SERIES OF ARTIST REVIEWS UNTIL AUGUST. FOR MORE CONTENT AND MUSIC LIKE THIS, TUNE IN TO 91.3 WHJE OR VISIT WHJE.COM.