



## Lee McAllistair: Biography

Australian jazz vocalist and composer Lee McAllistair has enjoyed an international career over the past 15 years.

She has performed at London's famous 606 Jazz club, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, across Asia and at major jazz festivals, events and venues around Australia and recorded for the BBC (UK), ABC (Aust), Channels 10, 9 and 7.

Lee studied with respected jazz vocalists Anita Wardell, Jo Lawry and Connaitre Miller at Adelaide University's Elder Conservatorium of Music, before going on to join the vocal jazz teaching staff at Adelaide University for two years. Since her move to Sydney, Lee has studied with Kristin Berardi and is currently furthering her composition studies with the Berklee College of Music Jazz Composition program (international), and the Stanford University summer jazz residency (August 2011) with Gretchen Parlato.

Lee launches her first album of entirely original jazz songs, entitled 'Spellbound'; on September 28, 2011 at Sound Lounge, Sydney. The album features long-time collaborators Mark Simeon Ferguson on piano, Mike Bevan on guitar and Lyndon Gray on bass.

The album is a lush musical soundscape that traverses diverse musical ground, from Latin, blues and swing to more pop-influenced tunes.

"My focus is always great melody, memorable melody – I pay homage to the craft of the jazz standard, even though these are new songs. Spellbound is also a very emotional journey. It's about finding that dreamy place where you step back and realise that while life is not the prefabricated fairytale you thought it would be, it's somehow just perfect, with all its flaws, exactly as it is. Finding perfection in imperfection is what this album is ultimately about."

### **Press quotes**

'McAllistair held a sell-out audience spellbound as she delivered her songs with exquisite expression... a talented vocalist and composer \*\*\*\*\*' (five stars) – John McBeath, Jazz Critic  
A distinctive and powerful voice' – Edinburgh Evening News

'In October the Brunei public were treated to a remarkable performance of vocal and instrumental jazz. Locals and expatriates alike were amazed by the creativity and versatility of the artists, and enchanted by their stage presence. The originals were of a high quality, not out of place when mixed with the famous. A rare evening, long to be remembered.'" – Brunei Music Society

### **Performing credits**

Edinburgh Festival Fringe  
606 Club, London  
Brunei Music Society, Brunei Darussalam  
The Famous Spiegeltent, Edinburgh  
The Famous Spiegeltent, Melbourne International Arts Festival Season  
The Famous Spiegeltent, Adelaide  
Crown Casino Melbourne, Main Room (Palms)  
Adelaide International Cabaret Festival  
Adelaide Fringe Festival  
The Basement, Sydney  
Outback Jazz Festival  
Barossa Jazz Festival  
Glenelg Jazz Festival  
Renee Geyer support  
Ross Wilson support  
BBC 2 UK 'Live @ The Famous Spiegeltent', Edinburgh Festival Fringe  
Edinburgh Radio Forth 2006  
BBC 3 UK  
ABC Classic FM, Melbourne  
ABC 891, Adelaide  
Channel 10 Good Morning Australia  
Channel 7 AM Adelaide  
Adelaide Festival Centre  
Regional Arts Australia tour  
Metropolitan Arts Australia tour  
McLaren Vale Sea & Vines Festival  
Skycity Casino

### **Education & Teaching**

Bachelor of Music Performance (Jazz)  
Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide University  
Studied with Jo Lawry, Anita Wardell, Connaitre Miller, Susan De Jong  
Joined the vocal jazz teaching staff at Adelaide University for two years prior to relocating to Sydney  
More recently in Sydney, Lee is studying with Kristin Berardi

## **Awards**

The following awards are for 'Women with Standards', a jazz vocal group of four female vocalists, of which Lee is a founding member:

Spirit of the Fringe, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2006

Official sold out show, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2006

Best Cabaret Work by an Established Artist, Adelaide Fringe 2007

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