

Kinny - Can't Kill a Dame With Soul (2012)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 20 February 2012 09:40 - Last Updated Sunday, 04 January 2015 12:52

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01. *Floating Zzzzzzz!* 02. *Big Fat Liar* 03. *Tick Can Tock* 04. *UpSideDown* 05. *Suffocate*
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06. *Lost Baggage* 07. *The Love Cats* 08. *You From This Sting* 09. *Shrinking Violet*
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10. *One Fan Talking* 11. *Mmm of My Humps*

Personnel: Kinny - vocals Mads Falck Berven - Guitar Axel Rindle Hestnes - Guitar Aksel Gaupås Johansen - Producer Jørgen Sandvik - Sitar

A classically trained mezzo-soprano, Canadian-born, Norwegian-based vocalist Caitlin Simpson, aka Kinny, has been compared to everyone from Ella Fitzgerald to Erykah Badu since straying into jazz-soul territory in the early 2000s. Under the guidance of production trio Souldrop (who contributed to two tracks on 2009 debut *Idle Forest of Chit Chat*), her second album, *Can't Kill a Dame with Soul*, shows why her raw emotive tones and edgy stream-of-consciousness delivery have been mentioned in the same breath as such illustrious company. But this is no Winehouse-alike retro affair. The stripped-back acoustic blues of "Lost Baggage" and a percussive cabaret-style reworking of the Cure's vaudeville classic "The Love Cats" may hark back to a bygone era, but elsewhere, Kinny displays a penchant for laid-back East Coast hip-hop and '90s trip-hop, which perhaps explains why she's recently been invited to work with both De La Soul and Massive Attack. Indeed, the majority of its 11 tracks revel in a sense of claustrophobia that is equally compelling and unsettling, whether it's the attitude-laden "Big Fat Liar," a fusion of massive clomping beats and dub bass wobbles suggesting she's not a woman to be messed with; the Björk-esque percussion and atmospheric strings of "Up/Side/Down"; or the haunting soulful closer, "Mmm of My Hums." There are a few lighter touches, such as opener "Floating Zzzzzzz!," a twinkling slice of acid jazz that combines William Orbit-esque bleeps with Middle Eastern loops, the languid hip-hop soul collaboration with Norwegian MC Son of Light ("Tick Can Tock"), and the Latin-tinged R&B of "One Fan Talking," but *Can't Kill a Dame with Soul* is always more captivating when it's at its most melancholic. Norway might not exactly be known as a hotbed of soul talent, but Kinny could be the artist to put the country on the map. ---Jon O'Brien, allmusic.com

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