

## Genevieve Little

News from **Tim Arney** on Genevieve's recent overseas tour

A large part of the tour was based around MySpace. Genevieve has a strong online following, and she really wanted to connect with as many of them as possible on a personal level, to show them how much she appreciates their support. She also wanted to connect with a lot of the musicians and bands she knew online, so quite a few of the gigs were organised through artists who Genevieve really like that lived in the area.

Genevieve is also at a point where she needs to consider her future. She graduated earlier this year from her Medical Science degree, and is now in a position to decide how to proceed - down the medical or the musical path. Obviously both are tough roads, but certainly trying to be a professional musician is a highly uncertain avenue. Genevieve wanted to use this experience to gauge how accessible her music is, performing to audiences from such varied backgrounds, quite different to the Australian, who largely had no preconception of her and her music. The tour saw Genevieve just about sell out of CDs, and she has since had invitations from producers, labels, distributors, and promoters who are keen to get her back, so given the reception, there's an implication that she's in good stead to tackle this as a career. To that end, Genevieve is looking to study a Master of Media Arts and Production next year, to further hone her production skills which she's been developing in her own studio with her own music over the years, and look at complementing her work as a performing and recording artist by producing other artists and further exploring other avenues she's been working on such as scoring for film.

Musically her experiences were quite varied, and there were some highlights. Apparently in Honolulu there's not really a culture of female singer-songwriters, and Genevieve was treated like a celebrity - a somewhat new experience. In Montreal she supported a French Canadian band that delivered one of the best live shows she'd seen. Performing over two nights to a packed house at a funky underground jazz club, they performed for hours on end, right through the night, with no one budging from their seats until the shows had finished. In Boston she didn't have a gig lined up, but Genevieve got dragged to a karaoke bar by some people she met at a hostel, and ended up singing a few numbers, and ended up selling out of her CD stock there. In New York, she supported a platinum certified artist (in the US that's 1,000,000+ copies sold) in one of the best venues in the city, with people queuing down the street. The headliner and his band were still really friendly and engaging people, who invited Genevieve out that night and then next, before the violinist had to fly to Australia to tour with Brooke Fraser - an artist whose music Genevieve loves. In Nashville the people seemed to live for their music - every bar on the street had live music blasting out their doors, and every other person was a songwriter in their own right. Of course, you can't go to Tennessee without visiting Graceland, and I don't think any musician wouldn't be awed by Elvis' room plastered with his gold and platinum records. In Switzerland Genevieve wasn't planning on performing, but ended up at a fondue house in the Alps and got called up to yodel - apparently that went down really well, so there's always a backup plan there. In the UK, Genevieve did a couple of radio spots, including one on National radio to 6,000,000 listeners (that's quite a step up from Australian radio, particularly community), and apparently the show had the best audience response they'd had in months. The first gig in Berlin was a dangerous one - rather than performing at a festival, or as a support act in a concert hall, or a bar which is known for its live music, Genevieve decided to take a gamble and headline her own show at a performance space that she'd hired, so the

only people going to the show were people specifically there to see Genevieve. The place ended up packed, with some industry folk there who were keen to get her back to Berlin for another show. So, her travel plans were restructured to swing back through and another venue was lined up, along with some radio promo care of a presenter who came to the show. In Paris, Genevieve performed a private show at a bar under the Eiffel Tower for the Australian Embassy and their guests. Afterwards Genevieve got lost and somehow ended up at a private party in the palace of a French General. Back in Berlin it seemed the owner of the venue she was lined up to play the encore show at had been in some terrible accident, and had to close down and go back to his homeland, Scotland. Suddenly Genevieve was 2 days away from returning for the show with nowhere to play. A last minute affair was put on at the bar of a hostel, where there was no sound system, and even more people showed up to this one than the last. Now there's a challenge - trying to silence a crowd when you're playing unplugged. It was a success though, and like just about every other venue where Genevieve performed, they're keen to have her back. Genevieve was scheduled to fly the next day to Mykonos, but the train she was on to the airport broke down at 4am. When she finally made it to the airport, she'd missed her flight - the last of the season. Suddenly she was desperately trying to figure out a way to get out of Europe in time for the ABC Music Awards, for which Genevieve had a few nominations. A flight was tracked down out of Zurich, so Genevieve made her way down through Munich (and Oktoberfest), into Austria where she did a Sound of Music tour, and finally to Switzerland.

Now she's back home, and looking to the future! She has two welcome home shows organised, the one in Sydney being at the Cafe Church in Glebe on Saturday, Nov 17 with Matt Tonks supporting. It's going to be an all ages, community affair, with a free BBQ. The carbon emissions generated by the event are also being offset. There's also plenty of other shows, including two charity events, one for the Darfur people of Sudan, and another for Youth Off The Streets. In November and December Genevieve's got some good support spots lined up with Kasey Chambers, Diesel and Wendy Matthews. Then in January Genevieve's touring the east coast, first down to Melbourne through Canberra, then up to Brisbane and beyond with Mark Wilkinson. Genevieve's also been invited to play Peats Ridge Festival on New Year's Eve. And there's plenty more you can read about at [www.genevievelittle.com](http://www.genevievelittle.com).