



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ZOE MUTH ALBUM *WORLD OF STRANGERS* SET FOR RELEASE MAY 27 ON SIGNATURE SOUNDS TOUR DATES CONFIRMED

"We rarely talk about country music as being "soulful" or having "soul", but thank god Zoe Muth is here to change this...the gentle truth of her songwriting and the softness of her voice lend a weight to the music [and] a true feeling of soulfulness... an astonishingly good songwriter." - *No Depression*

"With a haunting voice that treads soul and country and can only be described as a cosmic Americana, Zoe Muth delivers songs that sound like vintage country classics." - Twangville



NORTHAMPTON, MA- Acclaimed Austin based singer-songwriter Zoe Muth returns with her third full length album, *World of Strangers*, out May 27th on Signature Sounds.

First making her name in the Pacific Northwest, where she's been called "Seattle's Emmylou," and heralded as one of the best songwriters to come out of Washington State, Muth spent the last three years touring across the U.S. and Europe. Playing bars and cafes as a young pre-school teacher, she saved up her minimum wage earnings and beer bucket tips to pay for her 2009 debut album, *Zoe Muth and the Lost High Rollers*. That album, along with her 2011 follow up, *Starlight Hotel*, went on to garner praise from the international press, and landed on *No Depression's* "Top 50 Albums" list in their respective years.

"Turn it all upside down," Zoe Muth sings on the opening track of *World of Strangers*. "See the stars when we're looking at the ground, shining all around." Muth brings us ten heartrending tales of the leaving and the left behind in her trademark style of infusing moments of despair with hope and levity. This time around she has made some changes, channeling a wider array of influences ranging from classic country ballads to early folk-rock.

"Many of these new songs had been in my head for a long time, and I needed a change of scenery and sound to let them find their way out," says Muth when asked about the writing on *World of Strangers*. On New Year's Day 2013, she uprooted herself from Seattle, and set out for Austin, Texas. She was soon introduced to producer and bassist George Reiff, who assembled a band of some of Austin's most talented musicians, including Brad Rice (Keith Urban, Son Volt), Martie Maguire (Dixie Chicks) and Bruce Robison. Grammy-winner Steven Christensen assisted in mixing.

"This was a whole new studio experience for me, more experimental," says Muth. "We agreed from the start that we wanted something different, more ethereal, but George took these songs in a direction I wasn't expecting. It worked so well because we have so many common influences. It was really exciting, how the musicians would jump from one idea to another without hesitation. We were able to capture all the emotion you hear in the songs because the band could get them down in just a few takes. I knew *this* was why I had come to Austin."

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You'd hear "Mama Needs a Margarita" and "Waltz of the Wayward Wind" in any booze-soaked saloon, but Muth's grandest departure from her earlier sound can be heard in the decidedly un-honky-tonk, "Annabelle," where the conversation between cello, piano, and violin are subtly underscored with indie organ effects that twinkle like electric stars. The influence of early Fairport Convention echoes in the Ronnie Lane cover "April Fool," and bits of the Byrds and Burritos shine through in Mike Hardwick and Geoff Queen's pedal steel. In "Taken All You Wanted," Brad Rice's finger picking falls and weeps, bringing to mind the prettiest picking of John Fahey or Leo Kottke.

World of Strangers is slow building and spacious, often dream-like and fearless in it's demand of your time and attention. Muth has taken risks for the sake of the song, asking the listener to let go of expectations. And while the album sometimes begs you to two-step and waltz, more often than not, what it wants is for you to turn up the volume, turn the lights down low, and just listen.

***WORLD OF STRANGERS* ALBUM RELEASE TOUR DATES**

05-03-2014	Seattle, WA	Tractor Tavern
05-08-2014	Bellingham, WA	The Green Frog
05-09-2014	Portland, OR	Alberta Rose Theatre
05-10-2014	Bend, OR	PaK-iT
05-15-2014	Santa Fe, NM	Cowgirl BBQ
05-16-2014	Los Alamos, NM	Summer Concert Series
05-17-2014	Dolores, CO	Dolores River Brewery
05-18-2014	Taos, NM	Taos Mesa Brewing
05-23-2014	Austin, TX	The White Horse
05-28-2014	Ashland, VA	Ashland Coffee & Tea
05-30-2014	Millheim, PA	Elk Creek Cafe + Aleworks
05-31-2014	Bluemont, VA	Shepherds Ford House Concert
06-02-2014	Vienna, VA	Jammin Java
06-04-2014	Philadelphia, PA	Tin Angel
06-05-2014	Northampton, MA	The Parlor Room
06-06-2014	Fall River, MA	Narrows Center for the Arts
06-07-2014	Cambridge, MA	Club Passim
06-09-2014	Brooklyn, NY	Hill Country BBQ
06-12-2014	New York, NY	Hill Country BBQ

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