



# August brightens up November

AUGUST arrived late in Stratford this year with the launch of a new album by the town's most famous contemporary singer.

The internationally renowned former Communist, Sarah-Jane Morris, pictured left, will launch *August*, the first CD on her independent record label, on 26th November. It was recorded over three days in August in Portobello Road, in London, with guitarist Marc Ribot, who has played with Tom Waits and has his own Cuban style band.

The album, in fact, reflects her diverse musical interests and flexibility, opening with bluesy cover versions—*Don't Leave Me this Way* and *I Can't Stand the Rain*—but also including a reggae version of *Blind Old Friends* and even her own interpretation of a punk song, *You Can't put your Arm Around a Memory*.

"The whole point of the album was to explore the voice and the guitar," she explained to the *Herald* yesterday (Wednesday).

The album also features her husband, David Coulter, formerly of The Pogues, on the musical saw in *Mercy Mercy Me*, and it is illustrated with photographs by her brother, Rod. Sarah-Jane explained that she had wanted to use her brother

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## Report by David Maddox

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before but had been blocked by record label companies who wanted to use their own people.

"I've found that over the years I've had lots of agents and four managers and after all that I feel that I know better what's best for me than they do," she said. "So it's wonderful to be able to have my own label. It is a financial risk but it means I can develop my career as I want to. One of the consequences is that I've been able to build up my fan base around the world by doing more live performances. In the old days I would have just done a concert in London and Birmingham when the album was released and that would be it."

She also revealed that she plans to release an album next summer called *Love and Pain*, with her own songs. A more in depth interview and review will appear in the *Herald* next week.