

Conya Doss Nominated for three 2010 SoulTrack's Awards alongside Badu, Dwele, Raheem, John Legend & more



(Los Angeles, California – October 12, 2010) Nestled between Indiana and Pennsylvania, lies a state that has yet to be fully tapped of its musical capacity. In a region whose lineage reflects that of Babyface, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, Tracy Chapman, Marilyn Manson, Gerald Levert, The O'Jays, Macy Gray, James Ingram, Roger Troutman and Zapp, The Gapp Band and Avant among others, Conya Doss is the latest female vocalist to emerge over the past decade and hold steadfast to her Midwestern roots. Much like what her predecessors Erykah Badu, India.Arie and Jill Scott did for Dallas, Atlanta and Philly, Doss has already pinned Ohio on the soul music map. Having graced the cover of Billboard Magazine's 2006 "indie R&B" edition, regularly performing to sold out Midwestern venues and garnering 500k Myspace profile views as an indie artist she also appeared in and recorded a song alongside Detroit vocalist Dwele for McDonald's McCafe commercial. Conya's awards include "Best Female Vocalist" at Soultracks Reader's Choice Awards 2008 & nominations in 3 categories at upcoming SoulTracks Reader's Choice Awards 2010, the leading online resource dedicated to classic and modern Soul music, "Heineken Redstar Soul Artist of the Year," "Best Female Vocalist" at Ohio Hip Hop Awards 2007, a nomination for "Best Underground Artist" at the BET J Awards 2008 and was listed on iTunes as "Best R&B Underground/Indie Artist" and "Best R&B Indie Track" for the single "It's Over." In Fall 2010 Conya Doss' buzz single "What We Gone Do" made history, setting a digital download record on

Soultracks.com, replacing a record previously set by Lalah Hathaway in 2008.



Click to see full list of [Nominees](#):

Inspired by Bonnie Raitt, Ani DiFranco, Mint Condition, Rude Boys, Jane Child, Donnie Hathaway, Angela Winbush and Nina Simone, Doss attended Cleveland's famed School of the Arts at the same time as R&B crooner Avant (Conya was an upperclassman, she's always been very talented.) Popmatters.com has referenced her "pleading and yearning" vocal style to Lauryn Hill and Doss is frequently voted as one of the "top acts to watch" by local Cleveland publications.

Of lately the singer has been busy burning the midnight oil composing and arranging music for this dazzling, well-crafted 2010 album that sets the tone for what lies ahead. Her unabashedly emotional fifth studio album Blu Transition, with Blu being the name of her newborn son, is not only a collection of words set to music, it is a gift; an energy exchange that reflects the duality of love and pain. It's an anointed story. It's one of endurance, but more importantly it is about life being full of unexpected moments with both tragedies (death) and triumphs (birth).

With a refreshingly crisp and remarkable vocal range, as well as sparse yet beautiful instrumentation, Conya Doss has found success in simplicity. Blu Transition continues in Doss's brilliant delivery of sweet, supple and heartfelt lyrics but she plunges deep into a bluesy-jazz vibe with spiritual undertones reminiscent of a 70's sound in both harmony and mood. The music carries a laid-back, earthy quality that features various moments; from truly moving and haunting to a rootsy reflection of where the singer has come from with messages steeped in love, risk-taking, rejection and

heartbreak. Composing yet another intricately crafted and cohesive body of work that illuminates her unequalled musicianship, Conya only scratches the surface of what she is capable of. Her music is not lost among the pantheon of new crooners, but instead invokes the spirits of legendary composers-singers such as Chaka Khan, Betty Wright, Natalie Cole, Meâ€™shell Nâ€™Degeocello and Alanis Morissette.

Blu Transition stretches Doss once again to express herself to the bare bones, this time around in impressive varieties of vocal styles. On the single â€œBest Thingâ€ we find the songbird flying high in a falsetto tone while dipping low into baritone territory on â€œWi Fi.â€ Doss is most poignant on the records that expose her soul, acknowledging what her life has been like since her last album. â€œAll In Youâ€, â€œCelebrateâ€ and â€œNever Be The Sameâ€ are sure to overwhelmingly echo the sentiment of fans, newcomers and singers alike that will qualify them as classics. Each note she parts her lips to sing, Doss sets free a pure tone that moves you through lifetimes, which is like a light bulb turning on in oneâ€™s head; a gentle reminder that there are other people to consider in life besides oneself.

â€œUnlike artists in other regions, the Ohio area is very limited when it comes to enabling me to practice my craft—especially the kind of music that I do,â€ says Doss, â€œCleveland has a tremendous amount of talent, and I chose to stay local and utilize some of our amazing producers and songwriters. Originally I had the opportunity to work with musicians on the East and West coasts but ironically while searching for the sound that I wanted it was at home all the time.â€

Conya possesses an indistinguishable reverence to the soul divas of yesteryears by encompassing invigorating vocals with thought-induced messages that silhouette charismatic, rhythmically charged production that simultaneously blazes a trail for her brand of melodic soul. Conyaâ€™s music is an

organic experience- a hybrid collection of up-tempo jams and fluid slow grooves that artistically join her sleek voice with intoxicating melodies. She is just as comfortable with lascivious R&B wails as she is with gospel-themed fare. In a time when many pop stars have become further and further removed from the folks that they speak to with their custom made looks and unattainable lifestyles, Conya remains a lot like us: a tender, tough, self-possessed young lady who puts her community before commercial concerns.

Vocalist Conya Doss Makes History on Soultracks.com, Setting Record for Digital Downloads w/ “What We Gone Do”



Listen to Lead Singles [“All in You”](#) and [“What We Gone Do”](#)

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"Unlike artists in other regions, the Ohio area is very limited when it comes to enabling me to practice my craft—especially the kind of music that I do," says Doss,

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Cast A Vote, Help A Student In 2009 Soultracks Readers’ Choice Awards

October 23, 2009 “ Readers of SoulTracks (www.soultracks.com), America’s most popular soul music website, have begun voting to choose the winners of this year’s SoulTracks Readers’ Choice Awards. From now through November 8th, voters will be deciding the winners of the

largest international awards dedicated to independent soul music.

This year, however, the voting takes on new meaning: For the 2009 Awards, SoulTracks has adopted Detroit's Cornerstone Schools (www.cornerstoneschools.org), a collection of urban schools that provide children of the city with an excellent education, preparing them for life and leadership. As part of this effort, SoulTracks will donate \$1.00 to Cornerstone for every SoulTracks reader who votes in this year's online SoulTracks Awards poll. Initial ballots were sent out by email to SoulTracks readers on October 23, and additional ballots will be sent out daily to all new free email signups at SoulTracks through Saturday, November 7th. Any visitor to www.soultracks.com can sign up for free.

"We are extremely grateful to Chris Rizik and all the SoulTracks readers who vote online in the SoulTracks Awards poll. Music is so integral to a child's education and development. At Cornerstone, all third graders receive and learn the violin, which instills discipline and dexterity," says Hope Redmond, Vice President Development. "Cornerstone's music program extends beyond the strings program and includes choral music and piano, important programs that are void at most schools today."

In addition, as part of the Awards, a contribution will be made by SoulTracks to the Philill Foundation (www.philill.org), a foundation formed by music legend Phil Perry and his wife Lillian designed to advance health and wellness education in underprivileged areas.

The SoulTracks Readers' Choice Awards will be presented via an international radio broadcast on Monday, December 7, 2009, hosted by Atlanta-based music luminary Jodine Dorce and broadcast via a network of soul music internet radio stations around the world, including her JodinesCorner.com.

Further information about the SoulTracks Readersâ€™™ Choice Awards can be obtained by visiting <http://www.soultracks.com/2009-awards-finalists>.

About SoulTracks: SoulTracks (www.soultracks.com) is Americaâ€™™s most popular website dedicated to classic and modern soul music, with over 10,000,000 visits to date by soul music fans around the world. SoulTracks features hundreds of biographies of classic and modern soul artists as well as news, CD reviews and “Where Are They Now?” features. It is also the creator of the annual SoulTracks Readersâ€™™ Choice Awards, the leading awards in the world celebrating independent soul music.

About Cornerstone Schools: Cornerstone Schools has served Detroit families since 1991. Cornerstone provides an excellent education to students in Pre-K through 8th grades. The school tracks 8th grade graduates and achieves an impressive 95% high school graduation rate. Cornerstone Schools is a 501 3c non-profit organization. Visit www.CornerstoneSchools.org for more information on Cornerstone Schools and how they are helping to change Detroit one child at a time.

Soultracks.com Awards 2007



Soultracks.com took their online poll of stunning but underrated soulstars offline to Detroit’s Cobo Hall for an evening of honors and performance on a cold and wintry November 16th that had all of winter’s feeling but no snow. A cadre of soul bloggers, musicians, soul fans and their friends took in the grassroots-efforted affair inside the venue’s Riverview Ballroom overlooking the murky water shared by

Michigan and Canada. Jodine of [Jodine's corner](#) hosted the event and blessed the night with David Bowie's quote that "Major labels will be in shambles in the next ten years." She left out part of the quote where he also says that "touring will be the only unique situation left."

It is the constant travels of Eric Roberson, Maya Azucena, Maysa Leak, Phil Perry and a chain of other independent soul artists that have allowed them to have careers outside the shareholder-driven worlds of Viacom, Universal, Sony Bmg, Warner and EMI. The readers of Soultracks.com did not pick their winners from the nationalized playlists of terrestrial radio but the niche economies of online music.

For the price of the ticket spectators saw Rahsaan Patterson sing "Stop Breaking My Heart" from the Album of the Year winner *Wines and Spirits*. Patterson's unplanned but professional appearance benefitted from sassy ad-libs with one of the house band's polished back-up singers. Russell Thompkins Jr., the famous lead-singing falsetto of The Stylistics received a lifetime achievement award and a tribute from Maysa Leak and Phil Perry. Leak's deep tone that has influenced many critics to compare her sound to the solumn sexiness of Sade sang a careful reedition of "Betcha By Golly Wow." But it was Phil Perry's fire-starting version of "Stop, Look, Listen" that made the audience stand-up, clap and wonder for the milllionth time why larger American audiences have not followed him since his Billboard-charting cover of Aretha's "Call Me." Maya Azucena who has caught the spirit with the experimental funk jazz of Burnt Sugar in the past sang her acoustic single "Junkyard Jewell" never flinching when the mic died. Eric Roberson, Kloud 9, Gordon Chambers and El Renee also made the stage and gave their best. Kickmag spoke with some of the artists that night to ask them about what the night felt like for them and what was going on with their careers.

Maysa

How does it feel to win female vocalist of the year?

Unbelievable, it's just a beautiful surprising feeling. It's a people's choice award it means the people voted for me so I must be doing something right.

The last couple of albums have been classic songs, what made you want to do more covers?

The record company hired me and I love these songs, I grew-up on these songs it was an honor to sing them.

Do you have a favorite song from the latest collection [Feel The Fire](#)?

"Happy Feeling."

Any wishlist of who you would like to work with?

Um Frank Mccomb, Eric Roberson and I would really like to work with Chaka Khan I would like her to produce me.

Gordon Chambers

You are a known songwriter, when you write do you ever have anyone particular in mind or does it just flow through you?

Yes I mean I can do it when I write for an artist specifically or I can just write generally it doesn't make a difference.

How does it feel to be nominated tonight?

It was wonderful it was a wonderful experience to have my hard work be acknowledged and my appearance.

As someone who works behind the scenes a lot and you are an independent artist. How do you feel about file-sharing and webcasting?

It's hurtful and it's helpful. Its helpful as a promotional vehicle it's hurtful because it makes things available for

free. It's about balance and I think that right now the technology will find a way to make it fair and equitable to all. But it does make things like youtube gives independent artists more of a visual presence with our sound. In our instance it is helpful.

That was a nice song you did with El Renee we know you did it originally with Ledisi and you have worked with a lot of people. Are there any people on your wishlist?

Oh yeah, I'd love to work with Alicia Keys I'd love to work with Mary J. Blige I'd love to work with Seal, I'd love to work with Sting, I'd love to work with Prince I'd love to work with Stevie Wonder, Celine Dion tons of artists to work with neverending.

You've written some classic songs yourself such as Anita Baker's "I Apologize" and Angie Stones' "No More Rain" among others. Are there any songs out there that you wished you wrote?

Oh yeah there's tons of songs I wished I wrote. I love Eric Roberson's "Couldn't Hear Me" I love that. When I first got that CD I listened to that song 15 times in a row I swear to you in a row because it encapsulated so many things I've thought and gone through in relationships. Yeah a great song is a great song whenever you hear a great song you say 'I wish I wrote that.'

So what's next I know we are still listening to [Love Stories](#)?

Next I am going to release a live album. I'm in the studio with Aretha Franklin right now her album is about to drop next year. I have a cut on Angie Stone's album that just came out that debuted at number 1. And I have been working with a young artist on Def Jam called Karina Pasian I'm really excited about she is a young prodigy genius. She's 16 and plays the piano and speaks 5 languages amazing.

Where is she from?

She's from New York from the um Spanish Harlem, Washington Heights she's Dominican.

A lot of people don't know you were on Being Bobby Brown how was that? did it raise your profile?

Yeah a lot of people saw my face. I don't know what people thought of Bobby or thought of the show but even when I was in other countries people would say 'I saw your face' Anything you can have to have your face out there and Bobby and Whitney have always been very good to me and I had absolutely no problem supporting one of their ventures because they supported mine.

Is there anything else you want to add?

The website is www.gordonchambers.com .

Russell Thompkins Jr.

How does it feel to get this Lifetime Achievement Awards?

It feels very fantastic because this is the first time something like this has ever happened in my life. I've gotten awards before I've been in situations like this but never at this time in my life.

Did it catch you by surprise?

No it didn't catch me by surprise but I am very honored tremendously.

What did you think of the tribute given to you tonight?

Well I'm a looooong time great fan of Phil Perry. He is one of the most phenomenal vocalists I ever heard in my life. The lady who came and sang after him was very great too. Maysa she sang the song really really nice. But Phil is just one of a kind.

How does it feel to hear your influence travel through artists even today?

I've been around a long time and I have been in situations where people have sang my music before to hear my influence in it. But Phil did not my song with my influence he did it the way he wanted to. He is a seasoned artist and has been around as long as I have. Younger people who do my music I can hear when they are growing and what type of artist they are to take from the old to give to the new.

What made you do this latest project [The Three Tenors](#)?

This idea has been thrown around for a long time but we just didn't know which tenors were gonna do it. William Harwick is one of the biggest influences in my musical career. When I was 17-years old the first TV program I did I was in high school "La La Means I Love You" after William Hart had sang that. And Ted Mills I didn't know Ted as a singer when I first met him he was a songwriter he wrote three songs for me that I never got a chance to record but they were so wonderful that I never forgot them. So both of them have been a great influence on my career and my life.

Q.Are you going to tour that album?

No, I'm working with my group [The Stylistics](#) right now doing music that I made and trying to keep that going but I have a solo CD that I'm working on right now. And we're going into the studio to record the new Stylistics a DVD already made and a CD of the new Stylistics coming out.

Is that old or new footage?

It's only a couple of months old we did it with the Myrtle Beach Symphony

What do you think of contemporary soul music?

The soul music of today that I heard tonight had the influence of the older music. Some soul music that is out right now might be a little bit to the hip-hop side. I don't hate hip-hop but I don't understand hip-hop. It goes a little too much to the hip-hop side my ears don't listen as well as it does when it stays more to the hip-hop side.