

Joy Autumn, a singer-songwriter originally from the small town of Olympia, Washington shines light as bright as the Hollywood sign itself onto the dark side of making it as an artist in her new album, *Midnight*. A wide-eyed dreamer, Joy packed her bags and moved to Los Angeles with her cat, Alfie, expecting success as a recording artist. Autumn says, "I knew it wouldn't happen overnight...I'd heard the tales...but living through the challenges was a different story." After recording numerous songs with a handful of award-winning producers, Joy felt dejected to repeatedly hear that she was never enough. "Your look is boring." "Katy Perry would do it this way...and that's what's in." Finding herself broke, depressed and eating canned food in a 400 square foot apartment, the glitter of Hollywood quickly faded away. While waiting for calls that never came, Autumn discovered an underbelly of the city that consists of late night and early morning partying, drinking, drugs, sleeping in until 4 p.m., and dating all of the wrong men. Joy describes it as a sort of afterparty culture in which trust-fund babies, the offsprings of celebrities, and wealthy industry men would get together and often prey upon Hollywood hopefuls. She clarifies, "At these parties, everyone wants something from you. They're looking to further their own personal interests. But because I wasn't famous, and they weren't getting laid, none of these men were interested in truly connecting with me. I would end up drunk with the bartender and home at 5 in the morning." Despite the fact that she was out with all of these gorgeous models and actors, Joy states in a matter-of-fact manner, "No one who is out at 4 a.m. on a Tuesday is happy" - herself included.

*Midnight* is the result of Autumn's loneliness, depression, and the search for herself amidst what she calls the "Hollywood hypocrisy." "I was so busy not making it in Hollywood that I forgot the reason why I created music in the first place," Joy explains. Sick of being patronized by industry men who would pinch her cheeks and call her cute, Joy dyed her hair black and set out to prove them wrong.

She took her challenges and co-produced *Midnight*, an atmospheric pop record, with the support of producer, Bill Lefler (Ingrid Michaelson). *Searching for You*, the album's lead single, comes from her longing to find that girl who arrived in the City of Angels in love with music and optimistic about her future. There were days when she couldn't get out of bed and that's when she re-discovered her love of utilizing songwriting as a form of therapy. This album became her reason to stay in Los Angeles and continue to chase her dreams, despite incredible odds and obstacles. The final track, *Brave*, began as a pep-talk that Autumn initially wrote for herself, and encourages others to also confront their fears, be honest about their experiences, reach out for help, and take tremendous leaps of faith...like chasing your dreams. She believes, "What we really need are people who are inspired, kind, and pursuing their passions," and says, "If I can help one person feel not so alone in this world and become inspired, despite their obstacles, to continue to chase after what they love, then I feel like it was all worth it."