Kasey Chambers conquers country music

describe it is alternative country. It's so hazy what country music is these days."

O&E: What inspires you when writing your music and lyrics?

K.C.: "It's kind of different.

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At 24, Kasey Chambers seems At 24, Kasey Chambers seems poised to explode on the alt-country scene. Born and bred in Australia, Chambers has toured and fraveled the world. In 1999, she released her first solo effort, 'The Captain,' to rave reviews. Now touring with her idol, Lucinda Williams and ready to release a second record this summer, Chambers can become a household name yet. As she told the Observer & Eccentric in telephone interview, where she goes, family stays with her.

Observer & Eccentric: How did you become interested in making music? I know you come from a musical family.

trom a musical lamily.

Kasey Chambers: They are all on the road with me. My dad plays guitar, my brother does our sound and he produced my album. They're all there on the road. My dad mostly played music all his life. I remember music always being around us, really. Listening to music was the only form of entertainment.

O&E: When did you start

K.C.: "When I was about 9 I was onstage. We would always sit around the campfire singing songs, but my first gig was when I was about 9."

O&E: Who were some of your influences early on.

K.C.: "My dad brought me up listening to Hank Williams, Emmylou Harris and Graham Parsons. Later on I started lis-tening to Lucinda Williams, a lot of what I'm still listening to

Kasev Chambers

O&E: It must be exciting right now, preparing to go on tour opening for Lucinda Williams. Have you performed with her before?

before:

K.C.: "Not like a big tour. I've known Lucinda for a year or two. We've been catching up every time I go to Nashville. I've played a couple of gigs with her before. Going on tour with her is like a dream come true."

K.C.: "It's kind of different. Sometimes its going to new places, traveling a lot, meeting new people. I'll probably write a lot of songs after I come off tour with Lucinda, that's such an inspiring thing. Something emo-O&E: You're music is not so easily defined. It has elements of country, but also pop and rock. How do you describe it?

K.C.: "I guess the way to

tional brings out the creative side."

O&E: Tell me about working on your album, The Captain, which you recorded with your brother.

K.C.: "I've never really worked in music without working with my family. I kind of have nothing else to compare it to. When it came to my album, the songs had a lot to do with my family. They are all about my life story. I kind of felt Nash, my brother, knew how I wanted to sound. He lived all these songs with me."

O&E: You have a follow-up record due out in July. What is it called? Will it sound much differ-ent than The Captain?

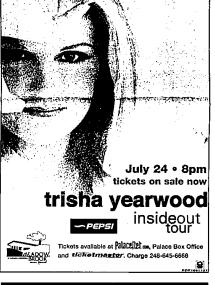
ent than The Captain?

K.C.: "It's called Barricades and Brickstones. I think it is different. I think I made this album with a little bit of a different attitude. I think my songwriting is different. I wrote the songs on The Captain when I was 17 or 18. My lifestyle has changed as well. It's kinda hard to tell. I'm so close to it. My manager has been listening to it and he said: I think the difference in this one is the country is countrier and the rock is rocker. I guess it's a lot more varied. I've learned a lot about music. I've been listening to a lot of different songwriters.

O&E: Who are you listening to

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K.C.: "Patty Griffin's Flaming









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O&E: What are your plans for

K.C.: "I'm just kind of enjoying the ride. We'll be back (in the states) here in September and

October. I'm taking every day as it comes and just having a lot of fun. I feel very lucky that I'm getting to do this."

See Lucinda Williams with opener Kasey Chambers, 5 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, Pontiac. Tickets \$25. Call (248) 645-6666.

