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CELEBRATE | H

TENNIS BALLS
FROM HEAVEN
A SAD STORY
WITH A HAPPY
ENDING

A WEEKEND
IN SAVANNAH

June 2012

The Wedding Issue

FEATURING:

13 TRENDS FOR 2013
RELUCTANTLY RELATED:
GETTING ALONG WITH
YOUR MOTHER-IN-
LAW TO BE
ROSE HILL MANSION &
SEAQUIN'S BALLROOM

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TERRY BAIR
THE JEWELRY IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
AND THE HAIR IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
AND THE MAKEUP IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
AND THE HAIR IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
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AND THE MAKEUP IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
AND THE HAIR IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
AND THE MAKEUP IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA

A

Family Affair

GOWNS FOR THE BRIDE,
HER MOTHER AND THE MAD OF HONOR

SOME FROM FORCLIFF & LOVENS

THE HAIR IS THE ELEGANCE OF MICHIGNA
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WEDDING DRESSES BY TIGERLIL DESIGN FROM THE PORCUPINE



WEDDING DRESS NICOLE MILLER,
BARRINGA BY CHAN LILL,
MOTHER OF THE BRIDE DRESS BY
CATHERINE BERRON, CLUTCH BY
BOHEMIA MONASTIS
BROOMMAID DRESSES BY ANNALE
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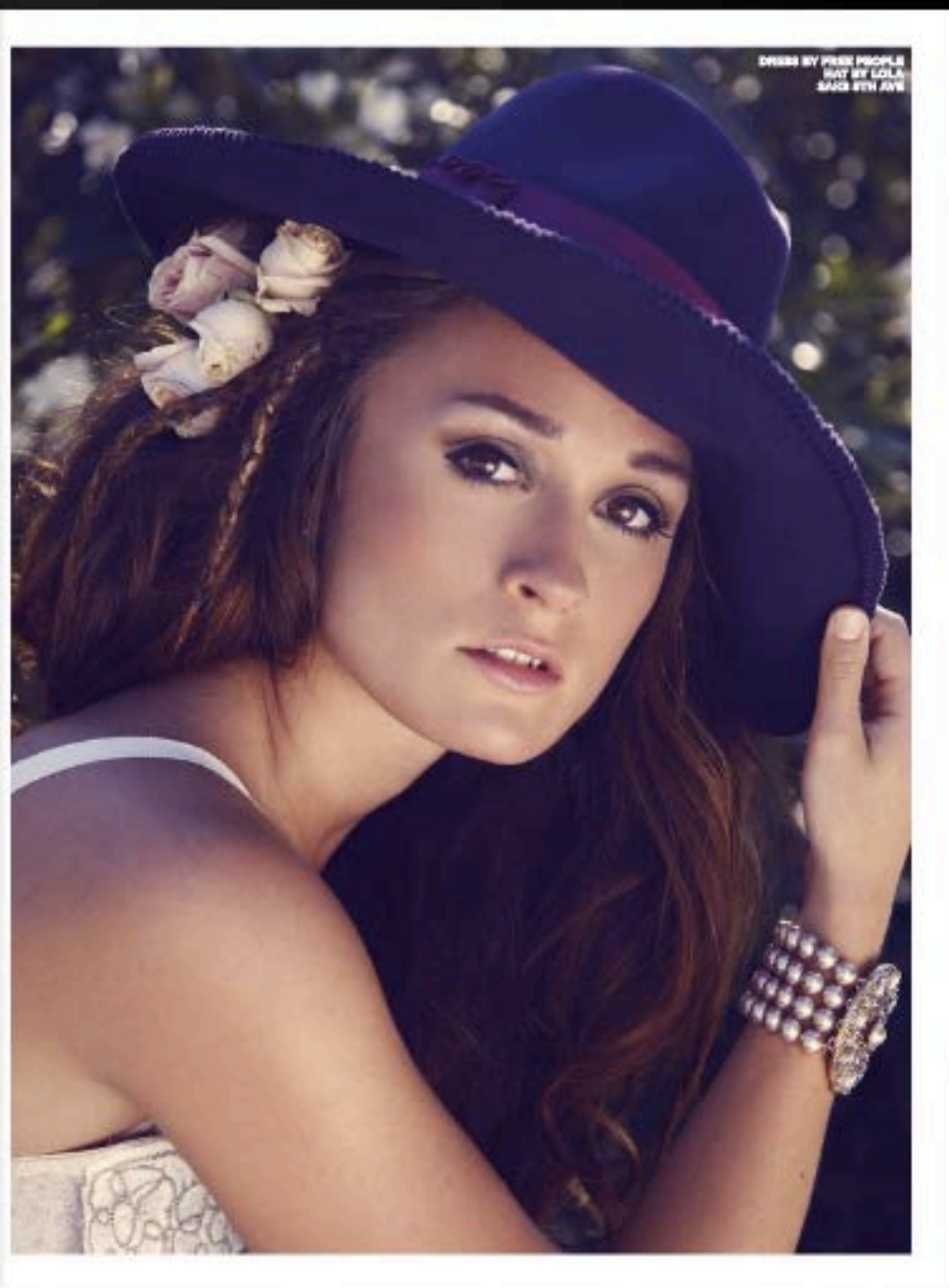
HAIR AND
MAKEUP BY
DANIELLE
KRAMER OF
BALCK KAMMA

THE PASSIONATE,

YET PRACTICAL,

SARA BURINS

DRESS BY
PINK PEOPLE
HAT BY LOLA
SAND 8TH AVE



DRESS BY PINK PEOPLE
HAT BY LOLA
SAND 8TH AVE



PHOTO BY FRANK PROPELLA
SALES 8TH AVE

HER POTENTIAL CAREER PATHS ARE INDEED DIVERSE, YET THE OUTGOING 20-YEAR-OLD SEA PINES RESIDENT IS CONFIDENT THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENS, SHE'S RIGHTFULLY FOLLOWING HER HEART AND REMAINING OPEN TO WHATEVER FATE AND HER TALENT NIGHT BRING

There's Sara Burns the typical college student, happy to be home for a break after a rugged schedule of final exams as an accounting major at the University of South Carolina. Then there's Sara Burns the emerging singer-songwriter, gearing up for her summer gig as an entertainer and generating a buzz from here to Nashville upon release of her recording debut.

Her potential career paths are indeed diverse, yet the outgoing 20-year-old Sea Pines resident is confident that, whatever happens, she's rightfully following her heart and remaining open to whatever fate and her talent might bring.

"I always knew that I wanted to pursue music," Burns said over coffee at local cafe, "but when I graduated from [Dillon Head] high school, I also knew that I needed to be practical and go to college. I didn't want to become another starving musician, because the business is so tough and such an unpredictable game... but I'm young, and now is the best time to try and pursue a career in music."

And she's off to an impressive start: The self-taught musician ("I've never had a singing or guitar lesson, because I guess I just don't want anyone telling me what to do," she laughed) moved from Ohio ("for everyone else here" at the tender age of 10 when her parents opted to make the family's annual vacation destination permanent. "It was a public school girl and remember falling in love with country music, not the old-fashioned twangy stuff, but contemporary singers like Shania Twain." However, Burns' first public show included a themed school production where she cranked out a version of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love."



PHOTO BY FRANK PROPELLA
SALES 8TH AVE

"I know it doesn't show in my own music, but I'm a big fan of classic rock," she said with an easy smile. "It's my guilty pleasure, even though it's hard to pull off Led Zeppelin while playing acoustic."

She soon scored sporadic gigs at area restaurants, including the Old Oyster Factory, her exclusive performance home this summer, meanwhile honing her personal songwriting style and focusing on late-80s cover songs by the likes of Alanis Morissette and Jewel for the public. She credits her father Brian, a property manager at Providence Presbyterian Church, for founding church youth director Kevin Gruchert about his daughter's growing skill as a songwriter.

A one-time touring bassist for the The Fray among other credits, Gruchert eventually gave a listen to Burns' pop and country rock-influenced material after admitted reluctance. "He tried to talk me out of it initially because of how tough the business is. A lot of people get hurt, and there are a lot of people who can sing; but he thought I had strong songwriting skills and picked out the songs he wanted me to record." So Burns put down the vocals and guitar tracks at home and, with the magic of today's digital recording process, Gruchert found Nashville-based musicians eager to augment the finished sound that's become *Real Tense*.

The three-track EP is a surprisingly mature and confessional compilation that showcases Burns' convincing light-vibrant vocals and emotional honesty. The mid-tempo title track is set back on a filled relationship, while "Too Late" mixes a roller groove that contrasts with a straight-ahead love ballad ("When You Kiss Me") that might make Taylor Swift envious. "I had a relationship that ended after about three years," Burns said, "but I'm definitely not bitter about it. The songs are about how you grow and learn lessons, and they all have a positive message about recovery and moving on."

Nashville has taken note: Burns made her maiden trip to the mecca of country music in May to meet with producers, musicians and potential songwriting partners as *Real Tense* (available via iTunes, Amazon and Salsburn.com) continue to draw attention. A second pressing of physical copies is in the works as Burns settles in for summer shows as the featured artist at the Old Oyster Factory performing Sunday through Friday evenings. "I can't believe how much support I've gotten, and it's been great," she said. "I've been playing here for years, but a lot of people and friends didn't even know about me and my passion for music... it's kind of like I've been leading a double-life."

Yet Burns is keeping her dreams in perspective, fully aware of the fickle nature of the music business as she hones her skills and observes an uncertain media-driven market. "I don't like most of today's mainstream music because so much of it is performance-driven. But country music has pulled so much from [classic] pop and rock, and I get a great feeling from what they're doing. It'd much rather be working in Nashville than L.A."

Her future remains in question, like everyone else's of course, but the personable young woman shows no signs of worry as she prepares for a working summer and fall return to college for her graduation year. She's already working on a back-up plan in accounting, and her expanding knowledge about finance should help her avoid the contractual and royalties disputes that have left more than one artist on the rocks.

"If I had a choice between the two, it would definitely be music," she said. "It would be great if something happens with it but you have to be smart about what you do. I like money, I love math and I really enjoy accounting. I just wish it wasn't so hard," she smiled. "No matter what happens, I'd like to think that I haven't been wasting my time."

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