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Janie
RENEE

#jesuisUFO

BIOGRAPHY



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As a child, she started writing poems that quickly turned to songs as she learned to master piano and guitar. At the age of 11, she entered a contest as a singer-songwriter held by a local Radio station and made it to the semi-finals. A few years later, she was the first Singer-songwriter to win the Ontario Pop contest initiated by Radio-Canada (CBC) Ottawa.

In the years that ensued, Janie Renée won several prizes for both her songs and her stage performances; she has been a regular performer in several Festivals from La Nuit sur l'Étang, the Franco-Ontarian Festival to the Quebec Summer Festivals. In 1989, she joined the Canadian delegation of l'ADISQ in Cannes for the MIDEM shortly after the launch of her third 45 titled "Partir en Vacances". During the same period, Janie Renée honed her skills in production while she was an assistant on productions of Jazz and Classical artists for the Amplitude record label. Throughout her early career, her stage presence and her charisma have earned her the respect and admiration from her peers. And the media followed her avidly wherever she went. After several years of music life, Janie chose to change paths and settle into a family life. As life events molded her, as experiences came and went, she found herself yearning to return to her deep-rooted passion. And the idea for her first album was born.

Her first self-produced album "*Les Valises*" was released in October 2012. Surrounded by some of Canada's best musicians (notably Philippe Noireaut, Max Sansalone, Mark Ferguson), she recorded the album over the summer between Fast Forward Studio in Montreal and StudioNine in Navan. She also reunited with Fred Salter, a sound engineer whom she had worked with many years before. This first opus included original songs in styles ranging from Jazz, to Blues to "grande chanson" in the tradition of the great French singers. The accompanying show "L'Éco-Show Les Valises" was recognized as the industry's best practice as a sustainable and eco-friendly standard by the Conseil des Événements Éco-Responsables du Québec the following year. Since then, Janie Renée has been nominated in 2013 and 2015 in the Best Female artist and the Best Singer-Songwriter categories at the Trille Or Gala.

Her next album "*L'Eden est un Bazar*" or Eden is a Bazaar, recorded with the same cast of musicians, and Denis Normandeau (winner of a Grammy award for Zappa: Peaches in Regalia and several more Gemini's and Juno's) at the artistic direction, was released in March 2016. Loaded with Brazilian and World rhythms, and with more humor than most could pack in a song, Janie Renée blends new elements of jazz and poetry. She marries music and lyrics in a very unique way, where words themselves seem to dictate rhythms and direction of a piece. The subtle balance between these elements, expose a resolute craftsmanship and a lot of "doigté". Her songs have regular listeners in over 70 European radios and she has been touring in the Caribbean, Belgium, and Austria since.

In the past year, her songs have been featured on numerous albums that range from Soul, RnB, to World and Blues, with singers such as Julie Kim, Wolanyo, France Maisonneuve, Clifford Breau. She also spends a lot of time doing songwriting workshops and supporting emerging talent, at home, in Ontario.

In her latest opus *#jesuisUFO*, Janie Renée has decided to pay homage to her Franco-Ontarian roots; she has dug up some of the staples of her youth, and spun them with jazz arrangements. She proposes this interesting anthology both as an arranger, an interpreter and a producer. You will hear CANO, Garolou, Paquette & Demers with jazz arrangements, yes, but somehow, the integrity of the original songs has been preserved and respected. Janie Renée's vocals are unpretentious, soft and definitely reflective. And of course, we find her brand of humor in the title: it refers to the fact that she is Franco-Ontarian, but it also provides a clever nod to the effect that jazz is not a staple in this culture. But whatever it is, Janie Renée plans on having fun. Period.

And to top this all off, she has won the very first Trille Or prize for Best Jazz Artist, in May of 2019. We're willing to bet you'll be hearing from this lady before long!

www.janierenee.com