

## Review of Tamara Rhodes' Double Feature

**By: Naomi De Bruyn**  
**LinearReflections.com**  
**January 31, 2009**

I'm still listening to this disc... it's so incredible I can't put it away! I ought to be sick of it by now, but not even close. Tamara is one of Vancouver BC's best kept secrets, a beautifully balanced sound of old and new. Touring in Asia at the moment, she's expecting to return to BC and put together a new album sometime this year. I'm looking forward to it!

Tamara moved to New York City after graduating high school, where she attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She has also studied with Helen Baldassare, and the Professional Jazz Division at the Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music. The training is there, but so is the soul and the vocal ability to make it all happen!

I ran across this vocalist by sheer accident – complete and utter serendipity. Watching television one evening I decided to check out a locally filmed program – The Guard. I'm the daughter of a "Coastie," so I was curious if it'd be realistic or not. I didn't even make it into the program before I got blown away.

This incredible voice came out of the speakers delivering a theme song with a serious hook. Vocals that'll keep you coming back just so you can hear the theme! I headed for the computer and located her – and am delivering the fruits of that search to you now.

Tamara's work in the television world is being quite highly honoured. She was nominated for two 2009 Gemini Awards for Best Score for a Dramatic Series, for her theme song for Global TV's The Guard and for CTV's Blood Ties. Her music can also be heard on Godivas, where her songs "Pushin My Buttons" and "All My Ladies" were featured. While appearing on Show Me Yours, her songs "Sweetest Thing" and "Empty Room" were also featured.

The disc's title track, "Double Feature" lays it all out for you. Tamara is a "little bit of this, with a little bit of that; little bit of east, little bit of west; the old with the new, she's bringing it back! – She's from the new school with an old soul!" Delivered with a sweet hip-hop rhythm, this track captures the attention, while the rest of the tracks grip firmly.

"Empty Room" pulls all the pain out of an ending relationship and holds it in the somber notes of this track. Tamara's voice captures the necessary pain of a breakup, while the lyrics create the mood and setting. There is no escaping the somber mood of this track, nor the message. Close the door and turn away!

"Double Feature" is a CD whose tracks contain an assortment of different styles that are delivered by a vocalist who is extremely versatile. R&B, Jazz, Soul and Pop, it's all here. The passion with which Tamara approaches her music is contained in each and every note; from beginning to end it's dripping with a sensuality that is what can make or break a career. Her voice is an addictive drug that will have you coming back for more. I had a couple of people ask me if I was listening to the legendary Eartha Kitt – a definite compliment for this young songstress.

Tamara is a visionary; there is clarity and honesty within her lyrics that is refreshing and powerful. There are messages of life, pain, love and happiness held within her music, inspiring a myriad of emotions. This is a powerful artist whose voice deserves to be heard around the world.

