



▲ The very impressive Charlie Chan has just released her new album, *Wild Swans*. A cross between the soundscapes of her first, *The Adventures of Charlie Chan*, and solo piano of her second, *East & West*, her third travels through love, philosophy, Africa and Mardi Gras. Joining Charlie for two tracks on harmonica and vocals is Monique Brumby, with the song they wrote for *The Stars Come Out*, 'Storm in a Teacup', and 'Kings and Queens', an anthem for Mardi Gras.

Tuned in and logged on

music

CHARLIE CHAN

interview by
bridget mcmanus

Charlie Chan is one inspirational woman. Buzzing with creative energy and driven by an insatiable desire to learn, this composer, performer and cyber-chick is tuned in and logged on. Fresh from performing with Deep Forest on their Australian tour, Chan gears up for her Melbourne Fringe Festival appearance by sharing some delicious droplets of her unique wisdom.

"I'm very quizzical. I like to find things out. I'm always trying to expand my knowledge and I'm always trying to understand things from a technical perspective and from a creative and personal perspective. I'm always trying to work out my relationships to things, especially to instruments."

As a child, Chan spent her school holidays at music

camp, obsessively learning every instrument she could lay her hands on. "It's not really about being the best player at anything in particular, it's more about being able to give a really good performance out of my inspiration."



The inspiration, it seems, comes fast and furiously. A composer of film scores and music for live theatre, multimedia whiz and performer-in-demand, Chan has released two albums, with a third due out in February. *East & West* is solo piano work, while *The Adventures of...* is a beautiful collection of dynamic and ambient music that heads straight to the soul.

"I get inspired by nature. I get propelled by the energy and the people that are

around me...I think that perception is everything. If you change your perception, you'll get something from just a slightly different angle...My thing is about relationships with people".

Chan's working and personal relationships are as vital to her as the bond she feels with each audience member. "It's all about that interaction between me and you, and you might be one of 300 people in an audience, but I'm having a relationship directly with you. It's not about my relationship with my idea of doing a performance. That's why I do what I do. It's hard for me to perform in that sense because it's so personal, but that's kind of OK, because that's the way that I am." *

Charlie Chan and special guests play the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Walk, 10 & 11 October. Bookings on 11566. The Adventures of... and East & West are out through Sony Music. Check out Charlie at her World Wide Web Site www.charliechan.com.au

CHARLIE CHAN EXPOSING

Ms Charlie Chan is scheduled to perform at the **Gay & Lesbian Expo** on September the 12th at the Centrepoint Convention Centre. The Expo is put



Charlie Chan

together by the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Business Association and provides opportunities for gay men and lesbians (duh) to develop business interests and network and all that palaver. Charlie's performance is one of the very rare ones she does (and gets awards for) and should not be missed. Her latest album is called *Wild Swans* and is available most readily by going to www.charliechan.com.au. where do you want to go today?