



Christine Lavin "**girlUNinterrupted**" [chritinelavin.com](http://chritinelavin.com) records

Lasting a tad under two hours, and divided into two sets, this DVD was recorded at the Rehearsal Studios on the campus of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana on the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2002. Firmly committed to the exploitation of modern technology and *armed* with her microphone headset and a set of *foot driven* vocal effect pedals, this was my first opportunity to see *as well as hear* Christine Lavin in concert. Sure she has played the UK, but not, as far as I can recall, since I became addicted to the musical creations of Lavin's mind c/o the Bitchin' Babes 1991 debut album. Filmed by four cameras, this is a *wire-less* Christine Lavin caught in full flight with no net.....and, as the liner succinctly states, "*not a single moment, glance, or thoughtless mumble, edited out !*"

A significant proportion of the contents of this DVD are drawn from Christine's recent Redwing Records solo recording, "**I Was In Love With A Difficult Man.**" In fact, she opens her show with "Strangers Talk To Me," from the aforementioned album. Christine then launches into "Jack & Wanda" – a Lavin saga of typically epic proportions that celebrates finding true love when aged sixty plus. Jack and Wanda, you see, have chosen to celebrate their anniversary [through the *lavish* imbibing of alcohol] on a monthly basis. After all, at their age, who knows what tomorrow may bring, or may not. In the second half of the show, from her latest CD, Christine performs the humorous "Making Friends With My Grey Hair," and her poignant 9/11 tribute to New York's finest and bravest "Firehouse." In addition, there's Christine's amusing recollection of a forty-eight hour long adventure in Hawaii with the Bitchin' Babes, "Wind Chimes," while "Sunday Breakfast With Christine" includes her recipe for *petit pan au chocolat*.

That said, there's a lot more to this concert than merely songs drawn from "**I Was In Love With A Difficult Man.**" For a start there's the just composed, single verse, tribute to fiscal impropriety "Da Doo En Ron Ron" which is sets to the strikingly familiar melody of a classic sixties hit song. Do I need to spell it out? As for hero worship, for three decades there has only been one man for Christine – "Harrison Ford." The latter song recalls their meeting [and her subsequent failure to express and fulfil her deeply held passions for the screen idol] at the door of a Jackson Hole, Wyoming eatery. Long a supporter of the cause of the place we call Pluto, in "Planet X" Christine relates that world's story to date – from Percy Lowell's *postulation* of its existence, through its discovery by Clyde Tombaugh and subsequent naming by eleven-year old, Venetia Burney. Recently, doubts have been cast as to whether it's genuinely a solid mass, or merely a body of gas. Lavin introduces the latter song by posing the question "*Is it a planet, or a plan-not ?*"

While searching in the audience, complete with a *special light* mounted to her head, for a male Indianapolis resident to represent America in the "*Handsome Olympics*," she sings "You Look Pretty Good For Your Age." In the dark, surrounded by the crowd, she even pauses for a *lighthouse* impression. Of course, Wayne the winner – *an epidemiologist, who loves bicycle riding, wishes for world peace, and whose favourite colour is orange* - ends up on stage, sporting a paper crown. When Christine casually mentions "*your last duty is to be a back-up singer for me*," Wayne utters a gloriously unenthusiastic "*Oh good.*" Joined by a handful of male audience members, Christine & Co. launch into – yes, folks it's the Set 1 closer, "Sensitive New Age Guys."

As for those vocal effects foot pedals which Lavin employs liberally throughout both sets, at one point she presses the wrong pedal and ends up with a supporting choir that appears to be singing in Russian [OK, English played backwards]. News of Lavin's baton twirling skills had reached *the old country*, and

she closes her show with a *tour-de-force* display, c/w glowing baton's, which she presages with the segue, "All You Have To Do Is Dream"/"Summer Song"/"Gotta Twirl."

*Here's the sales pitch and the technical bit* - the DVD is available from Christine's web site <http://www.christinelavin.com/> for \$20.00 plus postage. Worldwide there are, I believe, six DVD regional codes. Discs manufactured Stateside are coded Region 1, while Europe is Region 2. In fact this disc played without any problem on my PC – which I believe is only set to play Region 2 discs. Although not indicated on the packaging, I'm guessing that Lavin's disc must be coded Region 0, which means it is universal and can be played on any machine world wide. That's the corporate world for you, they create *restrictions* and then, thankfully, leave us with an *escape hatch*. When Criterion recently issued the three DVD set "**The Complete Monterey Pop Festival**," they had the common sense to manufacture the discs as Region 0. In fact, 0 would have been a great corporate decision from the outset, as the only [world-wide] DVD format.

**NOTE.** For the uninitiated and non-movie buffs among the readership, the title of Christine's DVD is a pun of the title of the Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie movie "**Girl Interrupted**" [1999]. Didn't much of that movie take place within the confines of a mental institution? Nuff said.....

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

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