

Kathleen Edwards – Bio

Kathleen Edwards was born in Ottawa, Ontario during 1978 and she has one brother, two years her elder. Her father, Len, is a diplomat and Kathleen spent much of her early life in Seoul, South Korea, and Geneva, Switzerland. Currently he's Canada's ambassador to Japan. Her mother had been a piano teacher, and her father had sung in a church choir, so music became a given for the Edwards siblings. From the age of five for some twelve years Edwards studied classical music on the violin, then traded up *two strings* to a guitar. In terms of early musical influences she told one interviewer, *"A lot of my music came from what my brother was listening to. He was really into Neil Young and Bob Dylan, and he bought me my first record, a Tom Petty album."* Kathleen returned to Canada in 1997. Having graduated from high school, instead of moving on to university, Edwards decided to pursue the life of a full-time musician and moved into a flat of her own in the city. She was already playing cover tunes, on acoustic guitar, in local clubs at weekends, and has quoted Ani DiFranco and Whiskeytown/Ryan Adams as major musical influences. In Y2K with assistance from Montreal based singer/songwriter Jim Bryson, Edwards recorded and self-released a six song EP titled **"Building 55."** The 500 copy pressing soon sold out, after which Edwards purchased a van, booked her own gigs - *"Somehow I made it from Point A to Point B, even if sometimes I played to five people."* - and began touring throughout Canada.

A later tour of Canada with Texan Don Williams proved to be a misjudgement in terms of audience demographic. *"Everyone in the audience was older than 55. It was a side of rural Canada that I hadn't seen. They didn't get me. They didn't understand what I was about or what I was doing."* In the summer of 2001 Kathleen decided to move out of the city and currently resides on five acres of land near Ottawa. The tranquillity offered by this countryside setting allowed her to write the songs for her next recording project.

In late 2001 Edwards was back in the same studio - Little Bullhorn Productions in Ottawa - working on sessions for what would become her first full album **"Failer."** Edwards co-produced the sessions with studio owner Dave Draves. The session players included Jim Bryson [guitar], Kevin McCarragher [bass], Dave Dudley [drums], Peter von Althen [drums] and Fred Guignon [pedal steel, slide]. Self released early the following year, the album was later taken under the wing of Canada's Maple Music. Edwards performed at last year's SXSW Music Conference in Austin, Texas. In the fall of 2002, she supported Richard Buckner on a US club tour. When her debut album came to the attention of Rounder Records, they signed the Canadian to their Zoe imprint and issued the album in the States in early 2003. South of the border, she has already appeared on "Letterman."

"Live From The Bowery Ballroom" featured three songs – two taken from Edwards' debut album, plus a reading of AC/DC's "Money Talks" - recorded at N.Y.C's Bowery Ballroom in June of 2003, plus the video's for "Six O'Clock News" and "One More Song The Radio Won't Like." Her sophomore album was produced by Colin Cripps, a member of Kathleen's road band, and was titled **"Back To Me."** The album was released by the Rounder Records imprint Zoe on March 1st 2005.

Discography : **"Building 55"** [1999] ; **"Failer"** [2002/2003] ; **"Live From The Bowery Ballroom"** [2004] ; **"Back To Me"** [2005] :

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