

Corinne West – Bio

Corinne West was born and raised in California. Pursuing her interest in music aged five years the youngster was already writing and singing 'little' tunes. At the age of eleven her musical education continued when her grandfather began accompanying the young teen to honky-tonk dances. As well as absorbing the live performance of music, Corinne learned to two-step. Four years later Corinne dropped out of high school and joined a group of counter-culture artists who were touring the country in a bus. The latter experience broadened her horizons, although West was level headed enough to figure out what was good and bad in the lifestyle of her travelling companions. West went on to travel the country as a busking musician, her thumb raised to the sky when it was time to move on.

West returned to California just before she entered her twenties and joined her first band. It proved to be a positive and a negative experience. Corinne was fulfilling her dream of making music, but, sadly, in time, that band and a number of others that she joined simply imploded. In 2004 assisted by Nina Gerber [guitar], Chojo Jacques [fiddle], Ken Cawley [dobro], Leslie Mink [bass] and Derek Smith [drums], plus James Nash [guitar, mandolin] and Joe Kyle Jr. [bass] of The Waybacks, West cut her thirteen song debut **"Bound For The Living."** This self-produced and self-released recording, on Make Records, saw West merge folk, country and bluegrass into her own brand of roots music.

Credited in the festival programme as being based out of Alameda, California, Corinne was a New Folk Songwriting Competition at the 2005 Kerrville Folk Festival. BBC Radio 2 airplay of her debut album allowed Corinne to undertake a tour of England and Ireland during early 2007. West's sophomore album **"Second Sight"** was produced by bluegrass legend Mike Marshall. Marshall played mandolin and guitar on the recording and the session players included Todd Phillips [bass], Jerry Douglas [dobro], Darol Anger [fiddle], Tony Furtado [slide guitar, banjo] and Chris Webster [harmony vocals].

In recent years Corinne has played around 150 dates annually in arenas as well as concert halls and clubs, and she has opened shows for Patty Loveless, Rhonda Vincent, Steppenwolf, the Doobie Brothers, Dwight Yoakam, David Grisman and Asleep at the Wheel. Onstage West performs with her Posse - sometimes a duo, occasionally a trio - the punch-line being that the personnel constantly changes and as she travels around the States Corinne is joined onstage by local players. Musicians who have been Posse members 'for a night' include Barry Sless [Phil Lesh Band], Pete Wernick [Hot Rize], James Nash & Joe Kyle Jr. [The Waybacks], Trevor Mills, Joel Tepp and Jonathan Byrd.

Discography : **"Bound For The Living"** [2004] ; **"Second Sight"** [2007] :

Arthur Wood
Kerrville Kronikles 09/07.
[450 words]