

ENTERTAINMENT SPOTLIGHT

English Rose

Lianne La Havas' hypnotic vocals make waves across the pond

QUITTING ISN'T always a bad move. Just ask singer Lianne La Havas. The Londoner briefly attended college to major in art before dropping out to pursue her true love, music. So while her peers had their noses buried in books, La Havas was studying her craft and testing her skills at the hottest local venues.

Still, it wasn't hustle alone that landed the sultry crooner a record deal—many thanks go out to the power of the Internet. "I put my demo online," the 23-year-old recalls. "The response helped me decide to go solo." In 2010 she signed with Warner Bros. Records and released



three EPs before her debut project, *Is Your Love Big Enough?* The album peaked at No. 4 on the UK charts last summer and was iTunes Album of the Year in 2012.

An only child born to a Greek father and Jamaican mother, the starlet's musical aptitude manifested itself early on. "I wrote my first song at 11 or 12," reveals La Havas, who also showed a knack for performing. "I was quiet, but I loved to make my friends laugh by doing funny impressions

of our teachers."

However, when it comes to her music, La Havas is no joke. With influences ranging from India.Arie to Lauryn Hill, the singer/songwriter crafts beautiful ballads like "No Room For Doubt" and "Lost & Found."

"I'm going to start making my next album this summer," reveals La Havas, who's also gearing up for several upcoming stateside shows. "It's overwhelming at times, but I'm just riding the wave." —by *S. Tia Brown*

PHOTO BY ALEX LAKE, COURTESY OXYGEN MEDIA

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING ▶ *Find Me My Man*, Tuesdays, 9pm on Oxygen. Miami-based matchmaker Natalie Clarice dispenses grating dating advice to overindulged women looking to overcome their relationship issues and be upgraded to Mrs. Right.

