Addie Brownlee finds her Sea Legs... with a little help from Martha Wainwright...

Addie Brownlee, coming to the more landlocked stage at the Down Home February 25, was on a boat on the North Atlantic.

"I walked on deck, and had to find my balance, my footing, and I thought, 'this feels familiar'."

She started writing Sea Legs, the first single off her new EP, East of Leaving.

"I was at the time, and still am, a huge admirer of Martha Wainwright's songwriting, so some time later, when Martha sang with me on Sea Legs, it was a dream come true."

Brownlee's voice has been compared to singers like Dusty Springfield. "Even Dusty Springfield's name evoked the sound of her voice. I love the comparison."

If Brownlee's voice is of the dust, the earth, then her lyrics are a hard rain. Eroding the surface of things, exposing feelings that aren't easily expressed or classified, but so familiar you'll wonder why no one has ever written these songs before.

Born in Kansas, and raised there and in Bristol, often Addie's musical metaphors involve water, the ocean, "... which doesn't make sense. I was land-locked! Another case of wanting what one doesn't have, I guess. My mother's mother longed for the sea. Maybe it's in my blood."

Music is definitely in her blood, growing up listening to her parents play guitars and sing Peter Paul and Mary and Simon and Garfunkel. She says that her family is a big influence on her and her songwriting.

"I'm certain my grandmother eventually found her sea legs. I think I've found mine too."

Addie was recently profiled at the Huffington Post, by Salvatore Bono (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/salvatore-bono/meet-rising-altcountry-si_b_765336.html), and said this about her songwriting:

Addie Brownlee comes home



Addie Brownlee

"Far and away my biggest influence is Dolly Parton. I covered a song of her's recently, and someone after the show stopped me and said, 'My love for Dolly Parton is not ironic.' That's exactly how I feel! She's one of the greatest songwriters

in history, one of the savviest business people and a generous philanthropist. A friend and I always say 'WWDD, What Would Dolly Do?'".

Showtime at the Down Home is 9 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door.



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