BILLIE MARTEN – BIO 2022

“Imagine stamping blood-red cherries onto a clean, cream

carpet and tell me that’s not how love feels.”

My fourth record looming over me, I’ve at last learned to stop thinking about what others want to hear and finally started to trust to my own instincts. I love music more than anything in this world, and I consider myself a music fan much more than an artist. Knowing my taste and how I like to hear things meant I became my own best touchstone as this album came alive.

When I’m trying to write, the creative door is closed most of the time. When it briefly opens, I know I’ve stumbled across moments of true emotion and insight; they give no warning and are often unpredictable. I can’t force the process, something I’m realising more with each album. And that’s why I know that Drop Cherries is a collection of songs expressing genuine intuitive feeling.

The title is taken from a tale I heard from a friend just before I was starting to create songs for the album, and the title track came soon after. It’s a metaphor where the gift of cherries stands for offering someone your love; doing anything you can to make them happy. Dropping cherries is such a strong, visceral image that I tried to channel throughout recording in Somerset and Wales, to capture the vibrancy, unpredictability, and occasional chaos one experiences within a relationship.

Imagine stamping blood-red cherries onto a clean, cream carpet and tell me that’s not how love feels.

It’s often the case that each record has to be a new ‘statement’ for the artist, a re-branding, a progression. But my statement is always the same - I’m simply searching for clarity. I’m re-examining the same feelings I had when I first started writing: I feel different to others, so I’ll write about what that’s like and see if I can work out why that is.

If I ever do, maybe I’ll stop writing.

Drop Cherries is a series of vignettes highlighting different pieces of a relationship, while trying to fit them together. From celebrating moments of the mundane (*Just Us*), through deep existential questioning (*Devil Swim, Acid Tooth, Arrows*), to the final resolve which is the pure simplicity of sharing a moment with someone you love (*Drop Cherries, I Bend To Him).*

You can either skate this album’s surface or dive right to the core. Your choice. There was no need to shout this time.

I had the most profound recording experience over the late summer months to make this album come to life, gathering together some of the most talented people I’ve ever worked with to form my daily-changing band. Everything was done on tape and everything (or thereabouts) was live and true and unadulterated – the way the relationship that inspired the songs is for me.

I am ever-thankful to co-producer Dom Monks and the whole gang for helping me create something I am genuinely proud of and can’t wait to share.

**For more information and press enquiries please contact**

**Jenny Entwistle**

**Jenny@chuffmedia.com**