

Glamour Puss

Parodist extraordinaire Julie Brown, who famously turned Madonna into Medusa, returns to take on a whole new crop of pop tarts. **BY TOM & LORENZO**

Whether she's parodying Madonna or Ke\$ha, Sarah Palin or Lady GaGa, Julie Brown has always made us laugh. On her new album, *Smell the Glamour*, she tackles tracks like "Bad Romance" (as "Big Clown Pants") and "TiK ToK" (as "Another Drunk Chick"), giving a new generation the classic Brown treatment.

Smell the Glamour is hilarious! Oh, thank you!

You've been pretty prolific over the years but this is only your third album. Are you very selective about what you'll put on an album?

Yeah. Because I don't do that many of them, it's really about choosing what's funny at the moment. There are some things on *Smell the Glamour* that I never got to release before, like the stuff from *Medusa*. Because I perform a lot of this stuff in my act and I updated [my take on "Vogue"] "Vague," so I figured I'd record the updated version. I think an album is sort of a picture of who you are at that moment.

The idea of remaking "TiK ToK" as "Another Drunk Chick" is inspired.

What made you tackle Ke\$ha?

When I first started wanting to do music again, it was the middle of last year, and I thought, "I really want to do an album." I started listening to that stuff on the radio, and it was so catchy but at the same time it was so ridiculous because it was a celebration of, you know, drinking. So I figured I could push that farther, and make it a total anthem for drunk girls — that just seemed really funny to me. And the song is really catchy. You just can't not hear it, right?

We saw the video for "Drunk Chick," but we haven't seen one yet for your Lady GaGa spoof, "Big Clown Pants." Please tell us you're planning to do one!

I want to do one; I


have an idea for what I want to do, but I did the video for "Drunk Chick," and then I had to get the album out.

We've always wondered, have any of the people you've parodied gotten in touch with you about it? Madonna did... When we were rehearsing... she sent over a half-drunk bottle of warm Champagne with a note: "You're special, Love Madonna." It could have been a sarcastic thing, but I don't know. Then, when I did my special, she had her agent call my manager and tell her that she really liked it. Then another mutual friend told me she really didn't like the dog cemetery scene — remember that? And she didn't like the part where I said "I don't want my dancers to sue me," because it turns out her dancers really did sue her.

You've always had a big, gay following, didn't you? Before I even knew why I had a gay following, I started performing and they started coming to my shows. The gay audience is so amazing.

The gays recognize good camp when they see it. Do you think you've been influenced by your gay fans? I think so. It still has to be what's funny to me. That's all I can do, what's really funny to me. There was a time when people were asking me to do Hillary Clinton and I thought, "I don't really think there's anything really funny about Hillary Clinton." She's not campy. But at the same time, I do think the audience influences me. I think there's a connection when people realize you find the same things funny, so gay men and I have always seen eye-to-eye on that stuff.

So there's always been a bitchy gay man inside you? Yes! Forever! That's why the gays love me! I'm a total bitch!

 For another helping of our dish with Julie Brown, including her thoughts on Lady GaGa and Sarah Palin, visit metrosourc.com.

