

# REFLECTIONS ON A DANCE FLOOR

Meet the first lady of nu-disco, London's Róisín Murphy

**N**ow dig this: the New York disco scene of the '70s and '80s is making yet *another* comeback. If the house of Halston's current runway revival isn't proof enough, meet London's newest clubland hero: Róisín Murphy. Formerly known as the lead singer of '90s electronic band Moloko, the U.K.-based pop singer has recently launched a remarkable album called *Overpowered* that exudes NYC's summer-of-love glamour. The retro-fabulous disc, which has spawned a trio of chic videos, has managed to win the hearts and heels of both fashion followers and dance-floor enthusiasts.

"Disco is quite a spiritual thing for me," Murphy explains via phone from Berlin, where she's taking a break to talk during the last leg of her European tour. "When dance music is laced up with emotional complexity, then it becomes disco to me. I'm not interested in the destructive or decadent side of the dance floor. I've made a disco record in a time when there really isn't any disco left—there isn't even any vocal-backed music in clubs these days! I take going out and dancing very seriously."

Another thing Murphy takes seriously is style. Unlike most musicians in the pop game, she makes it her mission to incorporate some of the catwalks' riskiest outfits into her performances. Need a visual? Search YouTube for the video to her first single, "Overpowered," and see Murphy work an outrageous checkered dress by English designer Gareth Pugh (which, coincidentally, reappeared on Kylie Minogue months after Murphy dropped her video). But, please, don't even think to thank Murphy's stylist for the edgy threads—she doesn't have one.

"Ninety percent of the time, I get the clothes myself since I have a relationship with fashion houses. I do fashion—I don't do costume," she says, listing off a Viktor & Rolf ensemble she wore on the cover sleeve for the album's second single, "Let Me Know," and referencing the Givenchy couture gown featured in her current single, "You Know Me Better." "I'll appropriate pieces from collections and use them to help me express something true and real. Fashion is not a mask for me. It's part of the art." Right on, sister. —*Elio Iannacci*

