

Backtracking with Lisa Loeb

It takes a certain kind of character to put Hello Kitty cartoons on their album cover and date Dweezle Zappa (seriously!). That character is none other than popland's queen of quirk, Lisa Loeb. Remix chats her up on the cusp of her latest musical offering, Hello Lisa.

When did you and Dweezle Zappa first meet?

We met on MTV. I was a guest host on Carson Daily's show and he interviewed me. He ended up touring with me, playing guitar with my band. I tried not to work with him because I have this thing against dating co-workers but he was so cute. Then we wrote a song together and it was fun.

The first song ("You Don't Know Me") you wrote together on the album was about his sister, Diva Zappa.

It was about Diva getting her first boyfriend. We joked about it so much that we decided to write it.

You have a great song called "Underdog" on the album. Who do you feel is one of music's greatest underdogs?

The song came about with Sarah McLachlan for Lilith Fair. She showed me some of the opening tunings she liked to use and I rewrote them into a song structure. Jill Sobule, who wrote "I Kissed A Girl," is a good example of a music industry underdog. Sometimes I feel like one — most people thought I was an overnight success.

Your use of Hello Kitty is extremely campy. When did your love of camp come about?



Ever since the '80s, I was into leopard skin and cool tacky things. I have a kitschy kitchen with a refrigerator that I painted pink. I take the mundane world and turned it on its head. I lived on Christopher Street in New York City [the main New York gay area], so I know kitsch.

Lisa Loeb knows kitsch.