

# REBECCA LOEBE



**WRITING A SOUNDTRACK TO HER LIFE**

**Rebecca Loebe is known for her distinct voice, well-crafted songs and ability to bring an audience to her journeys, introducing them to the characters she meets and observations she makes as she travels. She has toured non-stop since 2009, averaging 150-200 shows per year as a headliner and as support.**

**When we talk about having the possibility to meet talented, unique and honest musicians, we talk about a gift. When these artists are of an International kind (and therefore: most of the time hard to interview face to face) we talk about a perfect gift. When we talk about an artist like Rebecca Loebe, , we talk about having an honor. During the time she did not have to perform, she found some time for a little chat. The gift we gave to her ( the Dutch Stroopwafels) was the ice breaker, for what turned out to be ‘ an honest friendship between two music lovers’.**

**Tekst:** Mike Warrink

**Fotografie:** NCO Photography

**(Mike Warrink): “During your European tour, you have already done a couple of concerts in Holland. How did things go so far?”**

*(Rebecca Loebe): “So far, I have already done 10 concerts in Holland, and it is going really good. I love to perform for the Dutch audience, because they are really good listeners. They really listen to the songs and the words that I am singing. For me as a songwriter, that’s the part I am working on. What also surprises me about the Dutch, is how good your English is, and the way you are intrigued by poetry. In comparison to other countries I have performed (even back home), the Dutch always ask questions about the tiny passages in my songs. That means a lot to me.”*

**(MW): “You do not only have a great connection with the Dutch audience, but also with a Dutch artist: Danny Vera. What’s the history behind your collaboration?”**

*(RL): “I met Danny on the night I performed with him on Dutch television (VI,red.). We were introduced by Johan Derksen, and he invited me to perform on the show. He suggested me to perform ‘If I needed you’ (from Townes van Zandt), and i think that he might have seen it me performing on YouTube. Danny and I worked with it for three hours, to make it a lovely duet. We had to be respectful to the original, which has been written by Tom van Zandt. He is a legend in the Texas music industry, and he is a talented writer. It was fun to perform his song, together with Danny.”*

**(MW): “Is he one of your musical influences?”**

*(RL): “He is definitely not my only musical influence! Joni Mitchell, Randy Newman, Patty Griffin, Gillian Welch are some of my other influences. I do not only like old musicians. On the way over here, I heart the song ‘Zombie’ (Cranberries), which was a popular song*

*when I was a teenager. I love it that the nineties are coming back. Being an artist during these years was so different.”*

**(MW): “When you talk about being an artist, you wrote on your website: ‘Being an indie musician today requires me to wear many hats.’ What is the other work you need to do, next to record and perform your songs?”**

*(RL): “It used to be that an artist only got a living plan, if they got signed for a major record deal. Then the record label would do a lot work and also take a lot of money, and gave a little bit of money to the artist. The extra money went to the team that was part of the artist. As an independent artist, I pretty much eliminated all of that. I eliminated the team, and technically the record label as well. This means that I get all the money, and do all the work. I do have a small team that I hire ( A manager, booking agent and assistant). They are the ones helping me in my career, but I make all the decisions. I am overseeing everything, which basically means that my jobs are: singing songs on stage, writing songs, supervising my booking agent, coordinating the travels to shows and the places to stay and the publicity. My job starts as soon as I wake up and it ends when I go to sleep.”*

**(MW): You are taking a lot of time with the last part of your job you mentioned: publicity. You are spending a lot of time on posting messages on your website, Facebook and blog. Is this the biggest difference between being an artist now and being an artist in the nineties? That we now have the internet and the social media, what is basically a job on itself?**

*(RL): “I have to admit that I am a kind of jealous of the artist who got to be musicians before the internet and social media. I do see a lot of value in it, because it is another way to show my authentic self. It is all about connecting: people are looking for entertainment when they go to a concert, but also for a way to filter the world. They create a soundtrack to their lives, something to help them process events in their lives. The social media give the people the ability to look (and find) personal connections. As an artist, you are telling your*

*soundtrack on stage and in your songs. The people feel the need to tell their stories as well, and the social media offers them the platform to do that.”*

**(MW): “You are using the social media platforms also in a way that you can realize your new CD. What can you tell us about your ‘Let’s make a record project’ ?”**

*(RL): “I am making a new album, which will be my fourth studio album. I have a lot of new songs, which I have been working on for two years. It makes me feel quite confident about the songs that will be on the CD. I am going to work with a lot of talented musicians from all over America, and the talented producer Will Robertson. The foundation will give me the possibility to pay the studio time, the musicians, producers and engineers in a fair way. I am very excited about the new songs I’ve created and I hope that the listeners will consider joining me on this adventure. I am always and forever grateful for their friendship and continued support.”*



**(MW): “Within all the hard work and in the social media time, you recently reached a milestone in your career: being ten years on the road as a musician? What are the pro’s and con’s which you have learnt in these years?”**

*(RL): “Oh my god, I will only mention the big lessons, otherwise it would be way to much! First of all, I have learned how to be a good houseguest (and also how not to be a houseguest). I also learnt how to book tours more officially, and to say no to gigs that aren’t a good idea. My artistic side wants to just perform anytime, but I have to be strict if something is not good to me. The biggest thing I have learnt, is how not to be afraid. I used to be afraid, but I have learnt with my participation at the Voice US how it feels to be judged. There is first of all a jury that decides whether you are good enough or not. After that, the audience is the judge. They like the competitive aspect (of the battles) and the fact that they can participate with their opinion. It is completely different with people that come to a festival or regular performance: they are looking for creativity, music, art and they want the best for you (as the artist). They do not pay attention to things as mistakes or something like that. Being an artist in the middle, is basically being natural. That is definitely the most important thing which I have learnt in these ten years.”*

