Having a Ball

Soul singer Kat Wright reflects on 2017

BY JORDAN ADAMS

The last time we checked in with Kat Wright, the Burlington soul singer had just released *By My Side*, the first record put out under her own name, sans longtime bandmates the Indomitable Soul Band. The ISB is still intact and a huge part of the album and the live act. But by truncating the group’s name, Wright and company set out to transcend genres and resist being pigeonholed by the retro-soul sound that had become their calling card. As she told Seven Days in November 2016, “For us, as a group, soul is the starting point, not the ending point.”

In a recent interview, Wright said she had set two main goals for 2017: Gig farther than ever before, and create some “sexy” visual content. While she had set two main goals for 2017: Gig farther than ever before, and create some “sexy” visual content. While she had set two main goals for 2017: Gig farther than ever before, and create some “sexy” visual content. While she had set two main goals for 2017: Gig farther than ever before, and create some “sexy” visual content.

SEVEN DAYS: We ran a cover story about you a little over a year ago, which came out the day after the 2016 presidential election. That must’ve been... interesting for you.

KAT WRIGHT: It was horrifying. I was totally despondent, as I think everyone I know was. I didn’t even look at it or post about it until many days later. I was embarrassed. It was, like — the world is so, so fucked in such a blatant way. I just looked at my face on the cover — it felt absurd. It was like a bad joke.

SD: What can you tell me about the making of the new “By My Side” video?

KW: Content is really tricky. I’m really hard on myself because I’m also a visual artist. I probably have unrealistically high standards for what kind of content I want [to put out]. I previously released a video for “By My Side” that I thought came out OK — but it didn’t get executed the way that I saw it in my mind.

For [the new] “By My Side,” I found this [director], Trevor Wiggins. I live in Texas. There was some preproduction on my end. I did a bunch of green-screen stuff here in Vermont. And then he made this incredible animated video.

Trevor had the idea of doing an [animated] animal band. I sent him photographs of everyone who played on the record, and he chose animals based on what he thought their spirit animal would be. And then Trevor just did his thing. And that’s what I wanted. I wish I had the time and skills and training to do all my own content, but I just don’t. I wanted this guy to make his art. And I love the long-distance nature of it. I’ve never even met him.

SD: There’s another video coming out soon, correct?

KW: Yes, for the song “Come Dance.” For that one, I really didn’t want to be in it at all. I get tired of posing and acting. I don’t even think I’m that good at those things.