

WALLIS BIRD (IRL/DE - Dublin/Berlin)

Album: «Architect» (Karakter Worldwide; release: 11.04.2014)



With the release of her fourth album, *Architect*, Irish artist Wallis Bird marks another milestone in her career – a career that has been fought step by step; a career that has been built slowly but solidly, as her growing legions of fans will testify; and a career with as many ups as downs, but very few compromises. To build a house, you have to put the foundations in place first, and *Architect* represents the culmination of a long journey of self-discovery and reinvention.

www.wallisbird.com

It may sound like something from *Spinal Tap* that Bird lost all the fingers on one hand in a lawnmower accident as a baby, but it's no exaggeration, and it didn't stop her picking up a guitar as a child, flipping it upside down, and carrying on as if nothing had ever happened. Today she's a veritable virtuoso on the instrument, and with a chuckle, she describes that fateful "lawnmower incident" as having given her "her mojo". That mojo carried her to record deals with Island and Columbia Records, several high profile awards and nominations, and tours across the world with the likes of the Gossip, ZAZ, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Billy Bragg and Emiliana Torrini.

The new album Architect brings with it new influences. Having lived in London for seven years, Bird moved to Berlin to write the new album and quickly became inspired by its vibrant culture, and from dancing all night long in clubs and bars as she immersed herself in the city's pulsating rhythms. These influences can be heard all over Architect. Collaborating once again with producer Marcus Wuest, it's an album about becoming the architect of one's own life; it's about reclaiming control, shaking off the cobwebs, finding new freedom of movement and expression, and casting off the long shadows of failed relationships. Never better is this exemplified than on the album's opening track and forthcoming single Hardly Hardly, a clubby, euphoria-fuelled anthem that encourages the listener to abandon their cares and head to the dance-floor instead. As Bird says, "when I moved to Berlin, that's pretty much all I did, often with my eyes tightly shut for hours on end. I was shaking off London and the feeling that I could hardly, hardly move".





Members: Wallis Bird, Michael Vinne, Christian Vinne, Aidan, Aoife O' Sullivan