

LIVE REVIEWS | Issue 4

If you have a show coming up don't forget to send info to thebuzz@acm.ac.uk

Lia Lovelace + Rory Rocket + Rita Carolina @ ACM Clapham



Today at the Clapham site there is a showcase for songwriters in the lunch hour in reception - otherwise known as Alice, our site manager's office. Ngaire Ruth is thrilled.

Creative artist Lia Lovelace is in her final year, but has kept her heart and soul intact, despite now knowing the music business and phrases like "the lifecycle of a female pop star". Serenity and grace are inbuilt in this woman, so a heartbreaker narrative with titles like ['I Loved You'](#) and 'Possible Words' creates a pause to let thoughts hang and

listen, be calmed and charmed. Lia's music description is melancholy alternate acoustic – she plays guitar. Her voice is never forced; she lets it come, and it's pitch-perfect and unearthly when hitting the higher ranges. Every song has a strong reggae flavour – not always the sound, but the soul.

One of the many things I love about ACM Clapham is people randomly singing on the stairs, in the bathrooms, or waiting in reception for their friends to come. But even more so I love finding two or three people in a huddle working on songwriting, under the stairs near the toilets, in-between lessons, helping each other with their music or working on a mutual assignment. I often find the next two acts, Rita Carolina and Rory Rocket here. This will change when all the new rehearsal space at the Brixton site is open, and I will miss it. Read their piece on Open Mic venues in [The Buzz](#).

You can tell by the name; Rory Rocket is ready to go. I already have my seat booked to observe their journey over the next few years. Today they have a bright pink mini guitar, all Rory's guitars have names, although when composing they sometimes bring in keyboards. The first year is exploring commercial songwriting and production, and they're a creative artist, weaving simple concepts into complex emotional themes that echo self-awareness, honesty, time and place; solid intelligent indie without the jingle jangle, shoe gazing or self-deprecation. An original repertoire is developing quickly: [Devil on the Train](#), [You \(What Enemies Do\)](#), and Am I in the Right Place? Read their article in [The Buzz Am I Songwriting or Songwronging?](#)

Ony Rita Carolina goes it alone, with no guitar to hold and no seat, just a backing track that she's composed. No messing - for a first year. Someone should have warned us to

put our seatbelts on. She bounces through some solid material R&B pop that begs for live instruments and rapport between a singer and a band. Carolina's image says bedroom pop, but the song structure and the lyrics to songs like Love Myself, Peace of Mind and Inevitable reflect universal emotions that would sit well in the Top Ten. Listen to her latest single [Inevitable](#)

Lia Lovelace [website](#)

Rory Rockett's [website](#)