

Timotha Lanae has fans overseas seeing 'RED'

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr., (Photos courtesy of the artist)



Timotha Lanae may not yet (the operative word being yet) be a household name in the Twin Cities, but go to London or Japan and she's a bona fide star.

With the pending July 2 United Kingdom and Japan releases of her debut CD, "RED," Lanae is all the rage overseas. Buoyed by the release of several singles off of the CD, preorders of "RED" have already sold out in London and Lanae is on a second printing of the 12-song project. Her single "People Pleaser" peaked at #6 on the UK soul music chart and a critic in Japan has hailed "RED" as the best CD of 2013 thus far. The Independent Chart Show in the UK has "RED" debuting at number one on its chart.

So how did this St. Paul product become an overnight sensation abroad? According to Lanae, she stepped out on faith.

"My manager, Ben Obi, used to do a lot of music in London and he kept saying, 'I feel like they would love you in London.' I wasn't quite sure at first, but we went and he was right," said Lanae who is preparing for her third trip within a year later this fall across the Pond. "In London there are so many outlets for soul music, so it's really great and wonderful to have all this excitement and buzz surrounding me. It's been a blessing."

"RED" is a beautiful collection of soul, jazz and R&B. A closely held project, Lanae wrote 10 of the 12 songs and Obi produced half of the tracks and mixed the entire project. Outstanding Twin Cities bassist, Yohannes Tona, lent his talent, producing five tracks, including collaborating on the production with Obi on "Talking To Myself," the first single released off of "RED."

