

RED HOUSE RECORDS

Publicity Contact: Ellen Stanley • promotions@redhousetrecords.com • (651) 644-4161

Eliza Gilkyson

BEAUTIFUL WORLD

RHR-CD-212 • Release Date: May 27, 2008

“lush and passionate...
edgy lyrics with piercing imagery”
- *New York Times*

“cathartic to the point of jubilation,
brimming with radio-polished tunes”
- *Austin Chronicle*

Red House Records announces the May 27, 2008 release of *Beautiful World*, the fresh masterpiece from Grammy-nominated songwriter **Eliza Gilkyson**. The first studio album since her award-winning 2005 release *Paradise Hotel*, it is a radio-friendly collection of songs, celebrating the beauty that shines amidst these dark days of war and corruption.

Songs about the exuberant nature of love and life artfully combine with meditative tunes about the world's rich mysteries to create an evocative blend of Eliza's most poetic and accessible music to date. *Beautiful World* has an optimistic tone that is present even in the most political songs. “This may be my most joyful recording yet,” says Eliza. “Maybe it is because dark times can illuminate all that is good and decent and worth living for.”

The seeds for this CD sprang from a monthly gathering that Eliza hosted in 2007 with University of Texas professor/activist **Robert Jensen** and Presbyterian minister **Jim Rigby** called “Last Sunday.” Held at various venues around Austin, these community forums covered a broad range of topics, including politics, art, spirituality and the environment. “We wanted to provide a place to discuss, grieve and mull over our future without having a need for an immediate solution other than the comfort of each other's presence,” Eliza says. “The first song I wrote for it was ‘**Great Correction**,’ which I wrote as a way to console myself as I grieve the devastation of the human and natural world.” This anthemic song spurred a whole cycle of tunes about perseverance and hope for a more beautiful world.

Mixing Americana, rock, jazz and folk styles, the album has a decidedly different feel from Eliza's last few albums. With the help of long-time collaborator and producer **Mark Hallman**, she consciously chose to push the musical envelope. “We did not want to hold ourselves to a stereotypical folk production, and this freed us up to experiment with different styles,” she says. Using the songs as her guide, Eliza picked up whatever instrument seemed appropriate for the song—National steel guitar (“Emerald Street”), acoustic guitar (“Wildewood Spring”), keyboards (“Beautiful World”) or electric guitar (“Rare Bird”). In addition to her acclaimed Austin band—**Cisco Ryder** (drums), **Mike Hardwick** (guitars, dobro) and **Glenn Fukunaga** (bass)—Eliza worked with a host of other great players including her brother songwriter/guitarist **Tony Gilkyson**, singer/keyboardist **Julie Wolf** (Ani DiFranco, Indigo Girls, Bruce Cockburn) pedal steel player, **Cindy Cashdollar** (Asleep At The Wheel, Bob Dylan), guitarist **David Grissom** (Dixie Chicks), fiddler **Elana James** (Hot Club of Cowtown) and guitarist **John Inmon** (Jerry Jeff Walker, Jimmy LaFave). Together these musicians helped Eliza create a colorful landscape for this *Beautiful World*.

In support of the new album, Eliza Gilkyson will be touring in Europe and across North America. For her full schedule, song lyrics and more information about her recordings, please visit www.elizagilkyson.com.

Great Correction

Lyrics & music by Eliza Gilkyson

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Down on the corner of ruin and grace
I'm growing weary of the human race
Hold my lamp up in everyone's face
Looking for an honest man
Everyone tied to the turning wheel
Everyone hiding from the things they feel
Well the truth's so hard it just don't seem real
The shadow across this land

People round here don't know what it means
To suffer at the hands of our American dreams
They turn their backs on the grisly scenes
Traced to the privileged sons
They got their god they got their guns
Got their armies and the chosen ones
But we'll all be burning in the same big sun
When the Great Correction comes

Down through the ages lovers of the mystery
Been saying people let your love light shine
Poets and sages all throughout history
Say the light burns brightest in the darkest times

It's the bitter end we've come down to
The eye of the needle that we gotta get through
But the end could be the start of something new
When the Great Correction comes

Down through the ages lovers of the mystery
Been saying people let your love light shine
Poets and sages all throughout history
Say the light burns brightest in the darkest times

Down to the wire running out of time
Still got hope in this heart of mine
But the future waits on the horizon line
For our daughters and our sons
I don't know where this train's bound
Whole lotta people trying to turn it around
Gonna shout 'til the walls come tumbling down
And the Great Correction comes

Don't let me down
When the Great Correction comes

For the complete lyrics to *Beautiful World*, email promotions@redhousetrecords.com or visit www.elizagilkyson.com.

BIOGRAPHY

Eliza Gilkyson is a politically minded, poetically gifted singer-songwriter, who has become one of the most respected musicians in roots, folk and Americana circles. The Grammy-nominated artist has appeared on NPR, *Austin City Limits*,

Mountain Stage, *etown*, XM, Air America Radio and has toured with **Richard Thompson, Patty Griffin** and **Mary Chapin Carpenter**. In February of 2003, she was inducted into the **Austin Music Hall of Fame**. The induction placed Eliza alongside an exclusive list of Austin Music Hall of Fame greats, including **Willie Nelson, Townes Van Zandt, Nanci Griffith, Billy Joe Shaver, Butch Hancock, Joe Ely** and others. In 2006, she was recognized with 3 **Austin Music Awards** and 4 **Folk Alliance Music Awards**, one of which was for “Song of the Year” for her tune “Man of God.” A scathing indictment of the Bush administration’s use of religion to manipulate the public, the song has become a political anthem to many and has received wide airplay around the world. Recently, Eliza’s meditative tune “Requiem,” written as a prayer for those who lost lives in the devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia, was recorded by the nationally recognized choral group **Conspirare** and was nominated for a Grammy. It was also featured on NPR’s *All Things Considered*.

Eliza is the daughter of legendary songwriter **Terry Gilkyson** and grew up in Los Angeles knowing that her life would revolve around music. “I got into it for all the wrong reasons, more as a survival tool than anything else, but it proved to serve me more than I dared to imagine.” As a teenager, she recorded demos for her father, an accomplished songwriter whose songs have been covered by artists as diverse as **Dean Martin, Johnny Cash** (“Memories Are Made of This”) and the **White Stripes** (“Look Me Over Closely”), and whose credits include such standards as “Green Fields,” “Marianne” and “The Bare Necessities” (from the Disney film *Jungle Book*).

At the end of the sixties, she moved to New Mexico with likeminded souls, eventually raising a family, all the while developing a loyal fan base in the Southwest and Texas. She cut numerous records including *Pilgrims*, released on Gold Castle Records in 1987. It was her most successful to date, but it also gave her a reputation as a new age artist due to its atmospheric nature – a brief departure from her folk-driven roots. After a period in Europe working with Swiss composer/harpist Andreas Vollenweider, Eliza returned to the United States and released several albums to critical acclaim before signing with internationally recognized roots label Red House Records.

Eliza’s first album on Red House *Hard Times in Babylon* came out in 2000, and soon after came another critical success – *Lost and Found*. Eliza followed this breakthrough album with her 2004 release *Land of Milk and Honey*, which was nominated for a **Grammy** in the category of Best Contemporary Folk Album. The CD was decidedly socio-political in nature, from the Iraq War awareness plea, “Hiway 9,” to the call for peace in **Woody Guthrie’s** previously unrecorded and timely peace anthem, “Peace Call,” a track featuring vocals by friends and fellow artists **Patty Griffin, Mary Chapin Carpenter** and **Iris DeMent**.

2005’s *Paradise Hotel* was her most personal album to date. It featured songs that artfully revealed the roots of her progressive patriotism and commented on the direction our world is headed by peeling back the thin layers obscuring the heart of what matters in these complex times. The album included guest appearances by **Shawn Colvin** and label-mate **Ray Bonneville** and included vocal support from an all-star Austin cast including **Ray Wylie Hubbard, Slaid Cleaves, Marcia Ball** and others. Anxiously awaited by fans and critics alike, her live album *Your Town Tonight* was released summer of 2007 and featured songs that were fan favorites as well as lesser known originals from her pre-Red House days and covers of songs by **Bob Dylan** and her father Terry Gilkyson.

Eliza’s new album *Beautiful World* (to be released May 27, 2008) is her first studio album in 3 years and is an evocative collection of songs that explore an optimism and love for the world despite its violence and darkness. Smart, sensual lyrics combine with upbeat Americana, folk and pop sounds to create her most radio-friendly CD to date. In support of this record, Eliza will tour in North America and Europe. For her full schedule, visit www.elizagilkyson.com.

RED HOUSE DISCOGRAPHY

Beautiful World – 2008
Your Town Tonight – 2007
Requiem (EP) – 2007 (released in UK only)
Paradise Hotel – 2005
Land of Milk and Honey – 2004
Lost and Found – 2002
Hard Times in Babylon – 2000

QUOTES

“Direct, down to earth and honest, her songs and her vocals are as naked as they come...pure magic.”

– *Dirty Linen*

“one of the most influential artists on the American folk music scene”

– *Maverick*

“Eliza Gilkyson has a deep and gritty voice that gives her vocalizing an aura of authority...Like Johnny Cash or Pete Seeger, the very timbre of Gilkyson’s voice convinces the listener that she understands the deep lessons of life.”

– *PopMatters*

“Intimate, delicate-voiced and given to musical introspection . . . her honest voice and understated, life affirming lyrics remain the core of her songs.”

– *People*

“like the master writer she is, Gilkyson cuts through the jungle of posturing leftist verbiage and conservative spin...She packs a political punch that is as entertaining and blue-collar as the work of Woody Guthrie”

– *Houston Press*

“catchy songs with intelligent lyrics...the emotional intimacy of Gilkyson’s voice delivers her songs directly to your heart.”

– *Vintage Guitar*

“Eliza Gilkyson has arrived at the highest echelon of Austin’s songwriting community.”

– *Austin Chronicle*

“Gilkyson doesn't pull any punches. She graces the music with her lush and passionate voice; a dark and lonely sound, hope and satisfaction, and edgy lyrics with piercing imagery round out the whole.”

– *New York Times*

“her work is too good to be ignored. She sings with plaintive power and writes with soulful strength.”

– *Dallas Morning News*

“Raw, harrowing tales of shattered lives and immoral wars. She continues to make big statements...”

– *Penguin Eggs*

“honey-on-sandpaper vocal style...with a weathered grace”

– *Paste*

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Grammy Award Nomination – Best Contemporary Folk Album for *Land of Milk and Honey* (2005)

Austin Music Award – Best Songwriter (2006)

Austin Music Award – Best Female Vocalist (2006)

Austin Music Award – Best Folk Band (2006)

Folk Alliance Music Award – Album of the Year for *Paradise Hotel* (2006)

Folk Alliance Music Award – Song of the Year for “Man of God” (2006)

Folk Alliance Music Award – Best Solo Artist (2006)

Folk Alliance Music Award – Best Contemporary Artist (2006)