

BIOGRAPHY – JOSI DAVIS



JOSI DAVIS began playing the piano at age 6 and studied privately and at the Catholic University of America for 12 years. She studied voice from the age of 12, also at CUA, and was the youngest member of the Southern Maryland Choral Society from 1990 – 1992. Josi entered WV Wesleyan College with awarded Performance scholarships as a double major in Voice and Theater, where she studied with the Actors' Theater of Louisville's John Urquhart. In keeping with her theatrical interests, Josi embraced a very dramatic opportunity in 1993, when, at 18, she left WVWC to travel across country for an audition as keyboardist/ vocalist for a NY-based band relocating to Seattle, WA. (A

screenplay about that experience is in the works...) She returned to the Baltimore area in 1994, where she moonlighted as a cocktail waitress/lounge singer while working double shifts at Phillip's Seafood House in the Inner Harbor. Tips at Phillip's piano bar were good, but food service was not all Josi had in mind. She left Baltimore to study at the National Theater Institute in Waterford, CT for two intensive semesters in 1994 and 1995, and went on to do a series of William Shakespeare's plays and extensive educational theater with New London's Flock Theater, additional productions with CTP Footlighters, and to create theater and music with other artists in a vibrantly growing New London community. In 1996, Josi joined the band *Secret Service*, where she met blues great Koko Taylor, and belted out original versions of classic blues, funk and rock tunes to excited audiences. This was just the beginning of Josi's many musical adventures, including two original projects, countless jazz, blues, and rock ensembles, and 4 years with the original folk band *one hand clapping*. Josi was the winner of Foxwoods' very first BETSY award for her original song "Believe", which earned her an opening spot for two Bill Cosby performances in December 2004. Josi has performed at the Boston Folk Festival, the New York Singer/Songwriter Festival, and a plethora of venues inbetween. She has logged hundreds of studio hours, both as a vocalist and musician, arranger, writer and in production. She was a Mark Fusco scholar at the O'Neill's Cabaret and Performance Conference in 2008, and has since written and performed two original cabarets, with a third scheduled for performance in March 2012. Josi has shared the stage with Sloan Wainwright, Josh White, Jr., and jazz vocalist Giacomo Gates, and is truly honored by the many invitations she receives to play with musicians from all over the country. Josi continues to perform jazz and originals around the region and is currently in the studio recording an album of original material for national release. Her single "What I Want" is available online.

For more information, to listen, and to find out where you can see Josi play:

www.josiwails.com • www.sonicbids.com/josiwails