

music

Gina Villalobos/G2

Country girl Gina goes all rock 'n' roll

STRAIGHT up country girl, Gina Villalobos, has only one Scottish date on her busy European tour, so fans of indie Americana better take note.

With all the grit and guile of a female Hank Williams and the tequila swirling rock swagger of pre-blood-clot Stones, Gina boasts an awful lot more than an interesting name.

Hailed as the new queen of country rock, her songs of love and loss have propelled her into the charts Stateside and this Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter should soon make a name for herself over here.

2004's *Rock and Roll Pony* was a critically acclaimed, Americana masterpiece — think Honky Tonk Women era Stones and you're on the right track.

The release of *Rock and Roll*

Pony was delayed after a tragic accident in which Gina lost total sight in her right eye.

With a tremendous 2005 neatly tucked into the bag, Villalobos can hope that new album *Miles Away* can strike the same chord.

She's said of material on the new album, which was produced by Gina and Erik Colvin: "All my songs are secrets waiting to disclose themselves."

"I always want people that listen to my records to feel something. Whether that feeling is happy or sad or points between, it's all fine with me."

Gina plays alongside The Sundowns and Hobotalk at G2 tonight.

■ Fri 7pm, G2, 474 Sauchiehall Street, £7. 06700 800 100.

JOHN MURRAY



■ Gina Villalobos' music is country with a twist of rock'n'roll