

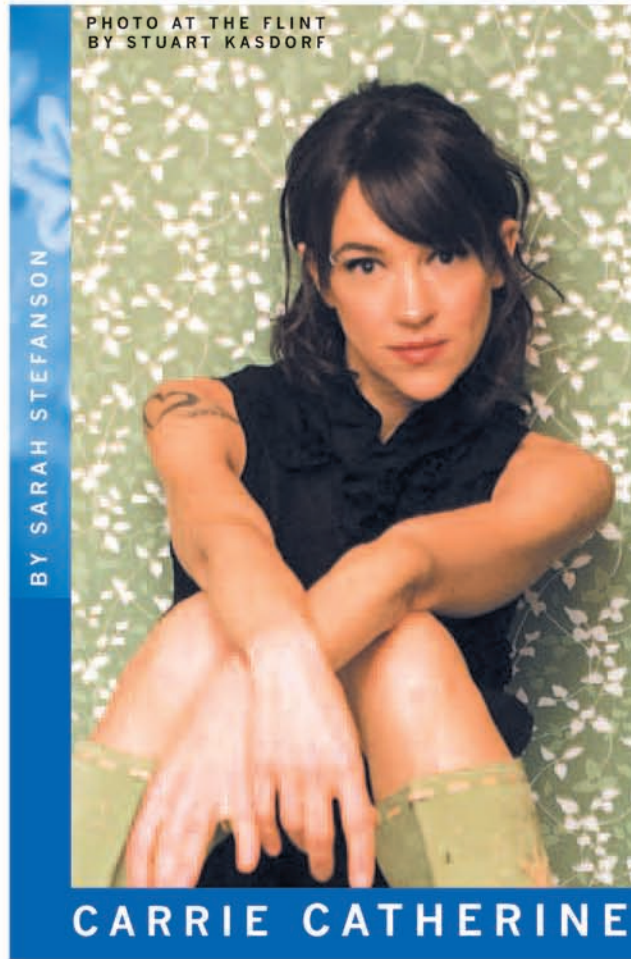
THE ENCHANTMENT BEGINS

Once Upon a Christmas

Carrie Catherine starts her holiday season with two performances at The Refinery celebrating the release of her new album, *Green Eyed Soul*. The shows will feature her signature combination of smooth vocals and introspective lyrics. A prairie girl to the core, Carrie has shared her stories with audiences across the country, always returning to her home of Saskatchewan.

As a child, Carrie says her clues that the Christmas season had officially begun were her mom's baking, her dad's Christmas party with Santa Claus and magicians, Christmas specials on television, and decorating the tree. She also has fond memories of the Christmas window displays at Eaton's, which can now be seen at the Western Development Museum's *Once Upon a Christmas* exhibit. "What is so remarkable is how these funny, stuffed moving figures seemed so fascinating to me as a kid and how they excited my imagination. But by today's standards, they're really quite ordinary!" Carrie says.

These days, Carrie enjoys the many opportunities to socialize that the Christmas season presents, but she tries to avoid attending parties out of obligation. "I think embracing the season is all about balance and not overdoing it," Carrie shares. Though she has celebrated Christmas in a variety of settings including quiet family times at the lake, vacations with her family, to warm beaches, and in Phoenix with her grandparents, she says, "I think the key to Christmas is reinventing traditions to suit our lives as we grow and change. Too many times, I see people get disappointed because they have unrealistic expectations about what Christmas is 'supposed to be.' Now I just focus on being grateful for what I have and who I have to share it with."



She also tries to approach the holiday festivities with play and fun in mind. "Last year, we hosted Christmas breakfast for some family and made gingerbread houses (though there wasn't a kid under the age of 30 around the table)! I wore my pyjamas all day, made candy cane lattes, and invented creative ways to celebrate the season. We had a blast. To really embrace the enchantment of the season, I just focus on the magic around me. It's everywhere when you start looking."



Carrie's focus on family, love and connection is evident on her records and in her live performances. See her live at The Refinery on Thursday, November 29 and Friday, November 30: doors at 8:00pm, show at 8:30pm. Learn more about her shows and music or purchase advance tickets at www.carriecatherine.com.