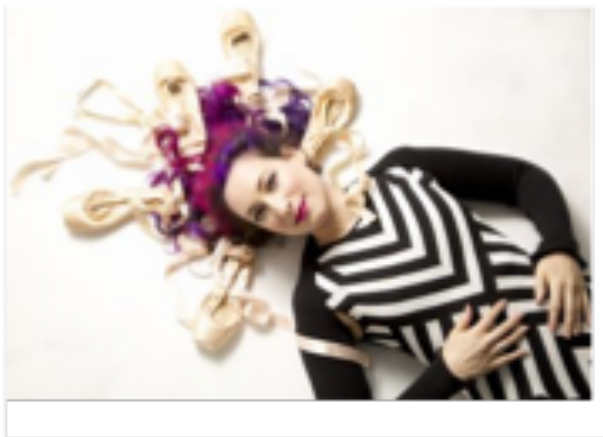


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By **Denny Dyroff**, *Staff Writer, The Times*



Rachael Sage released her new album “Choreographic” last May on Mpress Records. Since then, she has been hitting the road in support of the well-received disc. With nearly 10 million YouTube views and 12 full-length albums, Sage is one of the busiest touring artists in independent music. She performs more

than 100 shows a year — both solo and with her band, The Sequins.

“I’ve been very busy – all good stu,” said Sage, during a phone interview Wednesday evening from her home in New York City. “I just got back from a nine-week tour overseas – four weeks with Beth Hart and five weeks with Howard Jones.

“Now, I’m back – recovering from Passover with my folks. I’m excited about this show in Delaware. I was invited by Nalani & Sarina to do the show. I adore them. They’re great musicians and really nice people.”

Sage is like a modern-day Renaissance woman —

singer-songwriter, ballerina, pianist, poet, record label owner, actress, organist, writer and record producer. Currently, she is focused on being a performer.

“I recorded the album in August 2015,” said Sage. “It went pretty quickly.”

On “Choreography,” Sage reconnects to her dance roots. The album is an inspired set of piano-based chamber pop sounds merging orchestral elements with her signature blend of folk, pop and rock.

“I got the idea to do a dance-themed concept album,” said Sage, who studied and danced professionally with the New York City Ballet when she was younger and then went on to get a degree in theater at Stanford University.

“The TV show ‘Dance Moms’ had used a lot of my music with its choreography. Maddie Ziegler kept using more and more of my songs in her dance routines.

“I thought about how ballet and my experiences in ballet had informed my influences. I holed myself up in a hotel in London. Each day, I wouldn’t leave until I had at least one song written. It’s always exciting when it gets done as something different.

“When I was writing the songs in London, I watched the Glastonbury Festival on TV. I had a keyboard and also wrote some on guitar. It was mostly on piano because I was writing more with an orchestral sensibility.

“In general, I usually write the lyrics and the melody at the same time. There were certain musical themes that developed as I wrote. My process is very subconscious at that point. All my channels were open.

“Producer Andy Zulla, who I had worked with before, said he’d like to work with me again. I recorded the bulk of the songs with him at Carriage House Studio in Connecticut. It’s a rustic environment. It’s kind of a retreat for me. There is such a great energy there.”

Once the album dropped, the songs from “Choreography” changed from studio offerings to rousing live onstage versions.

“If they’re not playable live, I make them playable live,” said Sage, whose expressive voice instinctively wraps itself around her well-thought lyrics. “Being a production head, I can work with songs. But, it can be a challenge at times.

“In my live shows, I have a wonderful accompanist – Kelly Halloran. She is a very talented violin player who has been with me for about five years. Right now, I’m still focusing on songs from ‘Choreography’ and also playing songs from my new EP.”

Sage recently released a new EP of protest songs, “The Tide.” The five-track disc adds her voice to the current worldwide protests and public demonstrations.

All net proceeds from the EP will be donated to ArcLife.org (American Refugee Committee), one of the world’s leading international refugee assistance organizations.

“The songs are political protests and songs about human rights,” said Sage. “‘The Tide’ was inspired by a photo of Elie Weisel after helping Syrian refugees.”

Elie Wiesel is an Auschwitz Survivor and Nobel Peace Prize Winner who died last year at the age of 87.

“The way things are going now, protest songs are important,” said Sage. “They need to be made and artists have that job.”

Video link for Rachael Sage – https://youtu.be/HPSvrD_nE8c. The show at the Queen, which has Kira Alejandro, as the opener, will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.