SX Exhibit 220 DP

Reviews&Previews

JONATHA BROOKE

10-Cent Wings
Producer(s): Alain Mallet
Refuge/MCA 11706
Genre: POP
SPOTLIGHT
Originally reviewed for week ending 11/29/97

Signaling the grand ascent of one of the most gifted and unique artists of the decade, "10-Cent Wings" is an album that creates its own electrifying equilibrium, locking eavesdroppers into an orbit too gripping to resist. Brooke's previous work, whether solo or with former act the Story, was always marked by a trenchant level of truth-telling and musicality. At its best, it moved with the gravity-defying grace of great ballet. Incredibly, "10-Cent Wings" is even better: You believe that a singer/songwriter can take flight. The edgy intelligence, wit, and aural surprise in songs like "Secrets And Lies," "Crumbs," "Because I Told You So," "Landmine," and "Annie" are so direct in their fierce rightness that the listener feels a keen pleasure both public and secret, as if music had the might to restart the day according to its own intimate clock. The album's producer, Alain Mallet, with a sure grasp of the coiled power and sinuous peal of Brooke's voice, pen, and playing, makes the tough, clear drama of her work build and then detonate in the imagination. "10-Cent Wings" is essential, like taking a deep breath after witnessing something magnificent.