



FLYING THE FLAG

The UK country music scene is a much more buoyant affair than many would have us believe and *Sam Millar* is one of its best examples. *Dawn Middleton* finds out about the man and his career so far.

At the age of seven Sam performed traditional country tracks alongside his family in clubs and pubs. He later sent some of his material to Lee Williams of CMR Nashville, who told him: "Pack you're bags, you're going to Nashville." Endless hours later in the studio he produced twelve riveting tracks. One of which, 'She Is Just Too Hot For Me' was

released as a single and was subsequently nominated for Best Single in the Country Radio Awards 2003.

Since then Sam Millar has carved a niche in the Country music field through the way he writes his songs. Unlike many artists Sam writes his own material. "When you see reality music shows you see thousands of singers but no writers, it's such a shame. I tend to write the way I am feeling at that precise moment in time. I'm writing a song at the moment called 'Always' and some of the lyrics just give me a shiver when I think of them." Sam proudly tells me: "To get the chance to perform my own penned music is such a thrill. Not bad for a boy who left school at 15 not knowing he was dyslexic." He adds: "Inspiration comes in many different ways really and not just when I am writing songs. For example, when

shooting the cover for my new album, 'Saturday Night' the photographer thought I was mad. We took over 40 shots but then I ended up taking the picture myself." As the album was recorded in Nashville Sam got the music direction he was looking for with the city's top musicians and singers. All the tracks have an emphasis on good fun and emotions that come with a Saturday night.

The album cover features members of Sam's family and he admits that his role models are: "Mum, Dad, God and Elvis. All of these have played a crucial part in my life as I grew up. My Mum and Dad are not only my best friends but also my inspiration. My God brings me hope every day and is everything and more to me. Elvis, well apart from my Dad, he is the reason I got into music in the first place."



I want to know what Sam feels is his best achievement so far: “My kids,” he smiles warmly. “Three boys and then ten years later my latest addition is my three year old little girl. Next to this is my first album, ‘9 Hours 2 Nashville’ being rated as one of the best contributions to British country music, I’m still so very proud of that.”

I ask Sam what his thoughts were on Line dancing as his music is fast becoming an inspiration for choreographers. “I can’t do it, I can’t Line dance,” he admits. “Don’t get me wrong I am a pretty nifty mover on the dance floor but when it comes to Line dancing I just seem to forget the steps and end up crashing into people and that’s where I give up. I was doing a gig one day and I got carried away with the song, ‘She Is Just Too Hot For Me’, a big Line dance hit at the time. I stupidly climbed down to the crowd of Line dancers thinking I

would join in, well you can guess the rest, I fell on everybody. Seriously though I would love to learn one day.”

At the moment Sam is organising a UK tour and is already working on songs for a new album for next year. “I hope to be performing near you soon but I promise not to dance near you,” Sam laughs.

Sam is a determined man and has one ambition. “I have been singing since the age of seven and I have no intentions of stopping. I quite simply just want to carry on being a serious British Country singer songwriter. I selfishly want to be recognised for my songs and will continue flying the flag for the British Country music artist.”

Judging by the standards of ‘Saturday Night’, Sam Millar is very much on his way to achieve just that.

Competition

We have five copies of Sam Millar’s album to give away. For your chance to win one, answer the following question:

The title of Sam Millar’s new album is

- A/ Saturday Morning
- B/ Saturday Night
- C/ Saturday Evening

To enter visit our website at www.linedancermagazine.com and click on the competition area.

Alternatively, you can send your answers on a postcard or the back of a sealed down envelope to:
*Sam Millar Competition,
Linedancer Magazine, Clare House
166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA*

The editor’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.