

NICHOLE WAGNER - *PLASTIC FLOWERS*

“...one of Austin’s most promising young singer-songwriters...” – Peter Blackstock via *Austin American Statesman/Austin 360*

“Nichole Wagner is a staple of the local Austin scene” — via *No Depression*

“Wagner delivers a lonesome earnest melodic touch that incorporates the storybook musings of Neko Case and Jenny Lewis atop an engaging singer-songwriter vulnerability.” – *Glide Magazine*

Born and raised in the small town of Louviers, Colorado, Nichole Wagner grew up with a love of music and an extraordinary voice, but she had no way to really share her passion with the world. “I grew up writing song lyrics and wanting to be a musician, but I didn’t really play an instrument,” she says, “so that was a problem.”

At eighteen Nichole moved to Arizona to study journalism at Arizona State University, a career path that would offer a steady paycheck while also allowing her to indulge her love of photography. But she found that it’s not so easy to let go of a dream.

“I wanted to be Stevie Nicks,” she laughs, “but I had no idea how to start playing music out in public, and I still didn’t play an instrument with any degree of skill.” So I put that dream up on a shelf and said ‘well that’s probably a thing I’m not going to get to do.’”

After college, she moved to Austin, where she photographed the music scene and wrote articles from the sidelines. But the dream refused to die, and one day she found herself onstage at an open mic. She started writing new songs, learned to play guitar, and like wildfire the long-buried dream flared back to life.

In 2018 Nichole’s first album, *And the Sky Caught Fire*, was released, a terrific collection of country-rock that balances commerciality and integrity. It earned high praise from none other than Americana sage and *No Depression* magazine founder Peter Blackstock, who wrote in the *Austin-American Statesman*, “Wagner’s first full-length record establishes her as one of Austin’s most promising young singer-songwriters.”

Her 2020 EP, *Dance Songs for the Apocalypse*, which premiered on *Billboard.com*, is another great leap forward. The five cover tracks include a funky, soulful take on the Talking Heads’ “Life During Wartime” which has been in rotation on *Sirius/XM*. There is also an intimate and mournful eight-minute version of Neil Young’s “Ambulance Blues,” and a triumphant rendition of Rilo Kiley’s “Better Son/Daughter”, which starts off with an acoustic guitar and Wagner’s front porch delivery, but then builds as the band comes in, gathering steam and force.

While the pandemic disrupted most touring efforts in 2020 and 2021, she focused her energy on writing and recording *Plastic Flowers*, a full-length record set for Spring 2023 comprised of candid and uncompromising originals. Again produced by Justin Douglas with a diverse cast of Austin’s musicians, the first two singles, “Monsters” and “Raised By Wolves” find Nichole confronting the heavier topics of childhood trauma, boundaries, and navigating the realities of pandemic life.