

MUSIC REVIEW

Nadia, Arrival

★★★★☆

BY JASON GLADU | POSTED ON MARCH 26, 2010

Born and raised in Calgary, Nadia (Kazmi) now calls New York City's fifth borough home. On her debut album, *Arrival*, Nadia infuses Brooklyn's rich history and culture into the very core of her songs.

Kicking off with the soul-rock influenced "Volcanoes," Nadia's powerful voice quickly takes centre stage as she assertively sings, "Volcanoes! Live inside me." Believe me, you can hear them erupting deep in her artistic psyche.

Next up is the grim, funeral waltz "Mother," where her musical character confesses: "Mother/I'm a killer/I shot my brother down/Wanna say I did it for the struggle/but I took his life as he lay in the night." We never find out if she receives the mother's forgiveness as a drugged out guitar solo takes over the track. Don't worry – it's not all fire and brimstone. The title track instantly reminded me of the 70's musical *Hair*, especially the glorious, feel good, sing-along chorus. Meanwhile, "Tyranny Of The Heart" could have been plucked right out of the original *Shaft* soundtrack.

Overall, *Arrival* is a solid debut that really showcases Nadia's lyrical prowess and her taste for a universal soul/rock sound. However, I find the album is a bit bottom heavy as the more ballad-y material is sneaked in last minute. (Zero To One Music)

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