

**Juliet Kelly**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Spellbound Stories***

**Purple Stiletto Records**

**Release date: 22 June 2015**

**18 June** - Launch @ Pizza Express Jazz Club, London

**15 Sep** - The Stables, Milton Keynes

**04 Oct** - Verdi @ Royal Albert Hall, London

**16 Oct** - Urban Art Bar @ The Red Lion, Birmingham

*"An original talent rare amongst those who would call themselves jazz singers"* **JAZZWISE**

*"With her honey-tone vocals, insightful, personal lyrics, savvy original songs and intelligent choice of covers, she effortlessly mixes jazz, soul, pop and funk... one of the UK's finest singers in any genre."* **TIME OUT**

*"Juliet's yearning molasses voice and the strikingly simple instrumentation invite comparisons with Cassandra Wilson."* **BBC MUSIC**

**Lilting melodies, quirky harmonies and intoxicating rhythms combine in Juliet Kelly's latest project "Spellbound Stories" to create an eclectic mix of songs inspired by some of her favourite novels. The plight of a scorned mistress, accidental time travel and cross-cultural love are just some of the themes explored by the acclaimed vocalist and songwriter.**

**Juliet Kelly** is one of UK jazz's hidden treasures, gifted with a beautiful, expressive voice she is also a gifted, highly original songwriter, who draws on a diverse set of influences from pop and soul to jazz and has performed with the likes of *Courtney Pine* and *Talvin Singh*. She first discovered her talent for singing whilst studying for an economics degree at university but it took some time before she found her musical identity. She recorded her debut album ***Aphrodite's Child*** (33 Records) in 2003. It featured Juliet's original songs and garnered excellent reviews from critics in the UK and the US as well as widespread radio airplay. ***Spellbound Stories*** is her fourth album and is a set of songs based on some of her favourite novels. Novels used as inspiration include *"The Color Purple"* (Alice Walker), *Veronika Decides to Die* (Paolo Coelho), *"Perfume: The Story of A Murderer"* (Patrick Süskind) and *"White Teeth"* (Zadie Smith). The idea resulted in a highly successful Arts Council tour and is now a superb album including tracks mixed by **Seb Rochford** and **Dilip Harris**.

The idea for *Spellbound Stories* came as Kelly walked along a beach in Greece thinking about how much she missed reading. Kelly had been an avid reader as a child - completing a sponsored read of over 30 books in the 6 week holidays at the age of 13 - but more recently had seemed to

spend more time on the internet or watching films and TV series on her computer. As she thought about one of her favourite novels "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker, a song came to her - **Forbidden Fruit**. She recorded the melody and most of the lyrics into her mobile phone and the whole song was almost complete within 30 minutes. She wrote another three or four songs in Greece and then the rest of the songs followed in the next few months. Kelly first met drummer, composer and producer Seb Rochford back in 2002 when she was drawn to his energy and his originality and he is featured on her first two albums "*Aphrodite's Child*" and "*Delicious Chemistry*". Rochford heard a rough demo of One More Dance and was keen to be involved with the project, acting as a sounding board for Kelly's musical ideas and mixing the track Ghosts. He also introduced Kelly to Dilip Harris who has worked with everyone from the *Young Disciples* to *Sons of Kemet* who helped mix the rest of the album and brought a subtle edginess to tracks like Devilish Disguise and All He'll Ever Need. The album features pianist **Nick Ramm**, an early collaborator of Kelly's from their time together at the Guildhall and whose eclectic influences and quirky style perfectly suite Kelly's concept, rock-solid, clear toned bassist **Oli Hayhurst** and rising star drummer **Eddie Hick** who has played with the likes of *Anthony Joseph*, *Gilad Atzmon* and *Florence and The Machine*.

For Kelly, one of the things that drew all of the novels that inspired **Spellbound Stories** together was that they all involved some element of magic, mystery and the supernatural. Something that she tried to bring out in the arrangements and which also informs the album's title. **Magic & Mystery** then is inspired by *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and Kelly wanted to represent the sound of a music box along with a twisted fairytale vibe, she also used effects on her voice towards the end of the song to convey the strangeness of a magical world with a dark presence lurking just under the surface. **All He'll Ever Need** is inspired by *The Time Traveller's Wife* - the story of a man with a genetic disease that causes him to time travel – and the white noise effect coupled with other effects that Harris added later in the mix add a supernatural twist to this simple love song. The beguiling wordless song Ghosts, an album highlight, is inspired by the ghostly figure from Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and portrays the moaning presence of a lost spirit. Elsewhere Kelly used hints of the bluesy rhythms of New Orleans and the Deep South to convey the ideas of self-expression and hedonism that are in stark contrast to the life led by the heroine of *The Color Purple* in **Forbidden Fruit** and yet another album highlight is a magical cover of Kate Bush's **Wuthering Heights** and it is this sense of quirky originality and the search for the magical in both the inspiration and arrangements for the songs that makes Kelly's latest album so captivating. Dive in and just like a good book you'll be hooked and want to go back and enjoy again and again and again – in fact you'll be Spellbound!

[www.julietkelly.com](http://www.julietkelly.com)

For further information, interviews and images please contact: [info@julietkelly.com](mailto:info@julietkelly.com)