

## **Malay Mail - Showbiz: Just Juwita**

by Chew Wan Ying

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### **AIM star does it for real**

AIM winner Juwita Suwito is back with her sophomore album *For Real*, a pop-rock-flavoured offering that promises fans not only her signature soulful voice, but also edgier sounds.

For those unfamiliar with Juwita, the singer/songwriter of Singaporean and Indonesian descent made her stunning debut two years ago with *Brand New World* which was chosen as Best Local English Album in AIM2005 (Anugerah Industri Muzik).

Writing half of the songs on *For Real*, she claimed that this latest offering is different.

"My last album is more of Asian pop, with much influences of Malaysian, Hong Kong and Taiwanese ballads.

This time, my music edges more towards pop rock and urban sounds.

The tracks are generally edgier and catchier."

Indeed, *Walk Away* – the single she performed at the *For Real* official launch recently – is a brilliant pop-rock number that is in the same vein as Avril Lavigne or Kelly Clarkson who happens to be one of Suwito's favourite artistes.

*For Real* can very well be her musical journal as it's mainly based on her reflections and inspired by her life experience in the last two years.

"It's all about going through hard times and coming out stronger.

It reflects that life is not always a bed of roses but each thing you go through will help you to discover yourself."

The producers from her first album – Greg Henderson, Kieran Kuek and her brother, Aubrey Suwito – returned to helm the project.\*

Moreover, Juwita realised her dream of working with renowned lyricist Habsah Hassan in the only Malay track, *Teman Sejati*, the single that, along with *Walk Away*, has been getting heavy radio airplay lately.

This album also sees Juwita collaborating with Faizal Tahir of One In A Million fame in Mayday!, written by Faizal.

Another single, Beautiful Lies, was also featured in local movie Gol & Gincu.

That's not all; the talented lass has also shown her flawless vocal range on a Eagles classic, Desperado.

Songwriting seems to be easy for Juwita whose talent has got nods from the prestigious AIM.

While dreams are part of her inspiration, she penned Walking Again in less than a day! "It all began after the final results of a reality talent show in 2005.

The idea was born just before hitting the sack at the end of the after-show party, and the next day at breakfast, the song was pretty much done!" she said.

Lyrics-wise, the singles represent different spectrums of emotions and deal with a diverse range of issues.

For example, Walk Away deals with frustration while Destiny's Calling reflects hope towards life.

"I would want to be known for my honest personality and lyrics.

What you see is what you get.

I also wish to be recognised for my strong vocals," said the fast-talking lass when asked about how she positions herself among the talent-abundant locals.

Can't get enough of Juwita's soulful voice? She can be seen at Prelude Kemuncak AIM14 on March 23.

She will also be going for a road tour covering Kuala Lumpur, Teluk Intan, Ipoh, Johor Baru, Sabah as well as Singapore and Jakarta.

A music video of All This Time, her self-penned single, is underway and will be released in April.

\*Correction: Juwita's first album was produced by Aubrey Suwito, and not by all the three producers mentioned.