



Credits

Title: Center of the Universe
Words and music: Sofia Talvik
Guitar and vocals Sofia Talvik
Mandolin and classical guitar: Drake Duffer
Accordion: Peyton Clifford
Bass: Janne Manninen
Drums and percussion: Joakim Lundgren (except Desert Nights)
Backing vocals: Drake Duffer and Peyton Clifford
Produced by: Sofia Talvik
Recording and editing: Jonas Westin
Mix and Master: Hans Olsson, Svenska grammofonstudion
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SOFIA TALVIK - CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

On her new 9th album 'Center of the Universe', Swedish born musician; Sofia Talvik, brings together her own distinctive nordic melancholy, Laurel Canyon vibes and modern folk mixed with bluegrass, further defining the path that is uniquely hers.

Throughout the 10 songs on the album, there is a broad range of topics of some of life's most earnest moments, ranging from the Ukraine War, American women's rights, the thousands of missing children in the US and the torment of domestic violence survivors across the world.

ABOUT 'CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE':

Imagine yourself in a small rural village in Sweden. White-trimmed wooden houses that date back several hundred years are tucked in between the pines and birch trees next to the quiet lake where the sunlight glitters like gold on the gentle ripple. All around you, you can hear the buzzing of bumblebees, birds singing in the trees, and the sheep are grazing in a nearby pasture, surrounded by a hand tied willow fence.

This is Sulegård and it's the place Sofia Talvik chose to record her new album 'Center of the Universe'.

With a group of carefully selected musicians; Peyton Clifford and Drake Duffer on accordion, guitar, and mandolin (both hailing from North Carolina) and Janne Manninen on bass (from Sweden), she built up a studio in the living room of one of the old houses.

ABOUT THE SONGS:

'Too Many Churches' was written

shortly after the overturning of Roe v Wade. Talvik takes on women's rights to healthcare and their choice on motherhood versus that of religious beliefs. The song was released as an acoustic version in September of last year and *charted as no 3 on Folk Radio Charts in the USA*.

'Meanwhile in Winnsboro' was written right at the very start of the pandemic, just before one of the last shows in Texas that Talvik was able to perform at before everything shut down. She quickly released it during Lockdown and it was instantly picked up and celebrated by **American Songwriter Magazine**. As time has passed the song has matured into a full arrangement on the new album.

In the title track; '**Center of the Universe**', Talvik memorizes the thousands of missing US children, singing about all the photos of the Missing found hanging in Walmart's she witnessed on her last US tour. The song honors Hopi Native Americans' traditions by sending a prayer of hope that the missing children weren't abducted but rather ascended to the Tuuwanasavi, the Center of the Universe, and in so found peace.

The 70's inspired protest song and first single released from the album '**Circle of Destruction**' is inspired by the Ukraine war and people searching a new life in other countries than

their own. The single was instantly picked up by radio and featured in **Bluegrass Today**.

In '**Boy Soldier**', Talvik describes the fear and solitude of a young boy stuck in a domestic violence riddled home, bringing attention to so many women and children around the world that are unsafe in their own homes. This high energy track really cuts to the heart when Talvik raises her voice in the chorus "She has a space behind the closet, when it gets bad, she can hide you there", a story that is all too common but much to seldom talked about.

Delving into folk melancholy -akin to fellow Swedes First Aid Kit-, and bluegrassy elements of Molly Tuttle, 'Center of the Universe' delivers Talvik's own neatly packaged stories across its 10 stunning tracks. Dreamy accordion intertwines with bright mandolin, acoustic guitars and bass, creating an ideal foundation for the stark beauty of Talvik's singular vocal work. As the album unfolds, she lures you into her world with stunning heft and grit, once again proving a master of her craft.

TO SET UP AN INTERVIEW WITH SOFIA TALVIK, OR GET YOUR HANDS ON PRESS PASSES, ADVANCE MUSIC, HI-RES PHOTOS, ALBUM ART OR VIDEOS, CONTACT JONAS WESTIN ON MANAGEMENT@MAKAKIMUSIC.SE



photo: Jonas Westin

ABOUT SOFIA TALVIK:

Talvik has released 9 full length albums and countless singles and eps. She has performed at festivals ranging from Lollapalooza to SXSW. She has opened for Maria McKee and David Duchovny, and has collaborated with former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler, as well as Tobias Fröberg (Peter Bjorn and John), who produced her 2008 LP *Jonestown*. She has also released 2 albums in Swedish as part of the New Acoustic duo **Hansan** with German cellist David Floer.

Primarily a live artist, Talvik has taken her music across Europe and through 48 U.S. states, riding in her 1989 Winnebago Warrior with her husband and sound technician Jonas at the wheel, digging deep into the American sound and channeling it through her Nordic roots to create a singular brand of Americana. Talvik releases all of her music on Makaki Music, a record label she started early in her career to maintain full control over her own recordings. While her Swedish roots serve as the basis for her songwriting, she often calls upon her many journeys and experiences for inspiration, especially the uniquely American archetype of roaming the endless highway.

<http://sofiatalvik.com>

<http://facebook.com/sofiatalvikmusic>

"With somewhere in the neighborhood of a dozen albums under her belt, she has become a model of how someone from a different country can come to America and support themselves while cultivating an international fan base."

- American Songwriter Magazine

"Paws of a Bear, finds Talvik taking a more Americana-flavored approach -- influenced by Jason Isbell, Valerie June and others"

- Billboard.com

"This album is a calming, timeless, ageless, innocent and beautiful masterpiece."

- Robs Raw Music

"This album is solid gold from start to finish"

- Americana Highways

"Talvik develops is of a similar tapestry to Joni Mitchell, tapping into that same knack for soul-stirring clarity and resonance. Between, however, is something of a different nature. Open-air production sets the scene for an evocative and atmospheric release from the Swedish folk artist, coming in the form of an upcoming album, Paws of a Bear."

- PopMatters

"Talvik's voice is a thing of thing of singular beauty."

- Goldmine Magazine

"Talvik has created a mellow, indie-folk, 10-song masterpiece."



photo: Jonas Westin