



**In the moment:** Nina Ferro.

# Singing the blues about jazz

## JAZZ

### Loretta Hall

**J**AZZ and soul crooners do nudge their way into the Australian top 40 racks in CD stores, but rarely are they locals, says Melbourne-based singer Nina Ferro.

"It disappoints me that people leave the finding of that sort of music up to the radio stations. They should look outside the square."

Ferro, 30, celebrated the launch of her fourth independent album, *Crazy Way of Lovin'*, in February at Bennetts Lane.

It is one of many jazz haunts where fans will have heard her rich voice singing jazz, soul or blues.

Tomorrow she can be heard in a much larger venue in concert at the National Theatre in St Kilda with her 16-piece big band, for the Independent Classics series.

Tracks from her new album and arrangements by Eugene Ball will feature, together with her take on Ella Fitzgerald and Sinatra tunes.

"After a certain amount of learning, listening and emulating people, your own voice comes through and you work on that more and more,"

says Ferro, who has been singing jazz with bands since she was 16.

"When I sing a standard, I try and think what it means to me and to be in the moment. I never want to sound the same way twice."

Similarly, when she chose songs for *Crazy Way of Lovin'*, she looked at what made her happy, then topped it with a self-penned original as the title track.

"The kind of style I am into is earthy, jazz-based soul and funk with some rhythm and blues."

Ferro's corporate work with Bob Valentine and Marty Fields as The

Australian Rat Pack has her doing gigs around Australia, but in July she will take a break in the United States.

A certain drummer from Georgia named Eric is her new flame.

## NINA FERRO

**Where:** National Theatre, St Kilda

**When:** April 24, 8pm

**Tickets:** \$35/\$28

**Bookings:** 13 28 49,  
[www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au) or at door.  
Group discount \$15,  
ph: 9855 0550