

Still hay day for Horse

AS an artist, singer Horse is one who certainly hasn't had her troubles to seek.

Critically lauded she also has some of the singing world's most ardent fans.

However bad luck in the form of folding record labels and short-sighted prejudice on the part of executives unsure how to sell the "short-haired lesbian", has meant the big time remaining just tantalisingly out of reach.

Never one to take no for an answer though she has continued plugging away and this year celebrates the 20th anniversary of the release of debut album, *The Same Sky*, with a tour that comes to the macrobert on Saturday (October 16).

Playing the album in its entirety she says it has been hugely enjoyable to revisit the work, taking her back to the days when she toured as support for the likes of BB King and Tina Turner and anything seemed possible.

By Gregor White

She was also pleased to find that the songs themselves have stood the test of time.

"To me I'm a 'writer's writer' - my songs are like my babies and I find it really hard to choose between them.

"It's been great with this gig to just say 'Right, we're doing the whole album' and not to have to decide what to leave out."

Horse laughs at the idea that she is in any way bitter about the more difficult phases her career has gone through, insisting she's "very happy with where I am creatively".

However she also admits she finds it hard to watch the likes of XFactor, saying: "If I hear another kid under 25 going 'This is my last chance' I don't know what I'll do! Nobody is waiting to give you a chance, you have to go out, work hard and, basically, learn how to do your job by doing it."

In the last 10 years Horse has set up her own label through which she releases her own material.

Her latest band are all in their early twenties and she says it's great to be playing with a group who are all "really thrilled" by what they're doing.

"I think I have a lot to offer in terms of experience whether it's writing or performing and it's great just to see them so enthusiastic about it all.

She added: "I do sometimes wonder, if I had had huge success very early on, would I still be doing it, or would it have been a crash and burn sort of thing.

"I'm not saying I couldn't do with the money but all in all I think I'm just grateful for where I am, that I'm still able to write and perform the way I want to."

Horse's macrobert gig starts at 8pm on Saturday and tickets priced £15 are available on 01786 466666.



GOING STRONG: Horse is 'very happy' with where she's at creatively.