



Announces US release of Debut Album *YOU & I* on May 12

"It's almost a let-down to learn that she's not a spectre but a functioning human"
- **The Guardian**

"a wonderfully idiosyncratic album guaranteed to make guests stop and ask you what's playing" - **Montreal Gazette**

"An engrossing hymn to love's mad carousel" - **Clash**

"sounds like a long lost lullaby that you heard in a dream or a movie"
- **Pigeons & Planes**

British-born, Paris-based artist ALA.NI U.S. has announced that her debut album *YOU & I* will see release in the U.S. through Missing Piece Records, distributed via Caroline May 12, 2017. With all songs written & produced by ALA.NI, the album was recorded in London at Owl Studios (owned by Sade's Andrew Hale) and Studio 13 (owned by Damon Albarn). The album saw rapturous response when it came out in Europe and the UK earlier in 2016.

ALA.NI stopped many people dead in their tracks when she appeared on *Later...with Jools Holland* late last year, performing 'Cherry Blossom' with a Disney-gone-noir vocal, as compulsively anachronistic as the sensibility of the track itself. ALA.NI arrived with a voice that seems to take in the cadences of musical history, and an idiosyncratic creative approach to conveying her music, including spooky, self-produced Super 8 videos, 19th century photo techniques for album packaging and release formats that include wax cylinder recordings and even a miniature music box. Her vocal stylings have been compared to Billie Holiday, Minnie Riperton, Lena Horne, Judy Garland or Julee Cruise, but this is no nostalgia trip and to make these simple comparisons would be, as *Glamour* noted "a disservice because the thing about this West London-born singer is that she is totally unique."

Raised in Shepherds Bush by Grenada-born parents – a reggae-calypso bassist father, and a couture seamstress mother – ALA.NI sang them 'Over The Rainbow' at the age of 3, and her talent was immediately obvious. She attended the Sylvia Young School whose alumni also include Amy Winehouse, Rita Ora and many other British artist and after leaving school, ALA.NI worked as a backing vocalist for artists as varied as Andrea Bocelli, Mary J Blige and Blur. She was successful, but didn't carve out a space for her own art until a trip spent with her parents in Grenada, when something happened creatively that had never occurred before: a song.

One morning at 3am, "I'll Remember" arrived out of her mouth all in one piece. Then it happened again, when "Cherry Blossom" (*YOU & I*'s first single) subsequently emerged, fully formed, in the middle of the night. This music sounded like a series of woozy yet crepuscular David Lynch-ian miniatures, rushing between the glow of innocence and the pang of experience. ALA.NI realized that as a backing singer she had spent too much time trying to fulfill

the limited remit of her training, where as a woman of color she'd be expected to sing R&B and soul styles almost exclusively. She hadn't been able to do melismatic American soul runs, because she wasn't a melismatic American soul singer. She had been turned down for jobs because she sounded too English, but she *was* English.

The resulting album tracks where ALA.NI was in her head in a very literal way, too. It traces an arc through the duration of a particularly tumultuous relationship, with a man who was with someone else at the time- a relationship she hoped would win out, it quickly became one she couldn't have. As such, ALA.NI's outlook is now tempered by wisdom and an acceptance of change, which the listener feels keenly as *You & I* plays. With ALA.NI's hushed, grainy vocals sparsely fleshed out by a '66 Gibson 345, "Come To Me" conjures up the warmth of being together during those first rushes of desire, with "flowers blooming by the door". By the time we get to "One Heart", though, the singer tells us: "I sense you are torn/Evidently, you love me / And another, this I know". By "Roses & Wine", the lover "runs out of time" and by "Darkness At Noon," the light has gone out entirely: "We agreed to end this love affair/To erase every word that you said that set me free."

The sense of loss the record conveys is genuinely, astonishingly touching, and it turns out that her farewell to that affair in the greatest of ways, was also a farewell to the city she loved. Soon after, ALA.NI moved to Paris, which is where she now lives and works, charging into the future. *You & I* has changed ALA.NI in other ways, too: during a recent spot at David Lynch's Paris Silencio club, the idea of the performance, and its timelessness, soaked into her bones, and the idea of history being brought into the present – her own, and that of music – was suddenly golden, forever.

For more information contact:

Joe Sivick at Missing Piece Records
(862) 234-0801
jsivick@missingpiecegroup.com