

# Danielia Cotton

*Blues-inflected guitars, a thick groove,  
and a big, gorgeous howl*



“Cotton’s raspy holler atop such tightly messy hard rock is genuinely funky stuff, like a cross between Thin Lizzy and Sly Stone.”

— *Chicago Tribune*

“...an honest-to-God voice with real power, conviction, emotion and soul.”

— *BostonHerald.com*

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Growing up in rural Hopewell, New Jersey, **Danielia Cotton** stood out. Not just because she was only one of about seven African-American children in her junior high school, but because of the compelling power of her shockingly big voice, which stopped people in their tracks from early on. **Danielia’s** natural gift—raw, searing vocal chops combined with a deep, buttery tone—draws from the two different rich traditions that she absorbed early in her youth. On the one hand, she couldn’t get enough of what her friends and neighbors were listening to: **AC/DC, Zeppelin, the Stones**. On the other, she was her mother’s girl: daughter of a jazz singer and member of the church gospel choir, grooving to **Mavis Staples, Etta James, Billie and Ella**.

The happy collision of these two traditions is her 2008 album, *Rare Child*, produced by **Brad Jones (Jill Sobule, Over the Rhine)** and co-produced by **Joe Blaney (Shawn Colvin, Soul Asylum)** and **Danielia** herself. A major hit with critics, the sheer joy and pain she evokes in these self-penned tunes instantly draws the listener in. She pulls, stretches and grips her lyrics with a strength that is starting considering this lovely young woman’s seemingly happy-go-lucky demeanor and petite frame. Appearances asides, like male counterparts **Jimi Hendrix**, and **Sly Stone** or crossover icon **Tina Turner**, **Danielia** not only has embraced the notion of Black Rock—she has re-defined it.

Her latest disc, *Live Child*, is a riveting, unvarnished document of her live set – a companion piece to *Rare Child* – that won “Best Live Album” in the 2009 Independent Music Awards. **Cotton** relishes her independence as well as her eclecticism: “Once you sell your soul, I think it’s very hard to get it back.” And in her songs one can indeed hear something rare: an unfettered artist singing out her life story. No sellout, just soul.



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