



# LEANN RIMES

## RISES ABOVE CONTROVERSY WITH *SPITFIRE*

by BRIAN MANSFIELD

For the past four years, a tabloid-skewed version of LeAnn Rimes' life has played out online and in public. With her new album, *Spitfire*, the twice-married, 30-year-old singer tries to set the record straight.

"It's an emotional roller coaster ride of everything I felt, everything a human being could feel, in the last four years," she said. "I didn't set out to write a record that attacked the stories that have been out there. I've always said there's 10 to 15 percent truth in those stories — the rest is BS. There's a lot being thrown around out there. Any real artist takes what they've been through and uses it for their art. That's basically what I'm doing."

Rimes co-wrote eight of the 13 songs on *Spitfire*, her first album of mostly new material since *Family* in 2007. "She's loosened her tongue, she's loosened her heart, she's loosened her spirit," said producer Darrell Brown, who wrote many of those songs with her. "She's writing ungodly better than she has in her entire life."

Rimes signaled the direction of the new material in late 2012, when she released "What Have I Done?" (written by Rimes, Brown and David Baerwald) and "Borrowed" (Rimes, Brown and Dan Wilson), which