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# The Point

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## The beauty of Dar

Dar Williams, a straight shooter and honorary lesbian, talks to the Blade about her music

By JEN MABE

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AFTER ALL THE SPECULATION BY HER LESBIAN AND gay fans, folk singer Dar Williams finally came out last year — as a straight woman.

Still, more than a few lesbians count themselves among the many fans of the New York-based singer-songwriter, whose fifth CD,

"The Beauty of the Rain," was recently released.

Williams has a significant number of gay and lesbian followers who, for years, simply assumed she was a lesbian. So when she "came out" last November in the Advocate, many were surprised.

"It was that kind of moment of like, ok, this is really who I am. Is who I really am OK with you? And I got this resounding, hilarious feedback from people going, 'It's ok,'" Williams, told the Blade. "I have to say I was so touched that there wasn't [any backlash]."

Many fans wondered if her much-anticipated new CD would reflect the new perspective her lesbian fans had on Williams. Many wondered if their perception of Williams had changed and if married life has changed her music.

The answer is a resounding "no."

Williams' music is the same high-quality, gender-neutral work it always was. And her messages and themes remain universal.

"So much of my life has been about not expecting the better nature of women, and women completely coming through for me and picking up a mirror and showing me ways in which I'm beautiful," Williams says.

"I'm the only person I know — who has garnered that kind of wonderful audience — who has come out and said she's straight. Like, not bisexual, not that I've experimented. Nothing like that. I told the world I was straight, and you know, I'm like the boring straight."

WILLIAMS FIRST DISCOVERED THE WORLD OF folk music as a college student at Wesleyan. She says that, as a theater major, the media surrounding the stage jaded her perspective on the art. Alternatively, there was a culture of folk music blossoming and being supported by the media and the community.



Folk singer/songwriter **Dar Williams** broke the mold when she came out as a straight woman in a lesbian dominated world in 2001. So does this change our point of view? (Photo by Ken Schles)

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