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JO DEE MESSINA
Slim-down secrets

DARRYL WORLEY High guy



FOR LOVE & MONEY

The **DIXIE CHICKS** on their nasty legal battle – and their new roles as wives and moms!

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RETURNING THE SOFT FLOCK

The Dixie Chicks emerge from a messy legal turmoil with personal triumphs and a benchmark album

Imagine a newsstand jammed with newspapers, all screaming out true-to-life Dixie Chicks headlines – NATALIE'S LIL' SLADE GOES VAROOM! ... EMILY PAINTS NURSERY BLUE, WORRIES ABOUT BELLY/DOBRO CONNECTION ... MARTIE GETS IRISH RE-HITCH, PUTS OFF BABY ... DIXIE CHICKS STAY IN SONY NEST FOR BARNFUL OF BUCKS ... UNRUFLED CHICKS RETURN – AND ROCK THE COOP!

In the past year, the Chicks – Natalie Maines, Emily Robison and Martie Maguire – have made front-page news while putting their own twist on the old saying, *When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade*. Industry naysayers crowed when the mega-talented trio took their record company to court, certain it was a career-ending move. How wrong the tongue-waggers were!

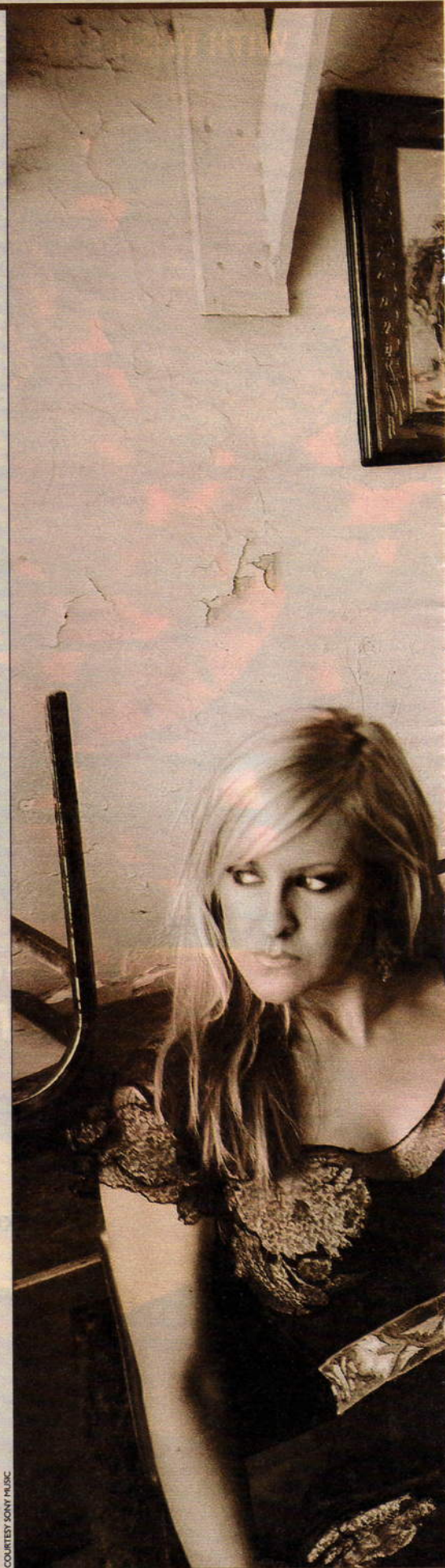
Now the gals are back, with a legal settlement netting them a more lucrative contract and a multimillion-dollar advance. Plus they're again making musical waves with a gutsy new album, *Home*, powered right out of the box by "Long Time Gone," the fastest-rising single of their career!

"A lot of people have the misconception that we were out of the limelight and not working because we were in a legal battle with Sony," notes Natalie. "In actuality, that time away was *very* planned. We'd been working nonstop for five years and felt like we deserved some time off. I was pregnant and having Slade. And Emily got pregnant, too.

"All of us needed to be with our families, find our new houses in Texas and do that sort thing. It was a great time, and it was almost like the Sony lawsuit just fit into the plan."

The Chicks definitely made lemonade during their time off – in fact, they squeezed out so much personal and

Story by Larry Holden



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