

The Dixie Chicks Come Clean

#708 • May 2, 2003

Entertainment Weekly

EXCLUSIVE

Country's
Controversial
Superstars
Take On
Their
Critics



www.ew.com (AOL Keyword: EW)

\$3.50 (CAN. \$4.50)





THE DIXIE CHICKS ANSWER THEIR CRITICS: "THIS IS OUR FIRST TIME TO TALK," SAYS NATALIE MAINES. "MY HOPE IS THAT WHEN PEOPLE SEE US AGAIN, THEY'LL REMEMBER THAT WE'RE NOT THE MONSTERS WE'VE BEEN MADE OUT TO BE." BY CHRIS WILLMAN

STARS AND STRIFE

IT'S FOUR WEEKS TO THE DAY SINCE THAT MARCH 10 CONCERT IN LONDON where the Dixie Chicks famously messed with a fellow Texan. Their overseas tour finally concluded, the trio have realigned in Austin to face the music that's been blaring since singer Natalie Maines told her audience—on the brink of wartime—that “we’re ashamed that the President of the United States is from Texas.” And now their manager is about to weigh in with a pretty bad joke. ★ “Let’s make this story far more interesting than it really is,” Simon Renshaw suggests. “The whole thing is a papist conspiracy. This was all about us and Michael Moore figuring out a way to promote the Roman Catholic Church!” ★ “Oh, please,” begs Chicks fiddler Martie Maguire, 33, sensing that even this obvious satire might end up being taken seriously. “We don’t need any more controversy.” ★ A pause. “Well,” Maines reminds everyone, “we *did* just pose naked.” ★ Perhaps you’ve noticed. Earlier in the day, for this magazine’s cover, the Chicks got themselves thoroughly plucked. It was their idea: Though Maguire admits that their publicist doubted the wisdom of being branded with epithets, “we wanted to show the absurdity of the

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WHITE

