



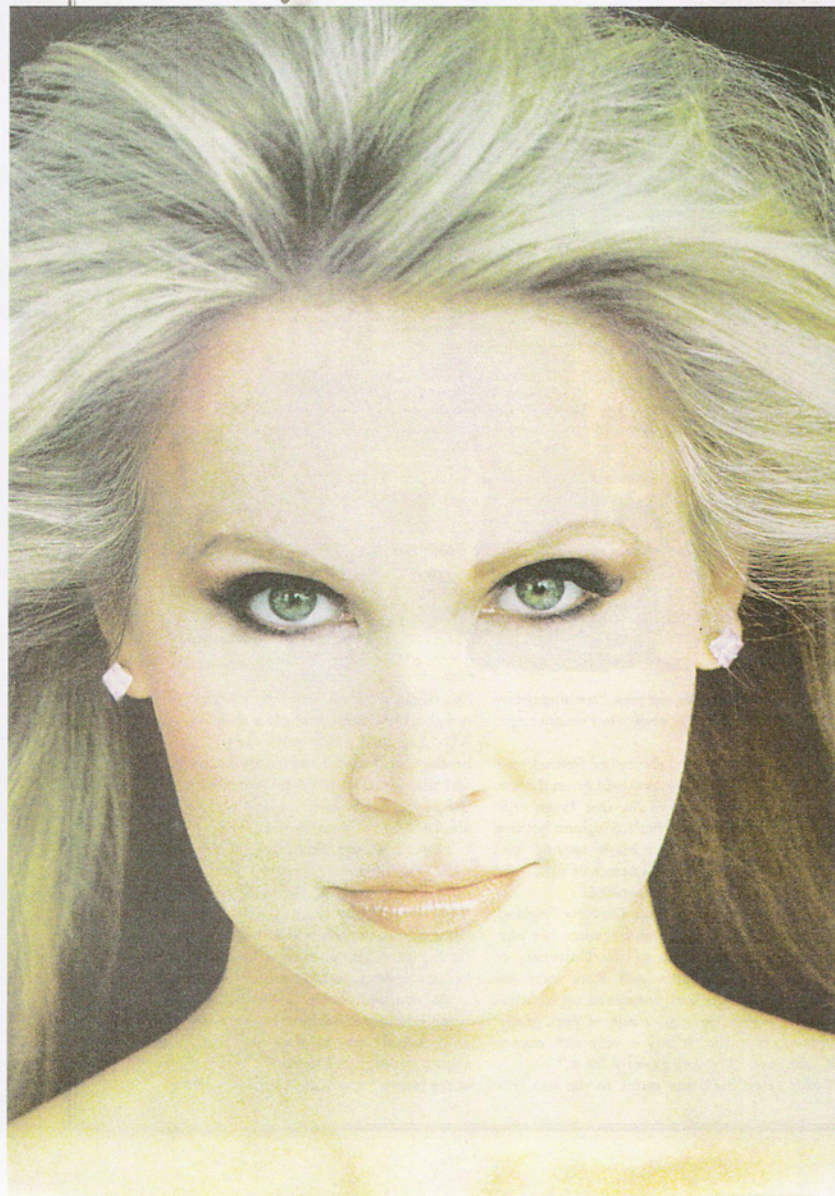
A VIEW ASKEW FROM MANHATTAN TO MONTAUK

THE

Improper



Karen Jacobsen: A New York Kind of Girl



Like countless artists, Karen Jacobsen landed in New York City with a suitcase and a smile. But a couple of things set her apart. For one, she traveled more than 15,000 miles to get here. Second, she possesses a voice of almost crystal clarity that quickly attracted attention on New York's cabaret scene.

A native of McKay, Australia, near the Great Barrier Reef, Jacobsen was an established performer in her home country. She appeared regularly on Australian television and toured all over Southeast Asia. But even as a child, she says, she yearned for the United States.

"At the time I was an Olivia Newton John fan, and I always thought I would move to Los Angeles," she says. "I was making a great living playing music, but I wasn't feeling fulfilled. I spent a lot of years feeling lost both musically and in my life. New York just made perfect sense for all the right reasons."

So, five years ago, she decided, she says, to "have a go for it." She started playing the cabaret circuit, including stops at the storied Duplex in Greenwich Village, and toured the country. She also developed an unlikely side act — singing the national anthem at sports arenas. Last year, she sang at Dodger Stadium, Fenway Park, Giants Stadium and most recently at a Knicks basketball game at Madison Square Garden.

This year has been big for her in other ways as well. In February, she released her first full-production, full-length album, *Here In My Heart*. And, in July, she married Tom Hudak, a music producer and consultant.

Her songs have been described as melodic and passionate. The album's title track, "Here in My Heart" means the most to her, she says, because she wrote it for her family. It's about leaving, but still keeping someone close to you. Andy Zulla, who has worked with Jessica Simpson and the Backstreet Boys, mixed and produced the album. It follows two acoustic records: *As I Am* in 2000 and *Being Brave* in 2002.

New York has also given Jacobsen the chance to get involved in larger issues. "For a long time, I underestimated my ability to do anything. But everyone can do so much. Can you imagine if every person in America sponsored one child in Africa?" Jacobsen will be appearing at the Cutting Room in New York on Nov. 16, and plans to donate the show's proceeds to Refugees International, a non-profit organization. "By living and working here and having a constructive attitude, I have something to offer," she says.