

# CMJ NEW MUSIC MARCH 2001

## NICKY LOVE

**N**icole Love (yes, that's her real name) could be on a Paris runway right now. She could also be "a bit of fluff in a short skirt" as she says, covering someone else's material. Several years ago though, the leggy Australian woke up from an "outrageous" party lifestyle to realize the moderate success she'd enjoyed as a model and backup singer had passed. Also, while she'd been traveling and partying, her father and grandparents had died and a close friend committed suicide. Battling deep depression, she took a miserable job waitressing in a casino to fund her music. Then came a very fortunate encounter with DreamWorks A&R man Robbie Robertson (that Robbie Robertson), who understood how her varied influences (from Tricky to Dr. Dre to Led Zeppelin) could work together. "It took someone who was an artist himself to understand what I was trying to do," she says. With the help of producer Marius de Vries (Björk, PJ Harvey), Love created *Honeyvision*, a debut that ranges from Courtney Love-style (no relation) aggression to soothing psychedelia. Now she says the hard times were worth it: "All the difficulties focused me into what I was trying to say and who I really was." >>>CHRISTY DAMIO

ALISON DYER

