



Move Over, Nashville

It took moving from the South Carolina to New York City for [Jennie Arnau](#) to realize her heart was in country music. “When I came up here, I just wanted to get away from the South,” she says.

Arnau arrived in NYC with plans of trying out a new sound. “I didn’t really play my type of music, I played more rock and roll and hung out with a lot more grungier, college music type crowd,” she said. “But it took going away from all of it [the southern music scene] to find it.”

After a long transitional process, she started to write and play a lot more of the type of music she grew up on. Her upcoming album, [Chasing Giants](#), is the fruit of this labor. The folksy alt country singer-songwriter is now halfway through a residency at the National Underground. Strangely enough, she even praises the city as a creative force for alt-country rockers.

“Up here in New York playing alt country, people are much more open to it then they were five years ago,” she said. “Now there’s a certain group of people who aren’t shy about saying they like Loretta Lynn and Willie Nelson. There’s a community.” She praises Brooklyn as a haven for great country stand-up bass players and fiddle players.

After the residency, she tours down South for the first time. Also for the first time ever, she’ll be playing in her home town of Greenville. “It’s a little difficult for me to go on the road, I’m a creature of habit. I’m pretty nervous,” she said. “But once I get past Greenville I’m sure I’ll be able to relax and enjoy the ride.”

Her South Carolina twang ringing in my ears, I needed an opinion on an ever-present debate among my peers: best BBQ in NYC. We both agreed that there is no such thing as bad BBQ, and she mentioned a love for both Dinosaur BBQ and Hill Country BBQ, but that the deep fried Oreos at RUB BBQ put it over the top.