

TIFFANY

WITH HER HIT *I THINK WE'RE ALONE NOW* ENJOYING A *STRANGER THINGS*-FUELLED RESURGENCE, SELF-CONFESSED FOODIE TIFFANY HAS NOW BRANCHED OUT WITH AN 80s-THEMED COOKBOOK...

STEVE O'BRIEN

The day that *Classic Pop* speaks to Tiffany, it's not LA or New York that the singer is Zooming from, but an altogether more surprising location. "I'm in Basingstoke!" she tells us, going on to explain that she lives part-time in the UK, and is currently staying with her best friend in Hampshire. She's in town to promote the release of not a new album, but a new cookbook she's co-written with celebrity chef Alicia Shevetone titled *Pop Life: The Ultimate 80's Kitchen Encore*.

There aren't many pop stars that have released cookbooks. How did this come about?

During lockdown, I started a cooking club – we'd Zoom it and fans could see me in the kitchen. I'm a foodie, not a chef – I think that's the magic behind it, it's that you're learning with me. Once the world opened up again, I started doing these Tiff Takeovers where it's a food and music event. That's how I met Alicia. A friend connected us and we talked about cookbooks and being 80s girls.

What is it that makes this cookbook unique?

It's a coffee table book, and we have some stories about my life and photos that you've never seen. As regards the cooking, you get my foodie fun with Alicia's chef expertise. Most of the recipes are very easy – we didn't want to make it costly or over-cumbersome. It's perfect for parties, so you put that 80s soundtrack on and rock it out!

Talking of 80s soundtracks, *I Think We're Alone Now* featured in the last series of *Stranger Things*.

I didn't know that they were going to include my music, so it was a great surprise. My phone started going off, and my friends were saying, "You're featured in *Stranger Things*!" I'm a sci-fi fan and love the show, but they also highlighted 80s culture. There were scenes where I was going, "That's my grandmother's sofa!" or "My room looked like that!" There were times I watched the show and chuckle at the

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lingo, but then there were times I'd be sad because I miss that era. I love how [through the series] a lot of kids are discovering 80s culture and music.

***I Think We're Alone Now* is also featured in this year's feature film *Pillion*, so it seems to be enjoying a revival.**

There's a lot of buzz around it. It's been in a bunch of other movies over the last couple of years. A lot of people have featured it in scary movies, because it can be quite creepy if you use different sounds behind it. Then, in its original state, it makes people happy and they just start grooving to it.

If someone only really knows you from your biggest hits, what record of yours would you point them to?

I'd have them listen to my last album, *Shadows*. It's got a rockier sound to it and showcases my voice well. It's got some amazing power ballads on there. We went back to the 80s in that sense, because there were rock-powered ballads back then. So there is this little thread through it that sounds very 80s.

You're back in the UK this summer for some festivals.

What's it like doing those 80s weekenders?

I often sit on the side of the stage and watch the other acts as a fan and as a friend. Sam Fox I consider a friend and Kim Wilde, too. We were labelmates for a long time, and I remember just being around Kim, thinking, gosh, she's so beautiful, and she's in charge of her career. I love her songs, and this is somebody that I want to aspire to be. I think it's really cool that we're all still doing what we love and doing it well.



Do you keep up to date with music?

The last album I was passionate about was the Rolling Stones record from a few years back [*Hackney Diamonds*] – I was playing that one non-stop, and I still do.

The last Pearl Jam album [*Dark Matter*] was also great. I love Lola Young, too. I'm always listening to new stuff and I do a lot of going down rabbit holes on Instagram or YouTube, finding new bands. I think it's awesome we have things like TikTok or YouTube where a lot of these artists can showcase themselves. ■

● ***Pop Life: The Ultimate 80's Kitchen Encore* is out now**