

## L.O.L.A.

### IT'S LIKELY LOLA OWNS MORE VINYL

than most 24-year-olds. "I had a big hip-hop collection that I just sold because I'm not gonna spin anymore," she says. "And I have all that stuff on CD now. But the ones like my first Supremes album or my first Aretha album—the ones that have a sentimental value—I kept. So I have maybe like 300 or so."

It's not surprising that a girl who's collected records since the age of five would end up pursuing a career in front of the microphone. What is surprising is that "No Strings (Let's Have Sex)"—her sultry, smoky ballad—got remixed by Josh Harris and found its way to the whole different world of club DJ playlists across the country. "I'm so stoked," she says. "I really love that version, actually. It took a little bit of an adjustment, because it's like a totally new song. But I love it!"

The accompanying video features Lola having a frisky romp on a New York City subway with Überhot Guess model Chris Whelan. And was the young French singer shy about shooting the intimate scenes? "No, man! I was like, 'Let's get the other shit out of the way so we can get to the fun part! When do I get to straddle him?'"

Lola's been living in New York, putting the finishing touches on her debut album, *Take It Like I Give It*—which she describes as a soulful rock/pop blend—due out on Warner Bros. in March. "I don't even have my driver's



TAKE IT LIKE SHE GIVES IT  
And follow her ass to the floor!

license," she laughs. "I'm totally a city girl. Moving from Paris to New York, I didn't even feel the transition because they're so similar. You can walk everywhere, and there are people on the streets, and there's a subway."

Her own musical influences range from Prince and The Beatles to Ella Fitzgerald and Nirvana. "My parents were awesome and had great taste in music. I built my own little music collection, and I just emulated and sang along."

And now, gay men intrigued by Lola's powerful vocal ability are adding her to their music collections. "I'm not super surprised," she acknowledges, "because the people that I look up to have always been a part of the gay culture. Even as a little girl, I remember thinking that must really just be something where you have to get to know yourself

and stand behind your beliefs, and stand up in front of the world and your family and your community and say, 'This is who I am.' I was always very fascinated by the whole process of coming out and the courage that that took."

It's also clear that, at some point, Lola needs to add writing a book to her increasingly busy list of things to do. "I totally want to! I have so many notebooks. I don't know if I'm ever gonna read them. Every so often I think, I'm gonna just burn them all. Then I say, 'No, when I'm 80 it'll be cool to go back and read all this stuff.'" —ROBBIE DAW

The single "No Strings" is available in stores and on iTunes. Visit [lola-music.com](http://lola-music.com)