

RUBY GIVEN 2 HOURS TO COMPOSE HIT SONG FOR MOVIE



■ Ruby Turner and inset, Derek Jacobi in new film *The Host*

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Print Editor

BIRMINGHAM R&B queen Ruby Turner was given just a COUPLE OF HOURS to come up with the lead song for a new gangster movie.

With the clocking ticking down, film producers moved her into a Mayfair hotel in the afternoon - with recording due at 6pm that same day.

The *Host*, out in America this week, is a tough new thriller starring Derek Jacobi as a banker who gets caught up in a drugs cartel.

Studio bosses wanted a big song for the movie, in which Ruby also sings and acts, but scheduling changes left them almost out of time.

"They came to me and said they wanted to record the song at 6pm," she says. "But we don't have a song!" I told them.

"So they booked me into a hotel in Mayfair, and I started writing, and singing into my computer.

"They'd teamed me up with Hong Kong musical prodigy Wan Pin Chu so we had a broad outline of the

melody, but that was it. After a crazy couple of hours, I came up with the song we needed, just in time for me to get over to the set for hair and make-up.

"Then I was singing it as the cameras rolled. We later recorded it in the studio for the finished result."

That result is *Chasing Love*, a big song worthy of a Bond movie and a bonus track on Ruby's new album, *Love Was Here*.

For Ruby, it has been a return to her roots - she started out as an actress at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre.

"Back in 1977, we took a production up to the Edinburgh Fringe, in which I sang a Ray Charles song," she recalls.

"That was when they said 'Hey, this girl can sing'. After that I was in things like *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Puttin' On The Ritz*.

"I eventually made an EP, spent a year on the road with Culture Club, then went solo and got a No 1 record.

"Then it all fell apart. I ended up out in the wilderness without a deal. I went back to the theatre, playing at the Young Vic.

"Then one day Jools Holland came knocking, offered me a year

with his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra - and all these years later we're still touring!"

It is not Ruby's first film role - she was the sensational Jean Anderson in rom-com *Love, Actually*.

She is, she says, proud of the new album because for the first time she has been in complete control of everything and has co-written all the songs.

"It is apparently my 20th album," she says. "I had no idea. I wasn't keeping count. And it's my first since 2014.

"To be honest, I didn't know whether I'd ever make another album.

"I didn't know if anyone would really want one.

"Besides, I've been funding all my own work myself. But then I met husband and wife producers Nick Atkinson and Kat Eaton - and they got me!

"This is the album I've always wanted to make. It's how I see myself - not how other people see me, and want me to sound.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed making it, and I can step back and be proud of it as a piece of work that, for the first time, is the real Ruby Turner."