

# FAMI

Actress Janine Turner and her talented daughter, Juliette, serve up an album of original country tunes—could this be the new Judds?

Janine Turner is taking a well-deserved break outside a coffee shop near her Texas home when she becomes reminded of the legendary mother-daughter country duo, The Judds. The parallel is almost too obvious to ignore. Best known for her acting roles in TV's *Northern Exposure* and *Friday Night Lights*, Janine has recently veered in another artistic direction, as a country singer and songwriter. And joining her in this new vision is her talented 11-year-old daughter Juliette—shades of mom Naomi Judd and daughter Wynonna.

Janine and Juliette have recently released an album of their original tunes, *Mockingbird Hill*, available at [janineturner.com](http://janineturner.com) and other outlets. The album, which Janine describes as “progressive country with a gospel touch,” was co-produced by Shenandoah's Mike McGuire and recorded at Mike's studio in Muscle Shoals, Ala.

“I guess I have thought about that Judds comparison,” laughs Janine, as she calls out to Juliette in front of the coffee shop. “I don't know that we're a threat to them—they're so great. But it has been an unbelievable joy to work on this project with Juliette. She just inspires me every day.”

And for their songwriting inspiration for *Mockingbird Hill*, Janine and Juliette relied on familiar themes, especially their everyday lives and their strong sense of family. “The title of the album, *Mockingbird Hill*, is also the name

JANINE TURNER BY LARRY TRAVIS

# LY SPIRIT

of the ranch where we live," Janine explains. "Juliette and I wrote a song about that. Another song, 'Maggie and Me,' is about a quarter horse that I used to have that died. Now, who can't relate to that?" she adds with a gentle laugh. Janine's precocious daughter wrote the music for the album's nine tracks and even contributed a self-written tune of her own, called "In My Backyard."

Janine, still incredibly attractive and youthful-looking at 46, is a single mom who's raising Juliette on the family ranch located about an hour north of Dallas. "We run the

ranch ourselves," she says. "We feed the cattle and take care of the horses and do all the work before Juliette starts her school day [*Juliette is home-schooled*]. It is a lot of work, but I like it," Janine adds, before pausing for a laugh. "It keeps me in shape!"

Music is only the latest of Janine's creative outlets. She continues to pursue television and movie projects and is also an in-demand public speaker as a result of her widely read 2007 book,  *Holding Her Head High: 12 Single Mothers Who Championed Their Children and Changed History*.

"I do a lot of inspirational speaking," Janine explains. "But I like keeping my fingers in

all those areas, whether it's acting or singing or writing. And I have a couple of ideas that I'm throwing around. One is a fashion line with Juliette and the other is a restaurant chain. I'll just sort of see what pans out."

One thing for sure is that she won't be "going Hollywood" anytime soon—or even Nashville for that matter. She prefers to remain in Texas where she and Juliette can live a normal existence as mother and daughter.

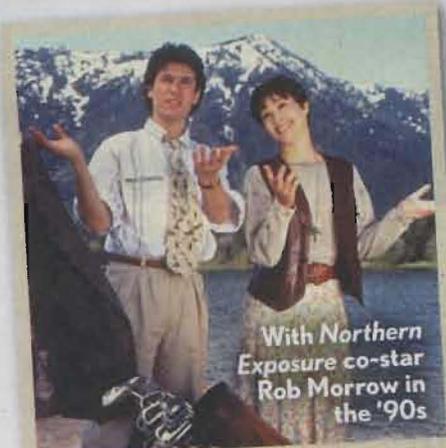
"I think it's important to have the roots and the value system we enjoy

here, although we both really love Nashville," Janine says. "I have to provide for Juliette, of course, and I have to make it all work. But so far, I am able to pay the bills and not have Juliette miss too much of her life." Letting go a good-hearted laugh, she adds, "I'm just having a good time doing all of this. I just like to create!"

— BOB PAXMAN



**Views of Janine:** the cover art for her album with daughter Juliette, *Mockingbird Hill*



With *Northern Exposure* co-star Rob Morrow in the '90s



A mother-daughter duet performance

JANINE TURNER AND DAUGHTER PERFORMING BY JEFF SMITH, JANINE TURNER WITH ROB MORROW COURTESY CBS/COURTESY EVERETT COLLECTION

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