



vancouver new music
For immediate release

28 October 2008

Vancouver New Music presents

Diamanda Galás – *Let's Not Chat About Despair*

Saturday 29 November 2008, 8pm

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church (Burrard at Nelson); \$35/\$28 from ticketstonight.ca / 604.684.2787, Scratch Records (726 Richards), Zulu Records (1972 West 4th Ave) and at the door. General admission seating.

The Centre, Cineworks, Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver New Music and VIVO present

Diamanda Galás, Attila Richard Lukacs and Paul Wong in conversation

Sunday 30 November 2008, 3pm

Pacific Cinematheque (1131 Howe Street), reception to follow; *free*

For more information go to www.newmusic.org or call 1.604.633.0861.

Uncompromising, relentless and inimitable are just a few of the words that may be used to describe avant-garde songstress Diamanda Galás. Crafting musical manifestos that pull no punches, Galás unapologetically brings the horrors of social injustice to the forefront of her work; giving voice to victims, and condemning those who contribute to oppression through either force or apathy.

With her multi-octave vocal range, Galás has tackled issues ranging from AIDS and genocide, to violence against women and other forms of systemic violence. Equally adept at transforming jazz, blues and folk standards with her intense interpretations, Galás infuses each one with chilling new meaning.

"Her artistry is inimitably bold, impossibly masterful. No one else will go where she goes vocally. Or maybe it's simply that no one else can." – Megan Milks, popmatters.com

This November Galás will return to Vancouver to perform a program of songs from her new album, *Guilty Guilty Guilty*, as well as a selection of songs drawn from previous works that present her unique and powerful commentary on the impact and politics of AIDS.

A compilation of tragic and homicidal love songs, *Guilty Guilty Guilty* delves into the grief and outrage of those whose love has been shattered. Sophisticated vocal weaponry combines with a driving, sometimes jaw-dropping, percussive piano style to conjure up raw emotions ranging from fleeting happiness to the terror brought upon by the death of love.

"Galás's operatic blues gnaw right at the soul here, a wordless moan of grief and pain somewhere between the spine tingling ululatory howl of a Middle Eastern funeral and distracted humming from a cell at the asylum." – The Wire

www.diamandagalas.com | Presented as part of Art and Activism: World AIDS Day.

Ms. Galás will be taking part in a free panel discussion about art and AIDS on Sunday, November 30, 2008 at 3pm at Pacific Cinematheque; details follow.

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The Centre, Cineworks, Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver New Music and VIVO present **Diamanda Galás, Attila Richard Lukacs, Paul Wong and others in conversation**

Sunday 30 November, 1pm

Pacific Cinematheque (1131 Howe Street), reception to follow; *free*

Art often becomes a creative conduit for raising awareness about important social and political issues. In a free panel discussion musician Diamanda Galás, painter Attila Richard Lukacs and media artist Paul Wong will reflect on the tremendous role that art can play in exploring and drawing attention to AIDS. The conversation will focus on creative responses to the AIDS epidemic, exploring the potential of affecting change through focused, subtle and/or optimistic cultural interventions. Following the discussion, audience members are invited to stay for a reception and free screening of Annette Manguard's documentary *General Idea: Art, AIDS and the fin de siècle* (5pm | 2008, 48 minutes).

Vancouver New Music gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada, The Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and BC Gaming, The City of Vancouver through the Office of Cultural Affairs, Westin Grand Vancouver and Tom Lee Music.

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