



6 MAY	CAMBRIDGE GRADUATE	10 MAY	LIVERPOOL BARFLY (LOFT)
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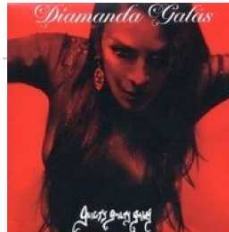
- \* Lightspeed Champion @ London Koko, 6/05
- \* Drowned In Sound UK Tour @ Cambridge Barfly at The Graduate, 6/05
- \* Hayman Watkins Trout & Lee, Dave Cloud & The Gospel Of Power @ London Madame Jo Jo's, 6/05
- \* Club AC30 @ London Hoxton Bar & Grill, 6/05
- \* Pin Me Down @ London Monto Water Rats, 7/05
- \* Acoustic Ladyland @ Norwich Arts Centre, 8/05
- \* iLiKETRAiNS @ Galway Roisin Dubh, 8/05
- \* Drowned In Sound UK Tour @ Aberdeen Moshulu, 8/05
- \* Damo Suzuki, Agaskodo Teliverek, Skeletons And The Kings Of All Cities @ London Barden's Boudoir, 8/05
- \* Vampire Weekend, White Williams @ Manchester Academy 2 (formerly MDH), 8/05
- \* Born Ruffians @ London Amersham Arms, 8/05
- \* Jay Reatard @ London Old Blue

## Home > Reviews > Album

### Diamanda Galas: Guilty Guilty Guilty

4 votes ?  
 by [Billy Hamilton](#)

Type: Album  
 Release date: 31/03/2008  
 Label: Mute



When Franklin D Roosevelt announced "*we have nothing to fear but fear itself*" he'd clearly never been subjected to the Warlockian annunciations of **Diamanda Galás**. If he had, you can bet your bottom dollar his inaugural address to the American nation would have been a helluva less optimistic affair.

Rampaging of tone and terrifying of scale, the San Diego-raised warbler has released 16 supernatural séances over the course of her 26-year-long recording career, garnering such back-handed accolades as "*Lizard Queen*" and "*life sucking*" from petrified hacks. And album number 17, *Guilty Guilty Guilty*, does little to readdress the zombified persona this 52 year old has revelled in since her screeching, scented-sleeved debut single '*The Litanies of Satan*' was unleashed upon an unsuspecting music buying public back in 1982.

Abound with gothic reinterpretations of classic song writings by the likes of Edith Piaf and Ralph Stanley, this exhilarating collection of avant-garde horror-jazz furrows itself deep within the pits of churning, nauseated stomachs whilst slowly unleashing a swirl of disarming sonic poison into the bloodstream. From the first predatory strike of ivory keys that jitters out from the O.V. Wright-penned '*8 Men And 4 Women*', it's clear this is going to be a tumultuous journey, with Galás' acidic growl dislodging comfort zones in a midden of acrobatic shrill.

To describe Galás' astonishing rasp in mere words is, quite frankly, undoable – these are a set of lungs that demand to be heard, deserve to be explored. By mimicking the age-old 'speaking in tongues' technique Glossolalia – a Christian practice of reciting fluent speech in inaudible, intelligible utterances – this demonised damsel transforms jazz bar staple '*Autumn Leaves*' into a macabre vaudevillian opus that quick-steps from slooping Simone-like blues to a writhing hellfire of burning, inconsolable heartbreak.

The obvious stand out in this aurally challenging compilation of tear-stained love songs is the overwhelming reaper-like reprise of Stanley's '*O Death*'. Beginning with Galás' incoherent tombstone-cut bawl, it emerges as a Waits-esque guzzle of bloodthirsty tankard swilling, ravaged by deft Dirty South keys and a harrowing overpass of pin-dropped silence that's punctured intermittently by the occasional whoop of appreciation from a jaw-agape audience.

And it's this which makes *Guilty Guilty Guilty* such a remarkable feat – much of its content is recorded as live. Yet, in these times of multi-layered production, the thought of each staggering, pitch-perfect cut being concocted in just one take seems like an incomprehensible, noggin-crunching proposition. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is what we should truly fear. Not fear itself but the brilliant, shrieking holler of one Diamanda Galás.



From the 29th to the 31st of May, Barcelona.

Diamanda Galas

7 / 10

Words: Billy Hamilton

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- \* Can it, Canning: Broken Social Scenester announces new album
- \* Another new Nine Inch Nails album, this time for free
- \* These Arms Are Squeezing: new label for new LP from Seattle rockers
- \* Chart round-up: "Where do I stand for a corner kick?"
- \* A Week in Drowned in Sound: 02/05/08
- \* Last Shadow Puppets to appear at Reading and Leeds?
- \* Dillinger Escape Plan, Nile added to Quart festival bill
- \* Death disco: HEALTH to release remix record, play Pure Groove inshop
- \* The torment is over: Dirty Pretty Things return with new album
- \* High Places sign UK deal with Upset the Rhythm, announce debut album

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- \* DiScover: Bon Iver
- \* Fleet Foxes - Sun Giant EP
- \* The Gutter Twins at Madrid Sala Heineken, Sun 27 Apr
- \* Junior Boys, Prinzhorn Dance School, Metronomy, Kelley Polar at Greenwich IndigO2, Fri 25 Apr
- \* Diamanda Galas - Guilty Guilty Guilty
- \* White Williams - Smoke
- \* Doing It: Clinic speak exclusively to DiS about new album
- \* Our Broken Garden - Lost Sailor EP
- \* Singles Round-up (05/05/08)
- \* Madonna - Hard Candy
- \* Mixtape #8: Barry Adamson
- \* Jim Noir - Jim Noir
- \* HEALTH at London Kilburn The Luminaire, Thu 01 May
- \* Mystery Jets at London King's Cross Scala, Thu 24 Apr
- \* DiS Missive: Punks, critics, and why not to trust anyone over 30

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