

FILTER ALBUMS

Diamanda Galás


★★★

Guilty Guilty Guilty

MUTE

The shock'n'awe Maria Callas reworks tragic and homicidal love songs.

For all the disturbance ascribed to rock'n'roll noiseniks down the decades, there's little that comes close to this one woman, one piano squadron of sonic disgust. For 25 years, Galás has sung of saints and Satan, of prayers and plagues and, above all, of injustice and despair. Her voice, stricken and strangled, could shatter glass at 20 paces. Her piano is as much battering ram as instrument of beauty. Clearly, it is not everyone's cup of tea. Though this, her first album in four years, shows little sign of softening, its country, gospel and blues covers – Timi Yuro's Interlude (Time), Tracy Nelson's Down So Low and Long Black Veil among them – offer an olive branch to the uninitiated. Best of all, however, is Ralph Stanley's O Death, featuring an extended, Arabic style howl that draws an inevitable veil



Diamanda Galás: one woman's sonic disgust.