

Introducing Letizia Gambi

"INTRODUCING LETIZIA GAMBI" is the album title of Letizia Gambi's debut (produced by Jando Music) and is also the objective of this original music project that the Neapolitan artist created and developed together with Lenny White, one of the most prominent jazz artists and producers worldwide. Considered to be among the founding fathers of the musical movement that became known as "fusion," Lenny White played on two of the most important fusion records ever made: Miles Davis' *Bitches Brew* and Freddie Hubbard's *Red Clay*. White earned a worldwide reputation as the drummer in the mid-'70s supergroup Return to Forever with Chick Corea and Stanley Clark. His versatility attracted the attention of the finest jazz musicians, leading to collaborations ranging from Herbie Hancock to rapper LL Cool J and Daddy Kane, passing through Santana, Stan Getz, Gil Evans, Jaco Pastorius, Wayne Shorter, Marcus Miller, Michel Petrucciani, Bill Withers, and Chaka Khan to name a few. White is band leader and soundtracks author (Spike Lee and Reginald Hudlin) as well as Grammy award-winning musician and producer.

Lenny White was captivated by the talent and artistic project of Letizia and after eighteen months of hectic work between Milan, Rome and New York, "Introducing Letizia Gambi" (produced by Jando Music) was finally brought to life. This exciting release translates into a richness of invention as the synthesis of two seemingly distant worlds - authentic African-American Jazz heritage and subtle Mediterranean melodies - blend in perfect harmony, creating an innovative musical sound. Lenny and Letizia define it as "Cultural Fusion" and reinterpreted a repertoire of Neapolitan and Italian selections, international covers and original songs of great musical and emotional impact, in a very personal style yet with a fresh, contemporary approach. "Introducing Letizia Gambi" is therefore the union of two cultural heritages and two differing artistic viewpoints: a dialogue between a refined artistic sensibility of the Italian artist and the experience of the legendary American musician. Both artists like to describe the project as a collaboration spurred by a desire to experiment and shape a 21st century approach to music. The idea was highly appealing to a number of wordly-acclaimed musicians who supported and collaborated in the project, eager to accept the challenge launched by Lenny and Letizia. Ron Carter, Chick Corea, Wallace Roney, Patrice Rushen, Gil Goldstein and Gato Barbieri (to name a few), enriched a number of tracks with their musical sensitivity and extraordinary performances, making the album even more extraordinary. The Mediterranean passion is expressed through the sensitivity and the language of the legendary jazz musicians involved, all under the artistic vision of Lenny White, directing his driving creative force as in a film production. Each of the tracks in "Introducing Letizia Gambi" are very different and yet they hang together into one musical landscape. The music wanders away, alternating between Arab and vaguely Latin atmospheres of "Appocundria" (Pino Daniele's well-known cover song, enhanced by Chick Corea's piano) to Prince's "The question of U" where Gato Barbieri performs a solo of rare beauty. The famous "Tu si'na cosa grande" translated into "You Are So Special", with Wallace

Roney on trumpet, is the only English recording authorized by Mrs. Franca Gandolfi, wife of the great Domenico Modugno, who was fascinated by this large-scale jazz work. The album includes songs in English, Neapolitan, Italian and Spanish while the original songs are composed, piano four hands, by Letizia and Lenny. The album was recorded entirely in the USA, except for the recording in Italy of the track "Secret Tears", from the well-known aria "Una furtiva lagrima" (contained in Gaetano Donizetti's opera "L'elisir d'amore"), which was readapted in English by Letizia, with the participation of renowned Italian jazz artists Antonio Farao', Dario Rosciglione, and Max Ionata.

"Letizia Gambi is a stunning vocalist!"

STING

"...It was soooo nice to play with/for a singer that can really sing."

RON CARTER

"Lenny White and Letizia Gambi have created the hippest musical address in Naples; at the intersection of Neapolitan music and jazz."

GIL GOLDSTEIN

"Letizia is a new artist with an old soul. I'm always looking for new artists who have knowledge and respect of tradition but free spirited enough not to look at me crazy when I ask them to change it. Letizia Found me. She's really a human dynamo and the best student I ever had. Ladies and Gentlemen : Introducing Letizia Gambi!"

LENNY WHITE

"Introducing Letizia Gambi is one of those dramatic arrivals that challenges categories and assumptions. It's a longer way of saying simply that this album is indeed a rare thing – one that deserves to be heard and considered according to its own merits."

ASHLEY KHAN

"INTRODUCING LETIZIA GAMBI" was nominated for the 55th GRAMMY AWARDS as :

-BEST VOCAL JAZZ ALBUM

-BEST INSTRUMENTAL ARRANGEMENT ACCOMPANYING VOCALIST (S) with "'O sole Mio"

"You Are So Special (Tu sì 'na cosa grande)"

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