

Lisa Dillan

Long bio:

Lisa Dillan (b. 1969) is a singer and composer/performance artist. She was born in Bodø, Norway, in 1969, and has been a dedicated Elvis fan since 1977. She learned how to play the guitar and piano as child, and started to compose her own “Elvisongs” in the age of 10 (Rock-a-hula-baby-soundcloud?). “In 1984 she won the Northern Norway contest in Break Dance, and was a member of two breakdance crews in the period 1983-1986, along with two or three local rock bands in Bodø. It sounded awful, and she almost stopped singing at the age of 17.

In 1989 she took classical singing lessons with Kristin Kostopoulos whom invited her to a one-day session with the jazz trio “Trio Nord” (Jan Gunnar Hoff, Terje Wenaas and Finn Sletten). This was an important moment for Lisa, discovering the core of improvisation and jazz. She was quite soon invited in as vocalist for Bodø Big Band, conducted by Henning Gravrok. She started her professional singing career in Bodø Big Band about 1991. Musicians like Henning Gravrok, Jan Gunnar Hoff, Kåre Garnes, Børge P. Øverleir, and many more, contributed to Lisa’s first experiences as a performing jazz singer.

During the period of 1990–1996 it was the standard jazz repertoire that was Lisa’s main focus, in addition to folk music, and her own compositions. After an encounter with pianist Steve Dobrogosz at Sinus Jazz Club in Bodø, Lisa was sent 7–8 songs from Steve. Some of these tunes were aired on NRK radio in 1994, featuring Tord Gustavsen on piano.

In 1996, Lisa gained admission to the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, with jazz/improvisation as her major. In 2008 she finished her master degree in improvisation (Artistic Research with thesis “The art of practicing something that does not yet exist”).

Internationally

Lisa have been touring in China, Russia, Japan, USA, Dutchland, Germany, England, Spain, France, Finland, Denmark and Sweden, and she has collaborated wity many and and different musicians and internationally renowned artists. We find her together with great legends from the core of the American pop and rock history: James Burton, Norbert Putnam, Paul Leim, Glen D. Hardin, David Briggs, Reggie Young, Charlie McCoy, Steve Gibson, but also more avant garde artists and composers like Pauline Oliveros and Christian Wolff, quite central composers and artists from the renowned “New York school. She has also workes with improvising musicians like Gino Robair (US), Yann Le Nestour (SE/FR), Henrik Wartel, Lisa Ullén, Nina DeHeney, Isac Eldh, (SE) and Fred Frith (US) and Martin Sonderkamp (DE) in the artistic research project “INTERIMP”.

In 1997 Lisa started to experiment with the borderlines “Music” and “Movement”, and have worked in several improvised projects where art forms and medias are mixed. She has collaborated with among others, artists and dancers such as: Jerry Gardner (US), Pia

Lindy and Giorgio Convertiti (Fin), Anna Westberg, Lotta Melin and Johan Thelander (SE), video artist Christina Hallström (SE/NL), light designers such as Johan Rödström, Niklas Pohlman and Viktor Vendin (SE) and more.

Norway

Sidsel Endresen, Tord Gustavsen, Jan Gunnar Hoff, Ivar Antonsen, Geir Lysne, Lene Grenager and Hild Sofie Tafjord in the trio "Slinger", Maja S. K. Ratkje, Live Maria Roggen, Ingar Zach, Per Zanussi, Ivar Grydeland, Victoria Johnsen, Else Olsen S., Øyvind Storesund, No Spaghetti Edition, Helge Lien, Børge Petersen Øverleir, Kåre Garnes, Asbjørn Lerheim, Roger Arntzen and more. In 2002 she collaborated with the late but great Anne-Lise Berntsen in the improvisational duo "Hipp, hipp..", taped for NRK TV. The latter was chosen as NRK's entry in the "Gullpalmen" awards in 2002. The same year, Lisa was invited to join Sidsel Endresen's band for the commissioned work "Living Rooms" for the 30th anniversary of "Nattjazz" in Bergen, working alongside Solveig Slettahjell, Christian Wallumrød, Jan Bang and video artist Tone Myskja.

In interdisciplinary collaborations she has worked with dancers such as Steffi Lund, Anne Panda Gjems Rudi, Eric McKenzie, Siri Jøntvedt, Kari Anne Bjerkestrand, Maja Roel, and also Elisabeth Nilsson, with improvised light design.

Lisa had her debut as choreographer and director in her own piece "Who Is? In 2011, an accommodation work from the ensemble "Små Grå"

Currently, Lisa works in various musical projects, and improvisation has been and is a main performing ingredient all the way. After Elvis returned to her building, she has also had a lot to do with her Quite Quiet Project in collaboration with guitar player Asbjørn Lerheim and with Elvis original musicians; she has even been called the reincarnation of Elvis in the "Adresseavisa".

List of credits:

Henning Gravrok, Kristin Kostopolous, Finn Normann Løvdahl, Kristin Lund, Magne Hanssen, Lene Grenager, Sidsel Endresen, Torgrim Sollid, Nils Bjerkestrand, Gro Shetelig, Bjørn Kruse, Lasse Thoresen, Elef Nesheim, Pål Granlund and Flaming Star, Paul Leim and Elvis musicians – and all collaborators through all the years.