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# SELF-PENNED SONGS FEATURED ON UTE LEMPER'S NEW ALBUM

# UTE LEMPER: BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

# UTE DEPARTS FROM USUAL REPERTOIRE

# FOR A MORE

# COMTEMPORARY AND REFLECTIVE VOYAGE THROUGH THE WORLD AND THROUGH TIME

# **RELEASE DATE: FALL, 2008**

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(Fall, 2008 New York, New York) Ute Lemper, the internationally renowned multi-faceted singer–songwriter, actress, will release her new album *Ute Lemper: Between Yesterday and Tomorrow,* Fall 2008. The album is a compilation of songs written by Lemper.

It is her most precious work because she was completely involved with every aspect of its creation. The album presents Lemper's clearest most subjective vision of storytelling in music. She attempted to translate the complex, troubled and beautiful world that she lives in, into a poetic and musical experience, which combines elements of various genres and cultures of music.

It signifies Lemper's break from her Pan-European cabaret style, songs from the Weimar era, and American Song Book, to what Lemper says is a more "groovy, intimate, jazzy and sexy, but also political work." It is a poetic and philosophical journey through the world and her life. The songs were inspired by events that stayed in Lemper's mind and intrigued, fascinated, shocked or hurt her. Explains Lemper, "Cities and years passed before me like a movie: close ups of people's faces, places of poetry or doom and insights into my own heart are some of the images I drew from."

"The songs on the album form an epic journey," says Lemper. "Ghosts of Berlin is a song that walks through cinematic and political territories, focuses on my memories of Berlin, contrasted with the Berlin of today. It depicts the city during the cold war as the little scarred island in the middle of the East Block: Berlin with a wall separating East from West." Furthering this image is the album cover, a collage of graffiti from the Berlin Wall (actually the East Side Gallery, which is still a strip of wall in the former east side of Berlin) a reminder of what was, and the changes that occurred. The faces on the album were taken from Lemper's own paintings, and include a couple of self-portraits.

Lemper's interest in historical and current events, politics and philosophy are blended into the themes of several songs on the CD including *Nevada, Nomads*, and *September Mourn.* Nevada takes a hard look at the bombs blowing off in the Nevada desert in the 50's and 60's, spreading rays of light and death in the air, and then underground. September Mourn, is a return to September 11, another day when explosions ripped through the air. Lemper says "the horror was so visual in the bright blue sky that morning, and the abuse in our souls and minds was so deep, that one could not speak about the pain and later the fear. Janet Appel Public Relations, 205 West 54 Street, NY, NY 10019 Press contact: Janet Appel 212-258-2413 or 212-757-9124, Cell: 917-282-1785

# **UTE LEMPER**

# <u>BIO</u>

Ute Lemper's career is vast and varied. She has made her mark on the stage, in films, in concert and as a unique recording artist. She has been universally praised for her interpretations of Berlin Cabaret Songs, the works of Kurt Weill and French chanson and for her portrayals on Broadway, in Paris and in London's West End. She will release her new album *Ute Lemper: Between Yesterday and Tomorrow,* Fall 2008. The album is unique to Ute's body of work as she composed all of the songs on the album.

She was born in Munster, Germany and completed her studies at The Dance Academy in Cologne and the Max Reinhardt Seminary Drama School in Vienna.

Her professional debut on the musical stage was in the original Vienna production of *Cats* in the roles of Grizabella and Bombalurina. She went on to play Peter Pan in *Peter Pan* (Berlin) and Sally Bowles in Jerome Savary's *Cabaret* (Paris) for which she received the Moliere Award for Best Actress in a Musical. She played Lola in *The Blue Angel* (Berlin) and Maurice Bejart created a ballet for her, *La Mort Subite* (Paris). *Ute* also appeared in many *Weill Revues* with the Pina Bausch Tanztheater, and she created the part of Velma Kelly in London's production of CHICAGO in the West End, for which she was honored with the Laurence Olivier Award, and moved to the Broadway production after one year.

Ute Lemper's solo concerts, which include *Kurt Weill's Recital, Illusions, City of Strangers* and *Berlin Cabaret Evening* have been produced in prestigious venues throughout the world. Her symphony concerts include *The Seven Deadly Sins, Songs from Kurt Weill, Songbook (*Michael Nyman) and *Songs from Piaf and Dietrich* with the symphony orchestras of London, Israel, Boston, Hollywood, San Francisco, Berlin The Paris Radio Symphony Orchestra, The Illusions Orchestra (Bruno Fontaine) and the Michael Nyman Band (Michael Nyman). She also appeared in *Folksongs* with the Luciano Berio Orchestra (Luciano Berio) and with The Matrix Ensemble (Robert Ziegler) performing *Berlin Cabaret Songs*.

Her celebrated recordings for DECCA include Ute Lemper Sings Kurt Weill (Vols. I and II), Three Penny Opera, The Seven Deadly Sins, Mahogonny Songspiel, Prospero's Books (Michael Nyman), Songbook (Michael Nyman/Paul Celan), Illusions (Piaf/Dietrich), City of Strangers (Prever/Sondheim) and Berlin Cabaret Songs (German and English versions). She was named Billboard Magazine's Crossover Artist of the Year for 1993-1994. Her latest release on Decca are But One Day, (March, 2003), which features new arrangements of Weill, Brel, Piazolla, Heymann and Eisler songs, as well as the first recordings of her own compositions, for which she wrote both lyrics and music. In early 2000, Decca/Universal Music released Punishing Kiss, featuring new songs composed for her by Elvis Costello, Tom Waits, Philip Glass, and Nick Cave. She has also recorded Crimes of the Heart, Life is a Cabaret and Ute Lemper Live for CBS Records and for POLYDOR, Espace Indecent, Nuits Etranges and She Has a Heart. Recently she recorded a Live album and a Live DVD at the Carlyle, one of New York's hottest Cabaret stages. It was released worldwide on DRG/ Koch records and EDEL records in Europe.

All That Jazz/The Best of Ute Lemper, which features highlights from her illustrious career to date was released in 1998. It accompanied her playing Velma Kelly in the London production of Kander and Ebb's *Chicago* for which she received the 1998 Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical. After nine months in London's West End Ms. Lemper made her Broadway debut in September 1998. A major highlight of her eight months American engagement in *Chicago* was starring with Chita Rivera in the Las Vegas premiere in March 1999.

In film, her many credits include L'Autrichienne (Pierre Granier-Deferre), Prospero's Books (Peter Greenaway), Moscow Parade (Ivan Dikhovichni), Pret a Porter (Robert Altman), Bogus (Norman Jewison) and the most recent releases, Combat de Fauves (Benoit Lamy), A River Made to Drown In (James Merendino) and Appetite (George Milton). She has appeared on television in Rage/Outrage, The Dreyfus Affair (Arte), Tales from the Crypt (HBO), Ute Lemper Sings Kurt Weill (Bravo), Illusions (Granada), Songbook (Volker Scholendorff), The Wall (Rogers Waters) and The Look of Love (Gillina Lynn).

Ms. Lemper currently lives in New York with her three children, Max, Stella and Julian.

*Nomads, the* centerpiece of the album is a journey through the Middle East. It is based on an old Arabic Poem written by the Islamic teacher Ibn al Arabi, in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The poem is about the highest purpose of religion and faith being love. Lemper says, "She connected the symbolic and political vision with the voyage of those who are beyond all religions and nationalistic identities – the Nomads." The Arabic prolog and the Hebrew epilog is a poem for humanity and tolerance, vividly expressing the connections to the past and the future.

For Lemper, who lives in New York City, the aim and the goal is the journey, not the status and material gain. Her days are packed with responsibilities, challenges, and, she says " elements of love, worry and curiosity and definitely unconditional love for my 3 kids." These thoughts are most pronounced in *The Greatest Ride, Stranger Friend, Wings of Desire, Here is Love, Luna and Blood and Feathers*. These songs tell the story of life and love, and a never ending evolution of doors that open and close, only to surprise you with something new or old, that presents the opportunity to reflect on yesterday and tomorrow.

The album will be available on Itunes.com and amazon.com. For a preview of the album, further information about Ute Lemper and her newest video go to: <u>www.utelemper.com</u>.

## **ABOUT UTE LEMPER:**

Ute Lemper's performing career grows out of a passionate and enduring commitment to art, politics and history, and out of a contentious and complicated relationship with her homeland and its past. Her panache, versatility and sophisticated repertoire - including Berlin cabaret songs and the dark gems of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill - have led her to international acclaim as a recording artist, and in the theatre, cabaret and film worlds.

She was the Billboard crossover-recording artist in 1992. She has won French, US and British theatre awards for her numerous performances in Plays and Musicals including the Laurence Olivier Award and the American Theatre Award for her portrayal of Velma Kelly in Chicago, and the Moldier Award for her Sally Bowles in the Parisian production of Cabaret, as well as many awards as an international recording artist.

# CRITICS COMMENTS ABOUT UTE'S PAST PERFORMANCES:

Stephen Holden, The New York Times 2005 "Her material is invested with a "ferocity that infuses the art (and artifice) of cabaret with a dramatic intensity."

Stephen Brookes, The Washington Post 2006 "Her voice is a wonder, one moment a husky growl, the next a lilting soprano, the nest a strangled cri de couer-all while shifting effortlessly among French, English, and German. But the most striking thing about Lemper's singing is its authenticity.

Pat Craig, Contra Costa Times 2006"A vocal range that can be measured in miles rather than octaves."

Production:

Album Production and arrangements by Ute Lemper and Todd Turkisher. Special Arrangements by Vana Gierig and Mark Lambert. Mixed by Kevin Killen and mastered with Bob Ludwig.

# Between Vesterday and Tomorrow

Ute's extraordinary new album, due for US release in the fall of 2008, is groundbreaking in that it is her first release consisting entirely of self-penned songs.

# Between Yesterday and Tomorrow...



# Featuring:

GREATEST RIDE STRANGER FRIEND BLOOD & FEATHERS LUNA GHOSTS OF BERLIN WINGS OF DESIRE NOMAD HERE IS LOVE NEVADA SEPTEMBER MOURN EPILOG

"This journey "between yesterday and tomorrow" through time and places in the world is also a journey through my heart. It is a collection of memories, impressions, moments of joy, but also vulnerable moments of doubt and outrage. It moves between clearness and painful confusion, hope and despair about world issues but always wants to stay poetic in its thought and language.

Why I am telling these stories... and not others... I could have told a hundred different stories, yet at the moment in time, it was an impulsive, intuitive decision to focus on this selection of stories. The songs felt like a medication, which searches and finds various inflammation in the body of the world and in the body of life, trying to treat them poetically and positively.

But the wheel of our histories keeps spinning and some events make us stronger, some make us weaker on our journeys between yesterday and tomorrow."

TOWN

This album took 2 years to be born. It is one of my most precious works as I was involved with its creation at every minute and every phase. It presents my clearest most subjective vision of storytelling in music. I attempted to translate the complex, troubled and also beautiful world I am living in into a poetic and musical experience, which combines elements of various genres and cultures of music.

The project has been realized with the dedicated and passionate co-production and vision of my partner Todd Turkisher. Our musical family grew for many years of making music together and touring several times around the world. This also includes our co-producer Vana Gierig on Piano and Mark Lambert on Guitar and Dave Swanson, our engineer. These four fantastic artists and friends contributed with their heart and craft, a variety of beautiful arrangements, musical landscapes and grooves, to this recording.

All songs written by: Ute Lemper Published by: Lemper Music Company (ASCAP) Administered by Bug, except track 11 (the Epilog) published by: Lambert's Shine Music

All titles produced by: Ute Lemper & Todd Turkisher Tracks 3.4 and 8 with co-production by Werner "Vana" Gierio

Engineered by: Dave Swanson at Toddstudio, NYC Strings recorded by: Nic Hard at Loho studio & Kampo studio Mixed by: Kevin Killen at Sevonay Sound Mastered by: Bob Ludwig at Gateway Mastering CD Design/Artwork: Charl Kroeger (www.designck.com) Photographs of Ute: Fran Janik (www.franjanik.com) except pg 10 & 24: Brigitte Dummer (http://www.promi-media.de)

9/11 tribute photo pg 20: Charl Kroeger

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig **Bass:** Morris Pleasure Drums: Todd Turkisher Drum Programming: Todd Turkisher & Dave Swanson Background Vocals: Ute Lemper, Catherine Russell, Mark Lambert

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig **Bass: Morris Pleasure** Drums: Todd Turkisher Drum Programming: Todd Turkisher & Dave Swanson Background Vocals: Ute Lemper, Catherine Russell, Mark Lambert String Arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C Strings featuring: Violin: Jonathon Dinklage Cello: Wolfram Koessel

## CREDITS

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure Drums: Todd Turkisher Percussion: Mauro Refosco Drum Programming: Todd Turkisher & Dave Swanson Bandoneon: Hector Del Curto Background Vocal: Ute Lemper and Mark Lambert String Arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C strings featuring: Violin: Jonathon Dinklage Cello: Wolfram Koessel

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards & Sonic Landscape: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure Drums: Todd Turkisher Trumpet: Special appearance by Nils Wuelker Percussion: Mauro Refosco Background Vocals: Ute Lemper, Catherine Russell, Mark Lambert

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure & Gregory Jones Drums & Percussion: Todd Turkisher Background Vocals: Ute Lemper String Arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C Strings

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure Drums: Todd Turkisher Drum Programming: Werner "Vana" Gierig Percussion: Mauro Refosco Harmonica: William Galison Background Vocals: Ute Lemper, Catherine Russell, Mark Lambert

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure Drums & Loops: Todd Turkisher Percussion: Mauro Refosco Background Vocals: Ute Lemper and Max & Stella Lemper, Mark Lambert String Arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C Strings featuring: Violin: Jonathan Dinklage Cello: Wolfram Koessel

HERE IS LOVE Guitars: Mark Lambert Piano: Werner " Vana" Gierig Acoustic Bass: Matthew Parrish Drums & Percussion: Todd Turkisher Arrangement & String arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C strings featuring: Violin: Jonathon Dinklage Cello: Wolfram Koessel

Guitars: Mark Lambert Keyboards: Werner "Vana" Gierig Bass: Morris Pleasure Drums: Todd Turkisher Drum Programming: Todd Turkisher & Dave Swanson Background Vocals: Ute Lemper String Arrangement: Werner "Vana" Gierig Performed by Avenue C strings

Guitars: Mark Lambert Piano: Werner "Vana" Gierig Acoustic Bass: Matthew Parrish Electric Bass: Morris Pleasure Percussion: Todd Turkisher Background Vocals: Ute Lemper String Arrangement: Mark Lambert Performed by Avenue C strings featuring: Violin: Jonathon Dinklage Cello: Wolfran Koessel

Composed by Mark Lambert Cello: Wolfram Koessel

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# A CONVERSATION WITH UTE LEMPER

# What inspired you to create Ute Lemper: Between Yesterday and Tomorrow?

This CD is a collection of my own songs. It was created over the last 4 years. I already had several songs of my own on several previous albums, but this one just had to be a conceptual story telling from my view. It is a poetic journey through the world and through my life. Visions, events that stayed in my mind and intrigued or fascinated me, that shocked or hurt me. I turned around my own axis and life, cities and years passed by... like a movie. Close ups on to people's faces, places of poetry or doom and close ups into my own heart. This CD is a gift to myself. I did not need to record these songs as they did not necessarily fit into the tradition of my previous recordings (around 17 CDs in over 22 years). It is not chanson or theatrical material but a more contemporary, reflective and poetic voyage through the world and through time. It is groovy, intimate, jazzy and sexy.

I wrote the songs on airplanes, in New York City taxis stuck in traffic, at home at my piano, around midnight, when my kids were asleep and the phone finally stopped ringing, and in backstage dressing rooms.

## How did the album come about?

We first performed these songs here in NY in a Jazz club a couple of years ago with my band. My band and I collectively arranged the songs. I have a fantastic group of 4 genius musicians with whom I work and tour for many years. (Vana Gierig on Piano/ Mark Lambert on Guitar/ Todd Turkisher on Drums and Percussion/ Don Falzone and Mo Pleasure on Bass) All of them put their craft and vision into this project.

We had a wonderful success here New York City in THE JAZZ AU BAR and I thought to document these pieces onto an album. My partner in music and life Todd Turkisher suggested to produce the tracks in his studio in Chelsea, we took more than a year to finish the recording, invited some great guest musicians to spread their wings and their colors over the album. In the meantime I had my third child and took a little break from music to just enjoy my little baby boy. Finally we mixed with Kevin Killen and mastered with Bob Ludwig. And voila..... Here is life / here is love and here is *Between Yesterday and Tomorrow.* 

# What is the relationship of the album cover to the songs on the CD?

The album cover is a collage of graffiti from the Berlin Wall (actually the East Side Gallery, which is still a strip of wall in the former east part of Berlin), several faces taken off my own paintings, and of course some self-portrait.

# How would you describe each song?

Some songs tell the story of life and love, chapters and a never ending evolution, doors that open and doors that close only to surprise you with something new or something old, only to make you wake up or lull you into happy or painful feelings, only to continue the

story of your life. The aim and the goal is the journey, not anything material or any status. At least not for me. Every day is packed with responsibilities, challenges and chores and hopefully elements of love and definitely unconditional love for the kids. (The Greatest Ride/ Stranger Friend/ Wings of Desire/ Here is Love/ Luna/ Blood and Feathers)

Some other songs walk through more cinematic territories. My memories about Berlin during the cold war, Berlin, the little scarred island in the middle of the East Block, Berlin with a wall separating east from west. The images of these times are so concretely frozen in my mind that it was already a poem only to be written down into music and words. (Ghosts of Berlin)

Then the nuclear bombs blowing off in the desert of Nevada in the 50s and 60s. First in the air, spreading rays of light and death, then underground.... The names given to these bombs were unbelievably strange and ironic. (Nevada)

A journey through the Middle East. I took an old Arabic poem written by the Islamic teacher Ibn al Arabi in the 12<sup>th</sup> century about the highest purpose of Religion and faith being love. This religion of love should raise above all the other dogma. I connected this symbolic and political vision with the voyage of those who are beyond all religions and nationalistic identities, the Nomads. The song NOMAD including the Arabic prolog and the Hebrew epilog is one of the centerpieces of the album. It is a poem for humanity and tolerance.

September Mourn brings us back to day of September 11<sup>th</sup> here in NY. It was the first day after the summer break for my kids to be back in school. It started out as a joyful and exciting normal day only to be turned into the most painful and horrible, shocking day in this beloved city of lights and diversity. And again the horror was so visual in the bright blue sky of that morning..... and the abuse in our souls and our minds was deep, that one could not speak about the pain and later the fear.. Years have gone by..... grass has grown over the scars.... Yet, the song still shivers and resonates in our subconscious.

## Where is the album available?

Amazon.com- (European label) It will be available on itunes.com and amazon.com (digitally) and other music internet stores in the Fall. WWW.UTELEMPER.COM

What are you planning to do now that the album is completed?

I will continue to perform in Europe through 2008, and already have European concerts booked well into 2009. A United States Tour is planned for 2009 in major market cities.

My U.S. performances in 2008 are all in New York City and include: The Spiegeltent, August 24, 2008 Carnegie Hall, October 4, 2008 Joes Pub on Nov, 14,15, 21, 22, 28, and 29. I will perform 2 shows each night.