



BLINQ

BOOKING NOW FOR 2012

THE START OF A BRAND NEW VOCAL SUPERGROUP



**Brendan Reilly, Liane Carroll, Natalie Williams, Ian Shaw
(vocals)**

Gwilym Simcock (piano and melodica)



**"No ifs, no buts about this one. The debut of vocal
supergroup BLINQ, on the glorious 12th goes straight up
there as one of my gigs of the year".**

(World Premiere at Ronnie Scott's, August 12th 2011, part of Britjazz Festival. Review by Sebastian Scotney)

[READ FULL REVIEW](#)

INFORMATION AT www.bashomusic.co.uk/blinq.htm

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BIOGS

NATALIE WILLIAMS

“One of the UK's hottest singers...she effortlessly moves from soul-diva to sensual and sophisticated jazz.” **Time Out**

“Brilliant, yet mysteriously underrated, Anglo-Hungarian jazz singer/songwriter Williams knocks spots off most wannabe *chanteuses* by mixing serious jazz singing with sassy Aretha Franklin-styled soul and effortless charisma.” **Time Out**

“The moment she starts to sing she becomes a commanding, strutting presence, scatting with an infectious relish.” **Telegraph**

... I saw her play recently and it was just incredible. She's a truly real, beautiful star, worthy of everyone's attention.” **Jamie Cullum**

“...She brings to her performances an impressive set of vocal chops as well as a sensational ten-piece backing band.... Songs like *This Girl*, *Butterfly* and *The Way We Like It* would, in a parallel universe not too different from our own, have been very big hits indeed.” **Metro**

True artistry tends to sidestep the allure of celebrity in favour of championing itself as the sincere alternative; it's behind the songs that tickle the emotions, whisper the deepest secrets and prove that the artist possesses a genius that'll ensure they're remembered as one of the shining lights of our era. This is the story of Natalie Williams – a MOBO nominated singer-songwriter whose accomplishments as one of the UK's leading soul-jazz stars speak of a woman who understands how to combine her femininity and independence with a superior talent to create songs of love's highs and woes that resonates with the soul.

It's a gift that was first developed as child growing up in Berlin. Born to a Hungarian mother and British poet, John Hartley Williams, Natalie first realised her love for jazz music after discovering her dad's immense record collection. Listening to artists such as Nancy Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Aretha Franklin inspired her to take the singing further than just a hobby and after attending a series of workshops at high school, she was awarded a scholarship in 1995 to do a course at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. She then spent a term at the Hanns Eisler School for Music studying jazz under the tutelage of the renowned vocalist Judy Niemack and two years later, she moved to London to study at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where past alumni include soul singer Omar, Dido and the legendary jazz composer Dave Holland.

By 2000, she was touring Europe as a member of the European Youth Jazz Orchestra, and spent her last year at Guildhall collaborating with a number of underground producers before signing a development deal with urban independent label Eastside Records. She says: “I knew that what I'd learned in school was useful and had been very valuable to me to grow as a musician, but I also knew I had to get out there and just do my thing.” Her 2003 debut, *Lucky Old Sun*, was a live album that put a new spin on classic jazz standards and was recorded in only two days. This was followed up with the critically acclaimed album, *Yours Truly*, in 2004.

The jazzy soulful opus drew comparisons with Erykah Badu and Jill Scott and firmly established the young talent with the stunning vocals as a fresh exponent of modern soul and jazz.

Her newfound status saw her take 2006 by storm. She released her third album, *Secret Garden*, and around the same time became the resident singer at the world renowned Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club,

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playing opposite luminaries such as Jeff Beck, The Crusaders, Tower Of Power, Steve Gadd, Kenny Barron, Nigel Kennedy, Joe Lovano, Jon Hendrix and Jools Holland.

Her monthly residency, Soul Family Sundays, that began in a low-ceilinged bar in Islington in 2003, moved with her to this prestigious venue and has been a sell out event ever since (now almost 5 years running). Guests have included Amy Winehouse, Jamie Cullum, Hamish Stuart, Alice Russell, Gwyneth Herbert, Krystle Warren, Jarle Bernhoft and many more, and in 2009 she was proud to release the *Soul Family Volume 1* compilation album featuring the cream of UK soul talent including Conner Reeves, Vula (Basement Jaxx), Tawiah and Lucie Silvas.

Also a very accomplished songwriter, Natalie signed her first publishing deal with Peer Music in 2007 and as a top-line writer she has collaborated with Shy FX and Hospital Records' Nu:tone, gaining fans from enthusiastic D&B lovers worldwide.

The long awaited 4th solo album from Natalie, *My Oh My*, was released in Sep 2010 and is a stunning collection of songs which draws on all of Ms Williams' many influences, effortlessly bringing them together through masterful song-writing and peerless vocals.

My Oh My is a pop-inspired opus displaying a new phase in Natalie's musical journey with every tune written by Natalie herself. Some with help from her handpicked band, some with trusted producers Anthony Whiting (M.I.A.), Mathias Wollo (Lemar, Wiley), Drew Horley (Estelle, TY) and some just with Natalie and her piano.

Throughout her career, Natalie has toured extensively around the globe, performing at a number of the world's leading jazz events including opening the 2009 London Jazz Festival at the Barbican with Guy Barker's Jazz Voice, Rochester Jazz Festival (New York), Birdland Jazz Club (NYC), Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, as well as Glastonbury with Shlomo and the Vocal Orchestra. She has also appeared as a featured artist with The Heritage Orchestra, Goldie, Bugz In The Attic and with and alongside Amy Winehouse, John Legend, Lemar, Alison Moyet, Jamie Cullum, Babyface, the Neville Brothers and recently with Manu Katché on his French TV show 'One Shot Not'.

As Natalie goes from strength to strength, it's clear she's the kind of artist who's pioneering the DIY ethos with a fierce belief in her craft – a drive rewarded in October 2010 when she was nominated for a MOBO award for best UK soul, in a category alongside international legends Sade, Corinne Bailey-Rae and Plan B. Whether she's moonlighting as sensational singer-songwriter, producer, label owner, or champion of burgeoning talent, she'll forever be the epitome of a true artist.

Natalie has spent 2011 working on her 5th album. This offering being more acoustic and jazzy in nature, which has seen a beautiful collaboration between herself and the incredible London based pianist and composer, Tom Cawley (Curios), with some of the lyrics written by her father, poet, John Hartley Williams. 'Immortal' is due for release in early 2012.

In addition to this, Natalie started a close harmony "super group", BLINQ, with not only her musical heroes, but some of her best friends in the business, Brendan Reilly, Liane Carroll, Ian Shaw with stunning arrangements and accompaniment delivered by Mercury and MOBO nominated virtuoso pianist, Gwilym Simcock. BLINQ had their sell out debut concert at Ronnie Scott's in August 2011 and hopefully their debut album won't be too far behind...

..."People can't help but go away with a bit of Williams' natural sparkle having attached itself to them" **Deuce**



IAN SHAW

"Our finest jazz singer. Marvellous" **Time Out**

"He has few rivals" **Sunday Times**

"one of the contemporary scene's class acts" **The Guardian**

"Best Jazz Vocalist" at the BBC Jazz Awards in 2007 and 2004, Ian Shaw has already amassed a number of highly acclaimed albums and is a popular performer both in the UK and the US. An incredibly colourful character, he has been cited, along with Mark Murphy and Kurt Elling, as one of the world's finest male jazz vocalists.

In the summer of 2010 Shaw joined an historical legacy of artists and recorded his first Abbey Road studio album. Using a personal blueprint connection in the shape of legendary bassist Peter Ind, Shaw and his young guitarist collaborator, David Preston, assembled a stellar, international, cross-generational band resulting in a recording that led Jamie Cullum to say "the incomparable Ian Shaw... absolutely fantastic" and reflects Shaw's position as one of the world's leading jazz singers.

His acclaimed 2006 album "Drawn to All Things - the songs of Joni Mitchell" saw him "Praised far and wide as the single greatest male jazz vocalist Britain has to offer" by *Jazz Times*. This was followed in 2008 by the autobiographical collection co-penned with David Preston, *Lifejacket*, also on Linn Records. In 2009 Shaw recorded his long-awaited solo album, "Somewhere Towards Love" (Splash Point Records) which continues to represent beautifully his increasingly popular solo shows.

Shaw's career in performance began unusually for a jazz musician on the Alternative Cabaret Circuit, alongside such performers as Julian Clary, Rory Bremner and Jo Brand. Shaw was spotted by Dave Illic, jazz critic for *City Limits* and was described as "the voice of the decade".

During the next few years Shaw moved from the singer-pianist format to working with his new band to an eventual move into jazz. Shaw has toured extensively in the UK - regular venues include the Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Blackheath Concert Halls, Ronnie Scott's, The Vortex, the Jazz Café and The Barbican. Ian has played at all of the major jazz festivals in the UK including Cork, Brecon, Liverpool, Birmingham, Edinburgh (where he was nominated for a Perrier Award), Grimsby, Glasgow, Cheltenham, Scarborough, Swanage and St. Ives.

In Europe he has proved popular in France, Germany and Italy with numerous live appearances. He has also performed regularly in the States including Jazz at the Lincoln Center (New York), Cine Grill (Hollywood), the Fairmont (Chicago), The Nest (Washington DC), Fez Club (New York), the Ellington Church (New York), the Pasadena Auditorium (California), the Miami Film and Music Festival and the Arizona Jazz Party. He has also performed at the Hanoi Opera House and Ho Chi Minh City Opera in Vietnam.

His appearances on TV include guest slots with Jools Holland, Top of the Pops, The Jack Dee Show, Christmas Night with the Stars (BBC), C4's The Happening, TVAM, BBC Breakfast Show, BBC 2's A Night of Love, BBC 2's Jazz at the 606 and, more recently, numerous appearances on the Performance and Artsworld channels.

Collaborators over the years have been many and include Quincy Jones, Abudullah Ibrahim, Guy Barker, Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Iain Ballamy, Mornington Lockett, Barb Jungr, Cleo Laine, John Dankworth, Cedar Walton, Joe Lovano and Joe Beck. Shaw's ongoing and highly popular collaboration is a celebrated duet show with Claire Martin, the UK's finest female jazz singer - he guested on her 2002 album "Too Darn Hot!" (Linn AKD 243). Together they have toured the world in

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an intimate duo setting with Shaw playing piano and with the BBC Big Band. They co-hosted the 2004 BBC Jazz Awards.

Shaw was, for some time, the presenter on BBC Big Band Special on BBC Radio 2 and is also a regular on BBC Radios 2, 3 and 4 and the recently revamped JazzFM. He can also be heard on the new Ronnie Scott's radio show streamed through their website.

This year, 2011, Shaw has joined Rory Bremner and comedian Hattie Hayridge on a UK stand-up tour where Shaw has firmly returned to his roots by performing a mix of comedy and original songs.

One of his recent songs, *Somewhere Towards Love*, has been a radio favourite, chosen by both style icon, Molly Parkin, on her Desert Island Discs (BBC Radio 4) and by fellow performer Julian Clary on the Jools Holland Show (BBC Radio 2).

Shaw's 2008 album on Linn Records "Lifejacket" cements his growing reputation as a fine songwriter as well as a great jazz singer.

LIANE CARROLL

"Deeply Soulful, Wonderfully Honest" **The Times**

"Highly Recommended--I love it" **Michael Parkinson**

"Utterly brilliant" **Time Out**

Liane Carroll was born in London and raised in Hastings, where she currently lives with her husband, bassist Roger Carey. She started playing the piano at the age of three, under the tutorage of concert pianist Phyllis Catling, but soon developed a deep passion for everything jazz, soul and beyond. Both of her parents were singers and, following their divorce when Liane was six, she stayed with her mother and sister at her grand-parents house, where she was lovingly encouraged to carry on making as much of a racket as possible

In Hastings, at the age of 15, she started to appear with various bands both as a singer, pianist and composer. In 1998 she joined Trevor Watts Moire Music featuring Liam Genockey, Nana Tsioboe and Simon Picard, where they would embark on several world tours

After leaving the band, she appeared with many varied line-ups, including the Dave Holdsworth band, featuring bassist Roger Carey, and drummer Dave Trigwell

In 1990, she formed her own trio, married Roger Carey, now the resident bass player in the band, and continued to work with many visiting outfits, including two recordings and a tour with Gerry Rafferty, two tours with US guitar legend Jerry Donahue, and many European tours with the legendary Long John Baldry

At the same time, she met and started working and touring with guitarist/songwriter Peter Kirtley and joined the band alongside Steve Lamb (bass) and Greg Leppard (drums). As a unit, they would later record a charity song, Little Children (written by Kirtley) for the children of Brazil, with Sir Paul McCartney

Since 1993, Liane has appeared as a headline act at the legendary Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club, where she has also recorded two live CDs for their Jazz House label. She continues to be a regular at the celebrated 606 Club, in Chelsea

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In 2001, as well as keeping busy with her trio and solo work, she joined the live Drum Bass outfit, London Elektriccity. They would later tour New Zealand, Brazil (where they headlined to 50,000 people) and Glastonbury Festival, 2005. While the fast-burning soul/dance music was a slight departure from Liane's own work with her trio, it would prove an incredibly exciting time in her career, involving the release of two CDs and DVDs.

2003 saw the launch of her first solo album, *Billy No Mates*, a haunting and intimate collection of standards and originals, for the Independent label, Splash Point Records. The album was her biggest selling to date and, as well as being critically acclaimed, went on to win her two BBC Jazz Awards in 2005. She is the only musician ever to have picked up two of these awards in the same year.

In 2005, she released *Standard Issue*, with Splash Point, this time at Abbey Road studios, famous for its luscious piano sound. The album featured her trio, as well as special guests; Ian Shaw, a long-time friend and collaborator, and Bobby Wellins, perhaps our most beloved tenor saxophonist. It would also prove a hit with the critics and in 2006, enabled her to pick up the Marston Pedigree Jazz Award. She would later become the subject of an hour long television programme for the BBC, which featured a performance by Liane and her trio at the Brecon Jazz Festival.

In 2007, she continued a busy touring schedule with her trio as well as performing solo at the piano at many of the UK's more intimate settings. In May she picked up the award for 'Best female jazz vocalist' at the first ever Ronnie Scott's Jazz Awards, and in June her trio made a head-line appearance at Glastonbury Festival, which went out live to over 300,000 listeners on BBC Radio 3

Her eagerly awaited second solo album, *'Slow Down,'* was released in September the same year with Splashpoint Records, and launched to a sell-out audience at the 606 Club in London. It has since received superb reviews and was in December picked by the Sunday Times as one of their top five jazz albums of the year. A track from the album was also featured by Mojo Magazine in their 'Mojo's Top 10' Playlist selection.

In February 2008, Liane released her first DVD *'Liane Carroll Trio LIVE,'* which featured a performance from the Brecon Jazz Festival originally broadcast as a documentary on BBC4. Liane went on to pick up the 2008 Parliamentary Jazz Award for 'Musician Of The Year.' Later that year Liane formed an exciting new collaboration with the acclaimed Scottish jazz pianist Brian Kellock, and in November the pair toured throughout Scotland, at which The Herald declared, "This may well be British jazz's greatest double act." During the tour Liane and Brian recorded a live album at the Blue Lamp in Aberdeen. *"Live At The Lampie"* (Splash Point Records) was released on May 11th 2009 and launched at the Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho to rave reviews.

Later that year, Liane and her trio went Stateside for the first time and performed to rapturous audiences at Dizzy's Jazz Club at the Lincoln Center, and the Rochester Jazz Festival, before jetting off again to Ireland for a mini-tour of four venues in Belfast. Liane and the trio continue a busy touring schedule through 2010 and will be releasing a new album in the first quarter of 2011.

The Liane Carroll Trio currently comprises: Liane Carroll (Vocals/Piano), Roger Carey (Electric Bass) and Mark Fletcher (Drums).

Liane has been fortunate and privileged to have worked with many wonderful musicians, including:

Roger Carey, Mark Fletcher, Ian Shaw, Greg Leppard, Steve Lamb, Peter Kirtley, Liam Genockey, Colin Gibson, Kenny Craddock, Nana Tsiboe, Alan Hull, Dave Mattacks, Sara Colman, Jacqui Dankworth, Tony Colman, The Jungle Drummer, Andy Waterworth, Landslide, MC Wrec, Stamina MC, Alec



Dankworth, Guy Barker, Gerard Presencer, Norma Winstone, John Etheridge, Gary Husband, Tim Garland, Tim Whitehead, John Taylor, Kenny Wheeler, Trevor Watts, Dick Pearce, Bobby Wellins, John Parricelli, Vervan Weston, Phil Minton, Cleveland Watkiss, Phil Carmen, Martin Drew, Dave Trigwell, Marc Parnell, Bob Weston, Jerry Donahue, Clive Bunker, Simon Picard, Elton Dean, Jim Dvorak, Hugh Barns, Mel Collins, Gerry Rafferty, Long John Baldry, Hugh Murphy, Dave Holdsworth, Joe Lee Wilson, Julian Siegel, Liam Noble, Simon Purcell, Dave Wickens, Donna Terenzi, Jim Watson, Harvey Brough, Steve Watts, Winston Clifford, Paul Clarvis, Jim Mullen, Dick Morrissey, Neil Wilkinson, Rupert Cobb, Andy Williams, and many more

BRENDAN REILLY

Born and raised in LA to a family of musicians (his father and grandfather both played for legends such as Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan, and Ray Charles), the proverbial apple may not have fallen far from the tree but Brendan Reilly has well and truly flown the nest and found a musical family and home in London. After being named "Best Jazz Vocalist" and the Monterey Jazz Festival competition 2 years in a row and receiving a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music, Brendan studied at the prestigious Manhattan School of Music before realising that London, with its peerless live music scene, was the place for him. Noted for his versatility, he is known in the pop music world for his work as a solo artist, with artists such as multi-platinum Grammy winners Basement Jaxx, and as a session singer and backing vocalist with a long list of credits; in the soul and funk music world as a regular fixture at venerable London venues such as Ronnie Scott's (Soul Family) and the 606 Club (RB Funkestra); and now he is returning to his first love, jazz, with BLINQ featuring Gwilym Simcock. Already a sold out smash at their Ronnie Scott's debut, the 5 friends can't wait to share what they've created with the world, and in such esteemed company, Brendan can't think of a better way to return to jazz.