



Cabaret Exchange

“Raising the Bar on All Things Cabaret”

Lua Hadar with TWIST

Jazz at Pearl's, San Francisco, May 29, 2008

by Tyler Kent

Funk? Waltz? Swing? Soul? Latin? American? French? Italian? Cuban? ...Yes.

Nailing down the genre, time period, or even the geographical epicenter of Lua Hadar's sound is a tricky task. A bit of a nomad herself, Hadar has lived in Long Island (NY), San Francisco and Verona, Italy; she speaks French, English, and Italian; and her uniquely international approach – a self-proclaimed lust for travel – is the defining essence of her musicianship. Suffice to say that when you go to hear her sing, it is wise to follow in the sage words of Oscar Wilde: expect the unexpected.

The recipe: 1 part original music, 1 part international, and a dash of the standards...with a twist.

In the middle of a tour which began at the Iridium in New York and will slowly find its way to Bangkok's International Festival of Dance and Music in October, Lua Hadar fittingly brings a show full of international color, taking the audience on our own musical tour – complete with spice; with flavor; and, most of all, with Twist.

From the start of her set, the six-piece band made its mission clear: spicy Latin percussion and soaring sax solos by Tony Malfatti make you want to get up and dance. Samba tempi alongside Cuban melodies mixed with a healthy dose of medleys from the Great American Songbook never disappoint and always keep you on your toes.

With her Italian curls and expressive persona, Lua Hadar is the adhesive that brings this musical mix together. Jason Martineau's exciting arrangements keep the evening lively, but Hadar is most at home with her ballads – a slower tempo, simple instrumentation, and a chance to tell an intimate story. Though her classically trained voice occasionally seems to hesitate behind the more bright Latin rhythms, she shines when melting into the smooth, lazy breeze of songs like *Vorrei*, an Italian pop-ballad making its debut on her new album.

Hadar knows all-too-well that her work exists somewhere “outside the box” – hence she coined a new genre label: Jazz Without Borders. And as she prepares to take this show overseas, that label has never been more true.

For information on the artist: <http://www.luahadar.com/>

For information on her engagement at the Bangkok International Festival of Dance and Music: <http://www.bangkokfestivals.com/>