

*Intoxicating... Enchanting... Mesmerizing... Spell-Binding...*



## Danielle French Presents *MISS SCARLETT & THE MADMEN* *DARK LOVE SONGS*



Danielle French is a nomadic singer/songwriter based out of Calgary, AB who has been writing, recording and performing for 20 years. In 2012 Danielle was invited by creative director Pat mAcDonald (Grammy-nominated songwriter, formerly of the band Timbuk3- he wrote "The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades") to participate in a series of songwriting intensives at the Holiday Music Motel in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Three times a year, on Pat's invitation, dozens of songwriters of varying genres are housed at the Motel for a week at a time to co-write, record and perform together. Songwriters are paired through a random "spin-the-bottle" process, and this is where the magic happens...

Reflecting on the material she had co-written at the Holiday Music Motel songwriting intensives over the years, a group of songs emerged that proved to be transformational for Danielle, inspiring her to conjure up her latest project... *Miss Scarlett & the Madmen- Dark Love Songs!*

This project was recorded primarily at the Holiday Music Motel and at Makin' Sausage Music in Milwaukee, WI (co-produced by Steve Hamilton) and features many of the co-writers and musicians Danielle has collaborated with at the songwriting intensives, as well as Victor DeLorenzo (of the Violent Femmes) on drums. In preparation for recording her vocal tracks, Danielle spent a month in Nashville working intensively with vocal coach Julie Christensen (Julie sang with Leonard Cohen for 10 years). Vocal overdubs were recorded at The Madison Media Institute by instructor Dan Stoffels and student engineers.

Two additional songs were added to *Miss Scarlett & the Madmen- Dark Love Songs* as they fit thematically with the rest of the material including, "Splinters" (a Pat mAcDonald song that Danielle covered on a 2015 compilation tribute CD, *Begging His Graces- The Songs and Sins of Pat mAcDonald*, that featured various Holiday Music Motel artists) and "Black Sunday", which was recorded at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios rehearsal hall when Danielle and co-producer Tom Gordon traveled to England to see Kate Bush live at the Apollo in 2014.

Fronted and directed by Danielle French (*Miss Scarlett*) as the lead artist, songwriter and performer, *Miss Scarlett & the Madmen* is a musical collective featuring a rotating cast of "Madmen", bringing new instrumentations and arrangements to this collection of songs at each live show. In May 2015 Danielle performed "This is Why We Drink" at the Calgary Folk Festival/ Ship and Anchor songwriting competition, with herself on accordion and vocals, accompanied by a mandolin and tuba player, and it tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the "Cheers for 25 Years" category.



Danielle is also an established, award-winning filmmaker, having produced/directed three previous short films to her songs that have screened on Bravo! and at film festivals around the world. Thanks to a film grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Danielle is in the process of producing/directing a short film to an instrumental version of "Last Goodbye", the opening track on *Miss Scarlett & the Madmen- Dark Love Songs*. This film is currently in post-production.

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