

## **MAGDA GIANNIKOU BIO**

Magda Giannikou is a pianist, an accordionist, a singer, a composer, an orchestrator, a songwriter, a music producer, an aspiring dancer and a very good chef. Born and raised in Athens, Greece, she very soon discovered that music was the coolest thing on earth and began her musical training in classical music and jazz.

In 2003, after having taught elementary schools all over the map of Greece, written music for TV and Theatre in her native Athens, and having participated in more than fifty greek children's productions, the forces of nature took her to Boston, where she studied film music at the infamous Berklee College of Music.

A winner of multiple awards, such as the Georges Delerue Award for achievement in Film Scoring, and the BMI Film Scholarship, she moved to New York just after her studies. Bedazzled by the wonderful world of live jazz and world music, she took some time and made songwriting, singing, playing accordion and gigging a significant part of her life.

An immediate result was the formation of her band "Banda Magda", a blend of French lyrics over Latin-American rhythms and jazz improvisation that encompasses all the wonderful and diverse stimuli that the city of New York can induce in a musician. Banda Magda has obtained a diverse following throughout the globe with performances in the US, France, Luxemburg, Greece, Colombia and Canada. The group is additionally part of the Musical Explorers Program with reoccurring residencies at the prestigious Carnegie Hall.

After taking a short break from her NY life to attend the Sundance Composer's Lab 2009, and under the inspiring guidance of Lab advisors such as George S. Clinton, Walter Murch, Osvaldo Golijov and Harry Gregson-Williams, the spark of her love affair with music-locked-to-picture was reinforced.

She soon found herself orchestrating for the Spanish 3D animation feature "La Tropa del Trapo" with composer Zeltia Montes (Jerry Goldsmith Award), collaborating with iZLER (World Soundtrack's Discovery of the Year Award) and Curt Schneider for "Natural Selection" directed by Robbie Pickering.

Among other things, she is currently arranging and producing a Children's Musical in her native Greece, composing for "Watchers of the Sky" by Oscar nominee and documentary filmmaker Edet Belzberg, producing an album in Patois language for Swiss artist Sylvie Bourban, preparing an orchestral piece commissioned by the Greek Embassy in Canada, writing string arrangements for the acclaimed Kronos Quartet, singer-songwriter Will Knox and the South African rock group "The arrows". Last but not least, she will be releasing the debut album of "Banda Magda" entitled "12 French Songs" with an upcoming release in May 2013 and a tour in US, Canada and Europe.

Amidst all that, she still manages to dance, and occasionally cook as well.