

**Gary Lucas & Gods and Monsters** play intense psychedelic art-rock centered around the formidable virtuosity and Grammy-nominated songwriting of former Captain Beefheart guitarist **Gary Lucas**.

"THE GROUP IS MINDBLOWING!"

--Time Out New York

"AN UNDERGROUND ROCK FAN'S DREAM TEAM"

--The New Yorker



Gary Lucas & Gods and Monsters, 2006 (l-r: Billy Ficca, Ernie Brooks, Gary, Jerry Harrison, Jason Candler)

photo by Dave Bias (hosted by flickr)

**Coming Clean**, the first new **Gary Lucas & Gods and Monsters** album in some time was just unleashed on Mighty Quinn in the US, Canada and Japan; on Side Salad/Universal in the UK; in France through Productions Speciales, and will be released in January 2007 in the Benelux through DAWA Music.



Gary Lucas & Gods and Monsters (l-r: Ernie Brooks, Billy Ficca, Gary, Carole and Jerry Harrison, Jason Candler, Natasha Pliousnine), St. Petersburg, Russia 4/11/06

photo by Alexei Pliousnine (hosted by flickr)

The new album features Gary on guitar and vocals along with **Ernie Brooks** (Modern Lovers) on bass, **Billy Ficca** (Television) and **Jonathan Kane** (Swans) on drums, **Jason Candler** (Hungry March Band) on alto sax and **Joe Hendel** on trombone -- with special guest vocalists **David Johansen** (New York Dolls), sultry French superstar **Elli Medeiros**, and **Richard Barone**.

The album, 5 years in the making, features the title track mixed by the legendary **Jerry Harrison** (Talking Heads), with the remainder of the album in the expert hands of mixologist extraordinaire **Harold Burgon**, who recorded some of Gary's best known early Gods and Monsters tracks (including "Skin the Rabbit" and "Astronomy Domine").

**Jerry Harrison** is also now regularly playing keyboards in the group, and just played with them at CMJ 2006 in NYC in a show recorded for a live DVD and CD due out in May 2007. He also recently toured with the band in Russia for very successful shows in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. A hit record producer (including multiplatinum albums for the band Live), Jerry Harrison is currently producing their followup album in NYC and Sausalito.



Gods and Monsters (l-r: Gary Lucas, Ernie Brooks, Billy Ficca), NYC, 10/04, photo by Dave Bias

The reviews for **Coming Clean** have been uniformly excellent, with 4 star reviews in **MOJO**, **Uncut** and **Record Collector**, a rave from David Fricke in **Rolling Stone**, and raves in **Krinein** (France), **Crossroads** (English translation), **Tokafi.com** and **blogcritics.org**. Below are excerpts from some of these reviews:

"GARY LUCAS IS ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST ORIGINAL GUITARISTS IN AMERICA--A MASTER SYNTHESIST OF DEEP BLUES, AVANT-ROCK AND MADRIGAL-LIKE FOLK WHO WAS A VITAL MEMBER OF CAPTAIN BEEFHEART'S LATE-PERIOD MAGIC BAND AND AN EARLY MUSICAL PARTNER OF THE LATE JEFF BUCKLEY. LUCAS IS ALSO A SONGWRITER OF ESTABLISHED INVENTION--HE CO-WROTE BUCKLEY'S SIGNATURE SONGS 'GRACE' AND 'MOJO PIN'--AND HIS LATEST ALBUM 'COMING CLEAN' MADE

WITH HIS BAND GODS AND MONSTERS IS AN ACTION-PACKED INTEGRATION OF HIS GIFTS. HE PLAYS ASTOUNDING GUITAR THROUGHOUT, BUT ALWAYS FOR THE SAKE OF THE SONG."

--Rolling Stone, 11/16/2006

"4 STARS--LUCAS' SONGS CARRY HIS CHARACTERISTIC WARMTH AND WIT...AND THE BAND--WHICH FEATURES BILLY FICCA FROM TELEVISION ON DRUMS, EX-MODERN LOVER ERNIE BROOKS' BASS, AND ONE-TIME TALKING HEAD JERRY HARRISON ON PRODUCTION DUTIES--ARE A FORMIDABLE UNIT. HIS GUITAR PLAYING IS SUPERB THROUGHOUT--WHEN HE LETS FLY IT'S BREATHTAKING."

--MOJO (UK), 10/2006

"4 STARS--HIS PLAYING CAN BARELY BE CONTAINED, SPEEDING AND BURNING WITH INTENSITY AT ALL TIMES."

--Uncut (UK), 12/2006

"4 STARS--RISK-TAKING HAS LONG BEEN A FULL TIME JOB FOR GARY LUCAS. GODS AND MONSTERS ARE A SUPERGROUP FROM THE NEW YORK UNDERGROUND IN MUCH MORE THAN NAME. 'COMING CLEAN' TREATS ALL WHO VENTURE ITS WAY TO AN UNSETTLING RIDE THROUGH A LANDSCAPE OF EXPRESSIONISTIC BLUES CREATIONS, ART-ROCK, AND BURSTS OF RAMPANT PSYCHEDELIA. REVELATORY IS THE WORD."

--Record Collector (UK), 12/2006

**Gods and Monsters** has been Lucas' baby since 1989, and has featured such luminaries as Jeff Buckley and Matthew Sweet. In **Gods and Monsters**, Lucas' exceptional songwriting talents get a thorough workout, and with the help of Ernie, Billy, Jerry, Jason and Joe, Gary Lucas & Gods and Monsters becomes an all-out jam, blowing the roof off of virtually every show they play.



Gods and Monsters (l-r: Gary Lucas, Ernie Brooks, Billy Ficca), NYC, 10/04, photo by Dave Bias

**Gary Lucas** put the first version of **Gods and Monsters** together in 1989 as an all-instrumental aggregation, who made their debut at the **Welcome Back to Brooklyn Festival** in Prospect Park.

Envisioning a loose collective of instrumental (and later vocal) provocateurs along the lines of groups like Material and The Golden Palominos, Lucas dubbed his band of merry pranksters Gods and Monsters from a line of dialogue in the 1932 horror film classic "The Bride of Frankenstein" (mad scientist Ernest Thesiger toasts the equally mad Dr. Frankenstein (Colin Clive): "To a new world of GODS AND MONSTERS!" -- a line of dialogue that Gary sampled and played during these early shows).

The group then featured two bassists, **Paul Now** and **Jared Nickerson**, and drum ace **Tony "Thunder" Smith** (Jeff Beck, Lou Reed, Nina Hagen).



Realizing that despite the positive response he received he would need to develop his songwriting in

order to expand his audience beyond the rock / jazz / experimental / instrumental crowd, Lucas began writing his own twisted brand of art-pop songs and bringing in male and female singers (and even a rapper and scratcher!) to augment his live shows.

Gods and Monsters go for the glory at Brestkaya Club, Moscow, Russia, April 2006  
photo by Ekaterina (hosted by flickr)

The results can be heard on two albums he recorded for Enemy Records, 1992's **Gods and Monsters** ("4 stars," Rolling Stone) and 1994's **Bad Boys of the Arctic** ("Lucas reinvents Led Zeppelin III," Guitar Player), reissued as the compilations **Operators are Standing By** (Knitting Factory) and **Level the Playing Field** (Last Call).



Gods and Monsters get serious at the Knitting Factory, Plastic People show, 11/13/06 (Jerry Harrison, Gary, and Ernie Brooks--not pictured, Jason Candler and Billy Ficca)  
photo by Frederic Foto

Among the talented members who have passed through the ranks of Gods and Monsters are singers Rolo McGinty (Woodentops), Matthew Sweet, drummer Keith LeBlanc, Sonya Cohen, Mary Margaret O'Hara, Dina Emerson, Richard Barone (The Bongos) Jeff Buckley, and longtime drummer Jonathan Kane.

The title song of Jeff Buckley's album "**Grace**" and the first track "Mojo Pin" were both co-written by Gary Lucas who also played on both tracks. Both were originally in the Gods and Monsters songbook of 1991-92. "Grace" was recently named the #1 Modern Classic Album in MOJO magazine, over albums by U2, Radiohead, and others.

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