

# Noel's new phase

INTERVIEWED BY STEVEN STOWELL

music

Female illusionist/singer/songwriter Noël has just released a CD of 10 songs titled *It's Just a Phase*. Recently, I had the opportunity to sit down with Noël and talk about the project.

will receive a letter confirming their prepaid status with simple instructions on how to obtain a copy of *It's Just a Phase*. They'll be pleased. "Phase" is a better project.

OITM: With that in mind, what made *It's Just a Phase* possible?

noël  
it's just a phase



OITM: You've been performing in the gay community for a few years, why hasn't a CD come out before now?

Noël: Financial constraints have been the main reason it's taken so long. It takes a serious group of professionals and a budget that corresponds with the high levels of quality I was seeking, but it's been a good growth phase.

OITM: In regards to financial constraints, what prompted you to give up on the *Believe in Love* project for which many people had prepaid for CD's? Noël: The objective of *Believe in Love* is still first and foremost in my mind, in fact I consider it to be my life's purpose. Sometimes loving yourself means letting go of a preconceived expectation of a goal. In this case, concerning those people who have prepaid, they

Noël: I can sum that up in two words: Peter Wilder. Previously Peter was a producer/arranger whom I hired to work with my music, though I would write the songs, he would help me fine tune them. With *It's Just a Phase*, Peter's belief in me as an artist was more important than mere money up front. So in lieu of making this a work for hire, we decided to collaborate as writers and producers and split

everything 50/50, both income and expenses.

OITM: What is it about *It's Just a Phase* that inspired Peter to want to be an equal partner? Noël: Unlike myself, Peter's not someone who tends to align himself with pop musical trends. I must confess that I am a pop music fanatic. Most

**Our motto is: why can't music be fun and intelligent at the same time?**

importantly Peter recognized my ability as an artist to write a strong hook and create a formidable stage persona. My abilities combine well with his incredible ear for chord structure and melody and his many talents as a musician, producer, and engineer. These skills, along with a desire to make an impression in an otherwise jaded industry, were the driving force behind this endeavor. Our motto is: why can't mu-

sic be fun and intelligent at the same time?

OITM: How did you choose the title of the CD? It seems to imply a sense of instability about the gay community. Noël: I'm glad you asked. The title was Peter's concept and from the very beginning he had a clear picture of the layout of photography and the look we were going for. I was initially hesitant to grasp that concept because of the obvious connotations that we gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are constantly battling. But I realized that *It's Just a Phase* has many meanings, particularly in how many heterosexuals view being gay, and I was able to step back and not look at myself so seriously. Every aspect of life is just a phase.

OITM: Having heard the CD myself, I noticed there are only two songs that people have previously heard and eight new tunes. What happened to your other songs? Noël: Before Peter and I began this project in late January 1997, we had written sixteen songs to date. Peter was very clear up front that since he es-

entially would be a 50/50 collaborator, every song needed to be absolutely new and different.

OITM: This CD heralds a significant change in your vocal style.

Noël: To quote Peter, "We decided to depart from Noël's usual Shirley Bassey from-the-gut style". This time out we opted for a more subtle, controlled, breathy, and introspective sound.

OITM: Are you concerned that so many differences in style and music might deter your fans from purchasing the CD? Noël: Any creative artistic endeavor is a risk from the get go. You take what you know, combine it with the knowledge of others, especially those with more experience, and hope that the end result is accepted.

For more information about Noël and this CD, check out the official NOËL WEBSITE: [homepages.together.net/~iris/homepage.htm](http://homepages.together.net/~iris/homepage.htm)

To get your very own copy call TONES toll free 800-585-3052 or call 802-635-2223.

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**11 NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY**

NOIR ET BLEU, a Montréal-style house party. Midnight amateur drag contest hosted by B-ton's Cherie Tartt. Go-go boys and girls. Wear leather/vinyl or denim please. McCullough Center, Middlebury College. call moqa FMI, 388-0750

Folk/blues singer and guitarist Ann Reed will give a benefit performance for Vermont National Organization for Women Political Action Committee at 8 pm at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Pearl Street in Burlington. Tickets are on a sliding scale of \$14 to \$16. FMI call Judy Murphy at 362-2005.

Portland, ME, Chris Williamson & Tret Fure in concert. FMI: 207-773-6974.

11-12 Amherst, MA, Third Annual Western MA Lesbian & Gay Parenting/Family Issues Conference. FMI: Valuable Families, POB 60634, Florence, MA 01061.

**13 MONDAY**

Lesbian Herstory Archive: Lecture & Interactive Slideshow presented by Amy Beth of UVM Bailey Howe Library. 7:00 pm Billings North Lounge at UVM.

GLITTER Book Night at Rhombus Gallery, corner of College and Church Sts., Burlington. The Men From The Boys by William J. Mann. A new novel by the P-town/Northampton-based author explores the meaning of relationships in gay culture. How do we define "family" - is monogamy the way to go, etc...? Available at Chasman & Bem in Burlington. (10% off if you

mention Glitter.) We'll pick a book for November. FMI call Steven Kopstein at 802-434-5653 or email: GLITTERvt@aol.com.

**14 TUESDAY**

"Human Rights & Public Health: A New Dynamic for Social Change," 7 pm, Everyone's Books, 23 Elliot St., Brattleboro. FMI Carey at 254-8263.

**15 WEDNESDAY**

Speakout featuring Ed Flannigan, State Auditor, and Steve Howard, Chair, Democratic Party & UVM/Burlington Community. 12 noon, UVM Bailey Howe Library Steps.

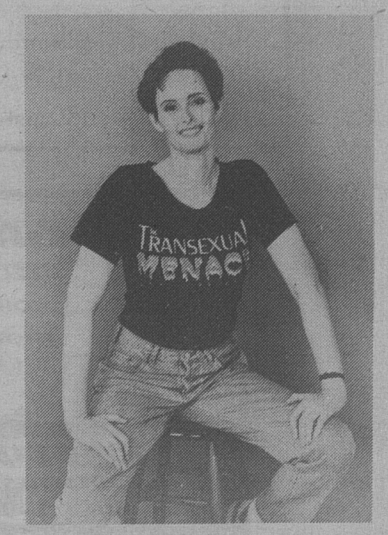
Stories & Monologues: "Once Upon Coming Out," featuring poets, actors, singers, storytellers and more. 7:00

pm Billings North Lounge, UVM.

Riki Anne Wilchins, author of *Read My Lips: Sexual Subversion and the End of Gender* (Firebrand) will read from her book at 7:00 p.m. at Peace and Justice, 21 Church St., Burlington VT. For more information call 802-863-8326. Wilchins is the Executive Director of GenderPac, a national organization dedicated to "gender, affectional and racial equity". S/he is a founding member of the Transsexual Menace.

**16 THURSDAY**

Panel: Another Vermont First - "Freedom to Marry, When We Talk About Gay Marriage, What Do We Really Mean?" 7:00 pm Billings North Lounge, UVM



riki anne wilchins

**CALENDAR  
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