

# MARILYN MAZUR- QUEEN OF PERCUSSION Denmark 2006



**MARILYN MAZUR – QUEEN OF PERCUSSION**  
A film by Christian Braad Thomsen

**Photography: Manuel Alberto Claro, Jane Vorre, Steen Møller Rasmussen, Bente Petersen, Rosemaria Rex, Christian Braad Thomsen**

**Still photography: Rosemaria Rex, Bente Petersen, Framegrab, Jan Persson, Gorm Valentin**

**Sound: Jan Juhler**

**Editing: Grete Møldrup**

**Producer: Charlotte Vinther**

**Produced by Kollektiv Film ApS**

**Premiered on 5 March 2006**

**Denmark, 2006, 71 min., colour, Video, ov (Danish w/ Engl. subtitles)**

**Marilyn Mazur & Percussion Paradise**

**w/ Josefine Cronholm (voc), Lisbeth Dier (perc, voice), Benita Haastrup (perc, voice), Birgit Løkke (perc)**

**Marilyn Mazur & Future Song (featuring Aina Kemanis, voice; Hans Ulrik, sax & flute; Elvira Plenar, keyboards; Eivind Aarset, guitar; Klavs Hovman, bass; Audun Kleive, drums)**

**Archival footage: Miles Davis, Dino Saluzzi, Niels Henning Ørsted Pedersen, Palle Mikkelborg**

**The director Christian Braad Thomsen will be present for q/a.**



**WHAT MAKES MUSIC LAUGH?**

**25. - 28. Juni 2009**

**Konzerte - Filme - Ausstellungen - Gespräche  
Babylon Mitte | Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 30 | 10178 Berlin**

**Veranstalter: Helma Schleif | TMP Productions | A division of FMP FREE MUSIC PRODUCTION Distribution & Communication e.K.  
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"Music is not meant to be polished, perfect and finished, but more like a living organism, expanding through specific dramatic sequences and unknown ways in more open structures, enabling the listener as well as the musician to have their personal experience in the labyrinth."

Danish percussionist Marilyn Mazur is an international star. She has toured with the greatest musicians in Jazz, among them Miles Davis, Gil Evans, Wayne Shorter and Jan Garbarek.

In 1983 she was awarded the Ben Webster Prize; in 2001 she has received the world's greatest Jazz Award, the Jazzpar Prize.

Marilyn Mazur's background is as multi-cultural as her music. She was born in New York in 1955. Her Polish mother was expelled from her bourgeois family when she married an Afro-American who became Marilyn's father. Because of the American racism, the family settled in Denmark when Marilyn was five. Here she started playing classical piano, but in her youth she chose jazz, and an epoch-making event was when she first heard Miles Davis' album 'Bitches Brew'.

Marilyn Mazur created her first all-female band, Primi Band, in 1982, and has lead her own groups ever since. She has issued many records in her own name and accompanies Miles Davis on 'Aura' (1985). We experience Marilyn Mazur with her two present groups 'Future Song' and 'Percussion Paradise', we see her performing on stage with Miles Davis, Dino Saluzzi, Niels Henning Ørsted Pedersen and Palle Mikkelborg, and we are with her in the recording studio, where she records a new ECM-CD with Jan Garbarek, 'Elixir' (2008).

Besides, Marilyn talks at length about her life and music summing up her musical philosophy in a way that the ancient Arab Sufi musicians would recognize: "When the music really possesses you, you are totally consumed by the music. You stop being a person and become part of the whole, of the universe. Then the music dominates everything, and its world becomes your world. That's what you are striving for."



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## Marilyn Mazur´s PERCUSSION PARADISE

In the year of 2000, Marilyn Mazur started a new drumming group. Its concept is inspired by Primi Band, a large music-theatre group Marilyn had for many years in the 1970s and 1980s.

Like Primi, the new group is a purely female group focusing on percussion, voices, movement and magic, but this time it consists of a quartet of professional drummers and a singer, in fact Marilyn has succeeded in gathering the most active and exciting female percussionists on the Danish music-scene, adding to this a vocal soloist as a natural extension of the raw rhythm of the group.

Marilyn has made imaginative structures and compositions for the group, that give space for intense rhythms, playful improvisation and sensitive moods. A ritual percussion-performance, with dramatic and narrative character, full of joyful spirits and emotional power. Typically for Marilyn, the music with its intuitive powers will inspire the listener's heart to unfold its own dreams.

The group had it's first performance at EXPO 2000 in the Christus-Pavillion, Hannover, Germany. The group has also been on several successful tours in France, Norway, Finland, Germany and Switzerland and around Denmark.

**Benita Haastrup**, born 1964, experienced drummer in the fields of Jazz and Afro-music, she also teaches and composes. Educated at the Rhythmic Conservatory of Copenhagen. She received the Ben Webster-prize 98. Has worked with Richard Boone, John Tchicai, Fred Hopkins, Idrees Sulieman, Johnny Griffin, Duke Jordan, Muhal Richard Abrahams, Jesper Thilo, Bent Jædig, a.o.

**Lisbeth Diers**, born 1964, has played as percussionist in many constellations of Nordic Jazz, Latin and related music forms, i.e. with Django Bates, Steve Swallow and Bobo Stensson. Member of the Jazz Baltica Ensemble, also doing a trio with Trilok Gurtu and Airto (1996), and with MM and Don Alias (1999).

**Birgit Løkke**, born 1967, a devoted musician and sound-explorer, she has played and made music for various theatre-performances and concerts. She also has her own trio. Participated in 'The Big Bang' with Han Bennink and Alex Riel, Lars Jansson and Palle Danielsson at the Molde Festival in 1995. Worked in projects with Nils Petter Molvaer, Anders Jormin and the Nordic Women big band 'April Light Orch'.

**Josefine Cronholm**, born 1971, Swedish singer, graduate of the Danish Music Conservatory.

## Marilyn Mazur's FUTURE SONG

While Marilyn was on tour with Miles Davis from autumn 1985 to December 1988 (in '87 she was with Wayne Shorter) she conceived the idea for a future project: a group of people playing the music of human feeling (in contrast to that of machines and money !)

In March 1989 her dream became reality - Marilyn Mazur's 'Future Song' was formed. Despite the fact that the group-members live very far apart - in USA, Germany, Norway and Denmark - the dream has existed and evolved for a long time now.

The original line-up was Aina Kemanis (voice), Palle Mikkelborg (tp), Jon Balke (keyboards), Elvira Plenar (keyboards), Klavs Hovman (b), Audun Kleive (dr) and Marilyn Mazur (dr, perc, marimba, keyboards and vocals).

1992 was the year guitarist Eivind Aarset came in the band and completed today's line-up: Aina Kemanis (voice), Hans Ulrik (sax & flute), Elvira Plenar (keyboards), Eivind Aarset (guitar), Klavs Hovman (b), Audun Kleive (dr) and Marilyn Mazur (perc, voice).

[www.marilynmazur.com](http://www.marilynmazur.com)



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