



POLKA MADRE at Hecho en Dumbo

Polka Madre surprises its audiences with original compositions and the energy, sarcasm and humor of its live shows. Polka Madres' principle influences lie in Jewish music and the old sounds of Gypsy and Eastern European cultures. Each piece, however, varies in style, rhythm and time signature. Their repertoire ranges from euphoric polkas, melancholic waltzes to punk, rock and passages of classical music.

The story began when Eric Bergman (vocals, guitar, mandolin), a Finn raised in America and schooled in England, met Marina de Ita (keyboards, accordion) while traveling through Mexico D.F. in early 2004. The two began performing minimal and melancholy music at the weekly Jueves de Kramer, an underground arts night in a warehouse space on the city's underdeveloped south side. After a few months the police shut down the Jueves de Kramer, but Eric and Marina had built up a solid repertoire and recruited Enrique Perez (clarinet), a classically-trained virtuoso who was eager to push the boundaries of his training by delving into the occult underbellies of jazz and the avant-garde. After a year and a half of hard touring, Polka Madre became a steady quintet, with punk rock train-hopper Andrew Cameron (U.S.A., bass), and highly-trained percussionist Raymundo Vera filling out the rhythm section.

Live shows grew increasingly theatrical, and they regularly drew 500-strong crowds around Mexico. In spring 2006, Polka Madre recorded their debut full-length, *Infausta Noticia*, and took off on a 40-stop U.S. tour to promote the album, followed by multi-month jaunts around Mexico and Europe that kept the band busy well into 2007. When Polka Madre weren't touring, they were busy assimilating the wide array of influences that they had encountered during their travels. The band spent three months mingling with members of New York's gypsy-punk scene and toured Mexico with backbeat-heavy hillbilly revivalists the Can Kickers. Their rhythm section stepped up its tempos to take on a punk-rock furor, while Marina and Enrique crafted multi-faceted melodies that touched down all over Europe and Latin America, and Eric tied it all together with simple song structures and cryptic imagery. The band released its 2nd full-length album, *Casa Donde*, in 2008.

www.polkamadre.com

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