



MEAN FIDDLER PRESENTS

Najma Akhtar

&

Gary Lucas

- At London's Jazz Café -

Thursday 15th July 2010

24 hour ticket hotline: 08700 603 777

Online bookings: www.seetickets.com

Restaurant bookings: 0207 688 8899

Venue website: www.jazzcafe.co.uk

Ticket price: £17.50 (Plus booking fee)

East Meets West At A Milestone In Crossover Music

** This collaboration is all about magic, because there has not been anything like it made before*

- Sonic Boomers*

Her (Akhtar's) voice is a heaven-sent gift – Songlines

**(Lucas is) Without a doubt, the most innovative and challenging guitarist playing today –*

fRoots*

**Far from being some polite fusion project, 'Rishte' is vital and red-blooded, nodding back to Davy Graham's East-West musical explorations and standing comparison with his best work –*

Mojo *

Najma Akhtar & Gary Lucas play London's prestigious **Jazz Café** on **Thursday 15th July**, in support of their celebrated 2009 album '**Rishte**' (Relationships).



When acclaimed guitarist and Grammy-nominated songwriter **Gary Lucas** met Indian vocalist extraordinaire **Najma Akhtar**, sparks literally flew...

The New York City-based guitar magician was a fan of **Najma's** solo albums and collaborations with **Page and Plant** and **Andy Summers**...and the sultry London-based siren had been a fan of **Gary's** solo work and his collaborations with **Jeff Buckley**, **Captain Beefheart** and a who's who of rock royalty, including **Lou Reed & Bryan Ferry**.

The pair were introduced by **Najma's** manager, **Gary Nesbitt**, who thought an East meets West collaboration that fused **Gary's** bluesy psychedelic guitar with **Najma's** angelic Indian voice would be intriguing...

The result was '**Rishte**', truly a match made in heaven. **Gary** produced the music, including some songs originally written for **Buckley**, and **Najma** nailed the words and the melodies for their first album.

Their coming together is a rare confluence of interests and talents and it has produced a beautiful & unique collection of songs which, when reproduced live at **London's Jazz Cafe**, will hold you spellbound.

About Najma Akhtar

Najma Akhtar is a vocalist, composer and actress who has released 7 solo albums and been at the forefront of the **World-Music** scene for the last two decades.

Although born & raised in England, and a graduate in Chemical Engineering, **Najma** has remained rooted in the music of **India**, her ancestral home.

Najma has been recognised by her work as a pioneer in using subtle jazz arrangements with the traditional Indian vocal **Ghazal** style. Following her unique and distinctive sound, **Najma** has inspired a new generation of musicians and composers to move into the fusion genre. Along with her fusion of subtle jazz nuances, **Najma** also performs Indian semi-classical, folk, Sufi, Bollywood, Indian underground, trance, along with the odd English song.

Najma appeared with **Robert Plant & Jimmy Page** on their MTV Unplugged special "**No Quarter/Unledded**" performance of the **Led Zeppelin** classic '**Battle of Evermore**' and later toured with the duo. **Akhtar** has also recorded with many of the world's most influential artists including **Basement Jaxx**, guitarist **Andy Summers** (Police), **Jah Wobble**, **Jethro Tull** and jazz and rock saxophonist **Stan Harrison**.

Najma's live set on **Peter Gabriel's WOMAD** tour was described as 'Brilliant'. She has performed extensively in Europe, North America and Asia and has headlined the Jazz stages at numerous festivals including **Reading**, **Glastonbury**, **Lille** and the **Palestinian Jazz Festival** in Jerusalem.



Najma Akhtar has had many incredible highlights in her career, so far, but one that is most special to her is being asked by **Nina Simone's** management to perform with her at the London Dominion Theatre for a two night engagement.

About Gary Lucas

Gary Lucas is a Grammy nominated songwriter and an international recording artist with twenty acclaimed solo albums to date. He's also a soundtrack composer for film and television as well as a selfless collaborator.

Praise for **Gary Lucas** includes being dubbed "**The Thinking Man's Guitar Hero**" by The New Yorker, "**The world's most popular avant-rock guitarist**" by The Independent, "**Legendary Leftfield guitarist**" by The Guardian, "**Guitarist of 1000 Ideas**" by The New York Times, "**a true axe God**" by Melody Maker, and "**One of the five best guitarists in the world**" by the national Czech newspaper Lidove Noviny. **Rolling Stone** magazine's David Fricke wrote: "**Gary Lucas is one of the best and most original guitarists in America**" in a review of Gary's latest avant-rock album "**Coming Clean**". Gary was also selected by the editors of DownBeat Magazine as one of their "**Hot 66 6-Stringers**" and Classic Rock Magazine cited Gary as one of the "**100 Greatest Living Guitarists**".

Lucas has worked with **Leonard Bernstein, Captain Beefheart, Jeff Buckley, Chris Cornell, Lou Reed, Nick Cave, Bryan Ferry, Patti Smith, Iggy Pop & Dr. John** to name but a few.

Gary Lucas tours the world relentlessly both solo and with several different ensembles, including his longtime band '**Gods And Monsters**', whose ranks once included the late singer, **Jeff Buckley**. Gary co-wrote two of Jeff Buckley's most famous hits, "**Grace**" and "**Mojo Pin**", when Jeff was in his group; songs which later became the title track and the first song on Buckley's double platinum Sony album "**Grace**" – which Mojo recently named the number 1 Modern Classic Rock Album.

Essential Weblinks:

Najma Akhtar Official site: <http://najmaakhtar.com>
Gary Lucas Official site: <http://www.garylucas.com>
Gary Lucas Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/garylucas>
Official 'Rishte Page: <http://garylucas.com/www/ng>
Rishte MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/worldvillagerishte>
Gary Lucas YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/garylucas>
Out From Under Live Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/outfromunderlive>

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