



To evolve artistically with people you love, to do this without reservations and to simply make music for music's sake—this was the goal of The Love Project.

Boundless. Limitless. Joyful.

Over 15 years ago, Yael, the film's creator, director, editor, camera operator and oh yes, drummer, had, "this idea brewing subconsciously deep within me my whole life." She and New York producer/life-blood Nik Chinboukas played in the rock scene for years and eventually recorded spontaneous music. Unknowingly at that time, they were planting seeds for a future collaboration. The two worked both sides of the glass, from recording each other to sharing the engineering tasks. Fast forward ten years, Nik stepped more seriously into producing records, while Yael, after interning at the Power Station [recording studio] while still in high school, obtained a degree in audio engineering. Throughout this time, Nik would hire her to track drums on records he was producing. After many years of experimenting together, the two decided to take what they had done and collaborate with friends and musicians they had met along the way. Enter guitarist/producer Yury Anisonyan, a dear friend, to complete the threesome. These musical soulmates formulated the path for what became Yael's first solo effort, and The Love Project was born.

Yael approached Don Lombardi at DW, also founder of Drum Channel, to record and film their recording process. They were the first to record and film in Drum Channel's state-of-the-art studio, and shortly thereafter, drum legend Terry Bozzio got wind of the recording and told Lombardi that he wanted to be involved with this group of artists. Yael had met Terry (one of her biggest musical influences) numerous times before, but hearing that he wanted to come jam with them was a dream come true. After playing and experiencing the interaction with the other musicians, Terry remarked, "For three days we had a blast at the Drum Channel studio, jamming and improvising around the material with all my percussion instruments." When interviewed at NAMM with The Love Project's producers, Terry commented, "It was a phenomenal undertaking to have pulled the whole thing off."

Nik, Yury and Yael's musical backgrounds, along with some of Love Project's musical guests, are mainly rock-based. Yael's work has also included a tour with hip-hop artist Res, New York's 1st Born7 and various collaborations with Fish Fisher [Fishbone].

Meeting Fish was a wonderful door-opening experience for Yael, and he would later support her in her musical choices, he remains a close friend she looks up to. Yael states very seriously, "You never know who

you are going to meet in life, and how they're going to affect you down the line."

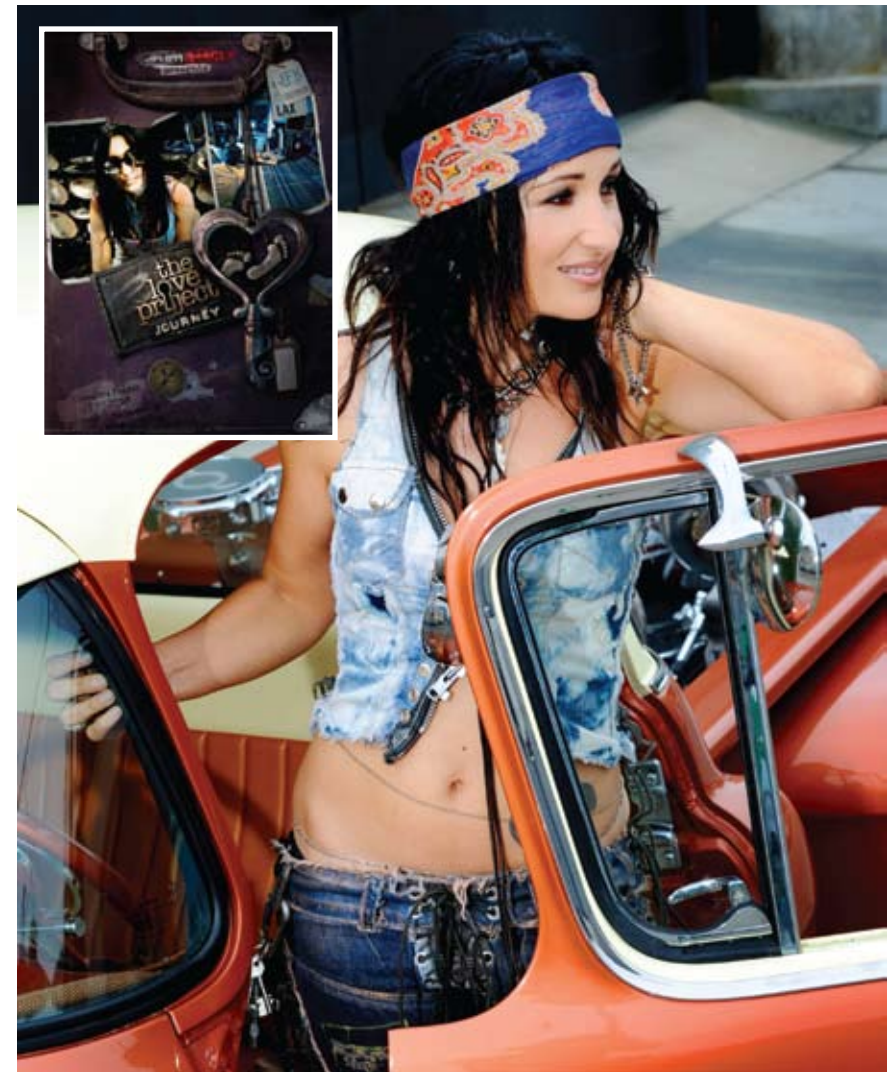
The way these particular artists came together, given their eclectic backgrounds, is representative of the nature of the project. Yael states, "Nik, Yury and I work on various projects together and we often share the same camp of people. So, when we were putting this together, we knew who we wanted to use and knew what they would bring to the table. The beauty of the collaboration on *The Love Project* stemmed from our 'no boundaries' attitude, which you kind of have automatically growing up in the streets of Jamaica, Queens and New York City. The blend of instruments and people's backgrounds ranged from Armenian to Greek, African American to Asian, male and female to opera to underground DJs. This developed The Love Project's very own 'street-meets-world' sound. It's what we grew up with and where we took it."

"Atchik" and "Senza Peso" were two songs that Yury and Yael already had, which inspired a new one with Bozzio and Yael, a gong experimentation called "60/60." Having a Middle Eastern sound, blended with other influences, they played instruments non-traditionally, like strumming on cello, pizzicato violin, distorted Hendrix-like guitar, non-lyrical vocalizing and hybrids of percussion kits. On "Cretan Commitment," Yael collaborated in rubato time with Bozzio for the entire eleven-minute track. This is true improvisation, featuring one of the world's great lyre players, Jake Paterakis. Yael recalls, "Sometimes the music worked and sometimes it didn't. We spent a solid four years making *The Love Project* and picking carefully how we wanted to represent what we do."

The artists that Yael and Nik assembled for this project are "all musicians struggling with various levels of success throughout their careers." Violinist Lucia Micarelli can now be seen on the HBO hit series *Treme*. Drummer Roy Mayorga has been touring since 2006 with Stone Sour. Multi-instrumentalist Yariv Vaknin scores for many film and TV projects. Classically trained singer Sasha Lazard's debut release scored well on the Billboard Dance and Classical Crossover charts. Alex Skolnick shows his range of talent, soft to heavy, playing with Testament, his jazz trio and Trans Siberian Orchestra. Even world-renown hard rock guitarist George Lynch lent a different side of his talents in the film, playing electric sitar on "Cretan." Everyone's varied backgrounds are what make this recording, this film, so unique.

"Being a true musician, a lifer, is a commitment," adds Yael. "It's a struggle and my soul has no choice. I will continue to make music as long as life lets me."

People who have seen the film thus far



**"Being a true musician, a lifer, is a commitment."**

have been deeply affected by it. Among other things, Yael feels this is largely due to the uninhibited interaction between the players, something she strived for by setting out to make something that was not to be labeled or 'put in a box.' She says, "Once you label yourself, you limit yourself." The character of the songs, the mixing of various music styles, the instruments chosen—all were part of the improvisatory nature of the project. Although Yael had been working the idea for years, when it came time to do the film, it basically wrote itself. Now that the film is completed, the buzz for an upcoming CD release is building. Recently featured as an event at the 2010 SXSW [South By Southwest] festival, Yael also made a stop at Cannes film festival to represent "Senza Peso," a video/short story film by Cory Strassburger and Alain Vasquez.

Just accepted as an official selection, *The Love Project* will be featured and screened at the Atlantic City International Film and Music Festival.

Watching *The Love Project* you'll immediately notice the musicians excitement and support of the intended musical direction. To watch the musicians build the tracks together, adding their ideas and bringing the songs to life, is to let the viewer in on something exclusive. The result is a melting pot of musical genres that span the globe.

This is a DVD that is a must-have for any musician striving to find their voice. It's an inspiring look into the process of creating music without boundaries or preconceptions. It's a lesson in letting go and an inside look at the building blocks of the recording process. But most importantly, watching *The Love Project* will make you want to play. It'll inspire you to call your fellow musicians, get 'em all together and find out what happens.

What's better than that? \*

