

STUART DAVIS

The Punk Monk returns with *Music for Mortals* out August 7, 2012
North American Tour Dates Announced



Stuart Davis hasn't quit his day job. He's still a full-time performing songwriter.

Davis, a practicing Buddhist monk, is just a bit more *hyphenated* these days; he's become a Musician-Director-Comedian-Author. With 15 albums to his credit and guest appearances on NPR and syndicated radio's "Coast to Coast Live," music is still his main squeeze, and his irreverent TV show, **Sex God, Rock 'n Roll** brought Stuart's down to earth wit and irreverent humor – a mainstay of his live shows – to a larger audience. His latest release, **Music For Mortals**, out August 7 on SDM, is proof; the melodies are catchy and instantly memorable, intelligent songwriting in the vein of Joe Jackson, Elvis Costello, XTC, and - being a Minnesota native - Bob Dylan. The first single, "**Beautiful Place**," has thought-provoking lyrics and builds to a soaring, instantly memorable chorus you'll have a hard time getting out of your head, and *USA Today* just selected "Not Another Lifetime" for their Playlist, saying, "the versatile, sonically inventive singer/songwriter is at his most wickedly playful on this track from *Music for Mortals*."

The album was funded by fans from 15 countries, who put up over \$80,000, to see the project come to life, and then waited two years for it to be completed. "It was astonishing, this outpouring of support from around the world," he says. Their enthusiasm was contagious, because the new music finds Davis more on fire than ever. Recorded at Henson Studios in Hollywood, **Music for Mortals** explores themes of spiritual awakening, death, and the mess of being Human. Davis wrote most of the songs over the last year of his father's life, the music served to guide him through that dark time.

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"It was brutal gift, letting go of my dad," Davis says. "It pulled me closer to everything -- darkness, impermanence -- but also profound love. His death moved through us like a mysterious storm. I kept sifting through the debris, and finding songs."

But it's no album of dirges. Engineered and produced by **Alex Gibson**, songs like "Spit It Out" bristle with punk provocation, while others such as "Beautiful Place" and "Love" are lifted by Davis' unique take on tough subjects, one that *USA Today* says "...shimmers with pop savvy."

With a new TV show to be announced soon on the HDNet chairman Mark Cuban's new network, AXS TV, Davis is loving the challenge of another medium, and the chance to write, direct, and perform stand-up in each episode. Says HDNet chairman **Mark Cuban**, "Stuart Davis is one of a kind, and we are thrilled to have him on HDNet." His biggest "star" moment to date was working with Kermit The Frog, and yes, Kermit shared some sex secrets, straight from "the swamp." "That was truly unforgettable", Davis says. "I will smile for the rest of my life, remembering that day he came on the show." He was joined in Season 2 by co-stars **Kandyse McClure** (*Battlestar Galactica*) and **Mariann Gavelo** (*It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia*, *Casa de mi Padre*).

Having performed over 1,000 concerts in the US and Europe, Davis still enjoys the road and connecting with a live audience. Along with his songs, which have garnered him a loyal cult following, his shows contain edgy comedy and earthy spiritual insights. "The best thing about touring is the people," he says. "They still surprise me, like the way my fans made this new album possible. It reminds me to keep a beginner's mind, always."

In-studio appearances on syndicated shows such as **Coast to Coast AM**, **NPR's Weekend Edition**, and **World Café** have been some of the highlights of his touring career so far. With tour plans through fall 2012 in place, Davis is ready to bring *Music For Mortals* to a wider audience. "I feel incredibly grateful to be doing this for a living, to be an artist, and I just never want to take any of this for granted."

Davis is a Zen Buddhist and lives in Colorado with his wife and two daughters.

STUART DAVIS Tour Dates:

FRI Aug 24	Estes Park, CO - Wake Up Festival
FRI Aug 31	Berkeley, CA - Rudramandir
SAT Sep 1	Santa Cruz, CA - Crepe Place
FRI Sep 7	Santa Fe, NM - Cowgirl
WED Sep 12	Sioux Falls, SD - East Bank Yoga
FRI Sep 14	Fargo, ND - Ecce Art
SAT Sep 15	Thompson, ND - Muiderman Theater
SAT Sep 22	Paonia, CO - Blue Sage Arts
SUN Sep 24	Boulder, CO - Colorado University
FRI Sep 28	Park City, UT / Park City Live
FRI Oct 5	Athens, OH - Donkey Coffee
SAT Oct 6	Cleveland, OH - Kennedy's Theatre
FRI Oct 12	St Louis, MO - Foam Coffee & Beer
SAT Oct 13	Kansas City, MO - Uptown Arts Bar
THU Oct 18	Charlottesville, VA - E Box
FRI Oct 26	New Orleans, LA - Studio 3

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Tour dates (Cont.)\

FRI Nov 2 Boston, MA - Samadhi Integral
THU Nov 8 Corvallis, OR - Bombs Away
FRI Nov 9 Portland, OR - Tabor eater
SAT Nov 10 Eugene, OR - Cozmic Presents
SUN Nov 11 Olympia, WA - Le Voyeur
FRI Dec 1 Rockford, IL - Kryptonite
SAT Dec 2 Chicago, IL - Schuba's

Press for Stuart Davis:

"...shimmers with pop savvy." - **USA TODAY**

"We were blown away by Stuart's pure genius. Finally a songwriter with something to say. We booked him on the show, calls started coming in "Who was that? Who was that you had on World Cafe?"

- **BRUCE WARREN/ WXPN/ WORLD CAFÉ**

"Razor-sharp improv. Lurking amid the minutiae of his observations on life and the Universe are some startling insights. Davis pulls off the most elusive of party tricks...Even the gods were grinning." - **IRISH TIMES**

"Without exaggeration, Stuart Davis is one of the most fascinating and exceptional songwriters in modern music." - **SAN JOSE METRO**

"Davis's music subtly sneaks religious dialogue into popular culture. Most surprisingly, the music is damn good." - **MIAMI NEW TIMES**

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