



a little friction
photo by Derek Jackson

**A LITTLE FRICTION TO RELEASE "WHEN SPARKS FLY"
FEBRUARY 14, 2006
Bay Area indie duo creates lush cabaret rock
www.alittlefriction.com**

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA – Vocal and drum-driven **A Little Friction** will release *When sparks fly* February 14, 2006 on Stylus Quo Records. A sexy, swinging journey through long-distance lust, politics, and the end of childhood, the CD offers up cabaret rock accompanied by some of the best of the Bay Area's music scene.

Collaborators since 1999, **A Little Friction** became official in 2005, when drummer/ producer Kevin Carnes and vocalist/ songwriter Amy Tobin went into the studio to arrange this collection of songs. Carnes, "widely acknowledged as the best drummer in San Francisco," (*LA Weekly*) comes fresh from founding a long line of ground-breaking bands, including the political punk-noise band The Beatnigs and the broun fellinis, the jazz-roots trio bands that helped to create San Francisco's acid jazz scene.

When sparks fly follows up *4 Choices*, the 2003 EP also produced by bandmates Amy Tobin and Kevin Carnes. That project featured songs from Tobin's cabaret rock opera *The Esther Show*, which has played to sold-out crowds in San Francisco, New York, Boston, and Los Angeles since 2002. The SF Weekly said *The Esther Show*, "created by golden-throated local singer/writer Amy Tobin, is sly, adult, and refreshingly irreverent, filled with references to (the Jewish holiday) Purim's seamier aspects."

Amy Tobin and Kevin Carnes bring a full menu of musical influences and experiences to **A Little Friction**, from Tobin's experiments with singing her songs unaccompanied in bars and men's sex clubs, to Carnes' guest appearances with George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars and scores of other electronic, jazz, and rock bands, as well as the release of his own drum sampler of over 1000 original drum loops and sounds in 2005.

Guest artists on *When sparks fly* include guitar master Eric McFadden, pianist Jacob Elijah Aginsky (*Subnautic*), keyboard player Kat Oano (*Crown City Rockers*), acoustic bassist James Whiton, Michael Cavaseno (*Orixa*), Keith "Touch" Saunders, and Bryan Dean (*A Band Called Pain*). The CD features the hip hop tango tune *Shipwreck*, which wryly charts the common, unglamorous story of lost virginity, as well as *Choosing Sides*, about empty political gestures in the current state of the Union.

A Little Friction will perform in New York at Mo Pitkin's House of Satisfaction on December 23 at 10pm, previewing songs from *When sparks fly*.

The official CD Release show will take place on February 11, 2006 at 8pm at the Elbo Room in San Francisco, (647 Valencia Street).

For more information, please contact:

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A Little Friction is Amy Tobin and Kevin Carnes. Collaborators since 1999, A Little Friction became official in 2005, when Carnes (drummer/ producer) and Tobin (vocalist/ songwriter) went into the studio to arrange the songs for the 2006 release, *When sparks fly*. The duo performs an electronic cabaret that evokes Liza Minnelli, Joni Mitchell and Annie Lennox, mixing it up with big vocals, lush arrangements, drama, and collisions between rock and cabaret.

Kevin Carnes is a drummer, percussionist, composer, and producer who has played music ranging from jazz to punk rock for more than 20 years. He has performed and recorded with George Clinton and the P-Funk Allstars, world music DJ Cheb i Sabbah, rock band Storm and Her Dirty Mouth, and electronica-driven Soulstice, as well as Consolidated, Little White Radio, UAF, Post Junk Trio, Eric McFadden, Tyler Stone and Sutro, Shaunna Hall of 4 Non Blondes, and Radioactive of Spearhead fame. Carnes is a founding member of Broun Fellinis, a jazz roots trio based in San Francisco, and he co-founded The Beatnigs, a political punk noise band that exploded in Europe in 1988. Other projects include creating and remixing music for commercials and websites and acting for both theatre and television. In 2005, Kevin released two solo recordings, *Ethereal Cereal* and *UAF Live!*, as well as a CD sampler of over 1000 original drum loops and sounds. (www.stylusquo.com)

"Kevin Carnes, widely acknowledged as the best drummer in San Francisco." – *Donnell Alexander, LA Weekly*

"Carnes, the drummer from Oakland with the nice smile, plays the hell out of the drums."

– *Christine LaPado, Chico News & Review*

"Kevin Carnes' deft way with the sticks, brushes and mallets ... a swirling mass of sound within which you roam, using the beats to orient yourself." – *Eva Neuberg, New York Press*

"Mad trap-kit workouts straying so far from easy dance-floor grooves." – *Best of the Bay, SF Bay Guardian*

"The broun fellinis are proof that musical revolutionaries still exist." – *JO, flavorpill*

Amy Tobin first began singing her songs unaccompanied in San Francisco clubs and theatres, developing a hybrid style of performance that drew from experimental and rock music, and cabaret-style theatre. She has performed and produced multi-media shows featuring her songs and writing, and created and performs *The Esther Show*, a cabaret rock opera and modern interpretation of the biblical Book of Esther, which has played on an annual basis since 2002 in New York, Los Angeles, Boston, and San Francisco. A graduate of the Experimental Theatre Wing at Tisch School of the Arts at NYU, Amy released the EP *4 Choices in 2003*; co-wrote and composed the music for *Lilith*, a musical; sang with San Francisco band The Beanweevils; and performed as a member of the intercultural spoken-word collective Dhaia Tribe. (www.amytobin.com)

About The Esther Show:

"Her big voice and sly lyrics introduce sides of Esther, Haman, and the gang that you never saw in Hebrew school."

– *SJL, flavorpill*

"The production, created by golden-throated local singer/writer Amy Tobin, is adult and refreshingly irreverent, filled with references to Purim's seamier aspects." – *Hiya Swanhuysen, SF Weekly*

"Picture a jam-packed North Beach nightclub. On stage, a "Rocky Horror"-style Purimshpiel is under way ... Haman is played as Marlene Dietrich decked out in fishnet stockings and top hat. The crowd, mostly Jewish Gen-Xers, goes wild."

– *Dan Pine, J Weekly*

"Tobin gets explicit and silly about Esther's sex life – there is a comic tension in *The Esther Show* between her nice-girl hairdo, reminiscent of Baby in *Dirty Dancing*, and the knee-boots and leather hot pants down below."

– *Ben Wurgaft, nextbook.com*



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