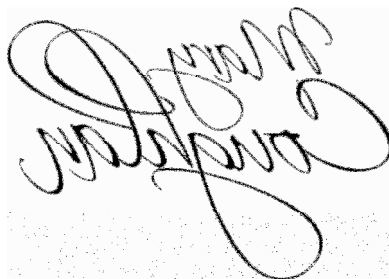


The Headline Agency
Madeleine Seiler, 39 Churchfields, Milltown, Dublin 14
E-mail: madeleine@theheadlineagency.com
Tel: 01 260 2560 Mobile: 087 247 5791
www.theheadlineagency.com



The House of Ill Repute



An Irish theatrical torch-blues legend, Mary's acclaimed new album is 'The House of Ill Repute'. The album was promoted alongside the release of her autobiography 'Bloody Mary' when she embarked on a UK tour. She then travelled to Australia again last summer and played a sold-out night at the Sydney Opera House theatre and two festivals in New Zealand. Mary is playing Irish dates in 2011 when she will tell her unique story in her inimitable style through the many songs she has recorded over the last 25 years.



"A serious return to form".

MOJO

*"Bitter, seductive, raunchy, contemptuous." *****

theguardian

*"Tom Waits has met his Irish match." *****

The Word

"One of those rare long players that goes all the way."



**FINANCIAL
TIMES**

"Mother of five and grandmother of one, so far, she is an unlikely but transfixing performer, whether standing on one leg on a vertiginous high heel or kicking off her shoes to whisper, growl, [or] cry out loud."

Mary Coughlan's autobiography 'Bloody Mary' was released & published by Hachette Books and has since become a bestseller. In this funny, moving and typically outspoken memoir, Ireland's best-loved jazz singer pulls no punches in describing her redemption from alcoholism and drug addiction and gets to the heart of what made Mary so contrary.

2010 was the 25th anniversary of Mary Coughlan's seminal album 'Tired and Emotional' which was Ireland's biggest selling album in the year of release and is now 7 times platinum. Mary is playing a selection of dates offering the unique opportunity to see her performing songs from the new album as well as a selection of material spanning her whole career.

Mary Coughlan

Quotes:

"Ireland has never produced a singer quite like Mary Coughlan. She emerged in 1986 seemingly from nowhere and without any preliminaries, but already with a stagecraft and vocal sophistication of a veteran, singing new songs and blues songs with one of those voices that tingle the mind with an instant recognition of something very special."

The Irish Times

It would be impossible to summarize the volumes of material that has been written about Mary; her singing, her character and her views on life have made her a house-hold name in Ireland and the rest of Europe. *"Mary Coughlan is Ireland's answer to Peggy Lee, though her husky gin-soaked voice has been compared to Billie Holiday "... At times she sounds more like an incredibly relaxed KD Lang or Edith Piaf"*

The London Times

So greatly did Mary's voice and interpretive style stand out on her album and at her live performances that the critics compared Mary to almost every major American and European singer when she released her first album 'Tired and Emotional'. However as one critic said *"...while the comparisons have run the gamut from Billie Holiday to Mathilde Santing to Janis Joplin, it is certain that Mary's voice is her own."*

London Observer

And more to the point, *"the emotional purity in Mary's songs is so fragile that it is possible to become inconsolable when listening to her in a darkened room."*

Q-Magazine

"... A song is not complete unless it has been sung by Mary Coughlan".

Melody Maker

"Her talent is awesome."

London Observer

"Mary's live performances have to be seen to be believed"

New Music Express

Those who agree with these observations and who wrote songs exclusively for Mary include: Elvis Costello, Shane McGowan, Jimmy MacCarthy, Kirsty McColl, and Bono (although she never recorded his song) as well as most of Ireland's finest songwriters.

Mary Coughlan

Biography

Born 5 May 1956, Co. Galway. This acclaimed Irish singer's troubled upbringing manifested itself in an erratic career path, including stints as a model and a street-sweeper.

After moving to London in the mid-70s she married and began raising a family, before terminating the union and returning to Galway with her children. She began her singing career in 1984, working with Dutch musician Erik Visser (who became her long-term collaborator).

The following year she made an acclaimed appearance on the Late Late Show and recorded her first album, which showcased her powerful and bluesy jazz stylings and became an unexpected bestseller in her native Ireland. Despite her ongoing personal problems, Coughlan continued to reap praise for her recorded output on WEA Records. On *Under The Influence* she revived the 1948 Peggy Lee hit "Don't Smoke In Bed" and the Billie Holiday ballad "Good Morning Heartache", as well as Christy Moore's "Ride On".

In 1988, Coughlan made her acting debut in Neil Jordan's *High Spirits*, and released *Ancient Rain*. Her fourth album, *Uncertain Pleasures*, was recorded in England with producer Peter Glenister, former musical director for Terence Trent D'Arby. It included new compositions by Mark Nevin (Fairground Attraction) and Bob Geldof as well as cover versions of the Rolling Stones' "Mother's Little Helper" and the Elvis Presley hit "Heartbreak Hotel".

Coughlan began straightening her personal life out in the mid-90s, and signed a new recording contract with Big Cat Records. The label issued an excellent live set and her US debut, *After The Fall*. In June 2000, Coughlan presented a series of multimedia shows in Dublin celebrating Billie Holiday, a singer whose life story has close parallels to Coughlan's own.

The best of these shows was collected on the wonderful *Sings Billie Holiday*. A new studio album was released the following April.

Discography: *Tired And Emotional* (WEA 1985)***, *Under The Influence* (WEA 1987)****, *Ancient Rain* (WEA 1988)***, *Uncertain Pleasures* (East West 1990)****, *Sentimental Killer* (East West 1992)***, *Love For Sale* (Demon 1993)***, *Live In Galway* (Big Cat 1996)****, *After The Fall* (Big Cat/V2 1997)***, *Sings Billie Holiday* (Evangeline 2000)****, *Long Honeymoon* (Evangeline 2001)***.