

# Andrea Menard

Magnetic, Eclectic, Passionate

-Biography -

**Andrea Menard**, an acclaimed singer, actor and writer is becoming an ever-more eclectic creative force.

She is a fun-loving firecracker of a personality, but Andrea Menard also has her feet planted firmly on Mother Earth. Something is happening to Menard's outlook – something she describes as an awakening, a deepening awareness of a global consciousness. That doesn't change Menard's fiery, sometimes irreverent self-expression. She is simply exploring new directions, in exciting, passionate new ways.

From her new CD *Sparkle*, laced with humour, to a screenplay taking up much of her time, Menard's voice is rising on many issues. Inspiration for the screenplay has come from the indigenous roots she feels in her heart, and from what Menard sees as the "divinity" inside every human. "The story is a beacon," believes Menard. "It is meant to walk the planet."

Menard feels tuned into the universal soul – a serious concept; but every soul also wants to laugh and sing...just like Menard.

## MUSIC

The creative spark inside Andrea Menard has caught fire on her third album, a multi-genre original work that celebrates the glittering winter, but also embraces the beauty of summer. *Sparkle* is a Christmas release, but it encompasses roots and jazz songs for all seasons. "I called this album *Sparkle*, because that is my prayer for the winters ahead — to allow the spark within us to burst into flames and ignite a grand illumination all across the globe," says Menard. "So sparkle, my friends."

The original songs, written with long-time collaborator and producer Robert Walsh, cover a wide spectrum. *Sparkle* describes the crisp, clear winters, "full of icicles, stars, snow, tinsel, and crackling fires," yet it also contains songs for all seasons including *Evergreen*, which describes Menard's own talent – fresh and evolving, with roots that run deeply into her Métis heritage.

From feasts to famine and reverence to irreverence, Menard's take on the winter season is definitely evergreen. The title song, *Sparkle*, which will be released as the first single, invites all of the human family to unite. A humorous, jazzy duet with actor Lorne Cardinal (Corner Gas), called *The Christmas Slump*, will surely become the next "Baby, It's Cold Outside".

The talented songstress' first two award-winning albums, *Simple Steps (2005)* and *The Velvet Devil (2002)*, both feature original songs, written by Menard and Robert Walsh, long time collaborators. *Simple Steps*, produced by Walsh, is "a little bit country, and a whole lot of folk". It won a number of awards for its outstanding performance and production. Menard's debut CD, *The Velvet Devil* is the music of her hit one-woman jazz musical play that swept up awards all across the country.

Both CDs have received much acclaim and interest across the country and internationally. Original music from *The Velvet Devil* was featured on the television series *Queer as Folk* as well as the soundtrack CD for Season IV. As a standout vocalist, Andrea is also featured on numerous compilation CD's including: *Real Divas*, a national compilation CD featuring Canada's finest female jazz artists.

## FILM, TELEVISION & STAGE

The award-winning film adaptation of her one-woman musical stage play *The Velvet Devil*, which Menard has performed all over Canada, debuted nationally on *CBC's* television series *Opening Night*. The adapted film script, written by Menard and director, Larry Bauman, with music written by Menard and Robert Walsh, swept 13 awards at the 2008 Showcase Awards, including Best Lead Female, Best Original Score, Best Original Script, and Best Dramatic Feature. Andrea's performance in the made-for-television movie received rave reviews and garnered a Gemini nomination for

Best Performance by an Actress (2006). *The Velvet Devil* was produced by Executive Producer, Michael Snook of WestWind Pictures (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*).

Andrea stars in the dramatic series, *Rabbit Fall* (Angel Entertainment), which is a supernatural crime drama filmed on location in Saskatchewan. Andrea plays the new constable sent to the eerie town of Rabbit Fall, where she combats criminals as well as supernatural forces. Menard, who performs all her own stunts, is the heart of this supernatural crime drama. The second season of the popular series is currently airing on Space TV and APTN.

Andrea also starred in three seasons of the television series *Moccasin Flats* (Showcase & APTN). She was nominated for a second Gemini award in 2006 for her performance as Amanda Strongeagle, a groundbreaking role featuring one of the first lead lesbian characters on a Canadian television series. She also played a recurring role in Verite Films (*Corner Gas*) [renegadeexpress.com](http://renegadeexpress.com) (Global).

## NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Andrea Menard dazzles audiences on screen and stage –alone, on a bare stage, singing a cappella, or accompanied by a 50-piece orchestra. Andrea's reputation as a powerhouse performer has earned her many invitations to perform for royalty, prime ministers, premiers, senators, ambassadors, and governor generals.

In celebration of Saskatchewan's Centennial, Andrea joined an acclaimed cast (including Joni Mitchell, Buffy Saint Marie, Leslie Nielson, Colin James) in the *Lieutenant-Governor's Celebration of the Arts*, performing for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Andrea performed with a grand combination of both the Saskatoon and Regina Symphony orchestras for her original jazz song, *Sunny Makes Me Sunny*. She has also given command performances for His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex, at Regina's Globe Theatre and His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, at the Saskatchewan Premier's Community Luncheon.

Andrea toured Saskatchewan with a fundraising concert tour for the Food Banks with country music star Brad Johner, and toured the country with Tom Jackson on the

Huron Carole. To follow up her success as part of an all-star cast on the George Canyon Christmas Special, which aired on CBC in December 2007, Andrea will be touring during the 2008 holiday season to support her new cd, *Sparkle*. The first single off the album, *Sparkle*, will be released to radio for the holiday season.

For more information, visit Andrea's website:

[www.andreamenard.com](http://www.andreamenard.com)

[www.myspace.com/andreamenard](http://www.myspace.com/andreamenard)

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