

Underground Visionary Capossela Returns to New York (July 2)

(June 28, 2008)



Calling himself an “enchanter,” Mr. Capossela, one of the cleverest and most eccentric musicians in Italy, spins enigmatic fantasies of both skid row Americana and mythological Italy in a grittily elegant cabaret-jazz style that recalls Tom Waits and Paolo Conte. Chart-topping songwriter announces July 2 concert appearance at Highline Ballroom

[Vinicio Capossela](#) [2] returns to New York City with a July 2, 2008 concert at Chelsea’s Highline Ballroom. No stranger to US audiences, Capossela’s 2007 debut shows were completely sold-out and showcase performances at the 2008 editions of GlobalFEST in New York City and SXSW in Austin, Texas brought him numerous offers from North American venue bookers.

For his Highline debut, this “theatrical underground visionary” will mix songs from his forthcoming studio album with some of his best-known compositions. Accompanied by a band that includes noted Italian guitarist Alessandro Stefana and NYC trumpeter Frank London of the Klezmatics,



Capossela's Highline concert offers an intimate preview of the 10th album by the multiple Tenco Prize (Italy's equivalent to the UK's Mercury Prize) winner. His most recent New York performance at Joe's Pub in March, an unannounced midnight set, was a sell-out.

March also saw Capossela mixing his yet untitled new album, recorded in Italy and New York, in Brooklyn with legendary producer JD Foster. The album features a moving duet between Capossela and NYC-based organ maverick Cameron Carpenter who performed on a vintage 1923 Mignat Wurlitzer located in the historic Middletown Paramount Theater in upstate New York.

Vinicio Capossela is at the forefront of a new generation of singer-songwriters re-inventing Italian song. The work of this musical auteur pays homage to the influences of both Paolo Conte and Tom Waits. But Capossela's own magic lies in his ability to break the boundaries of a song and to evoke, through the use of images, entire worlds inhabited by demons, shadows, lost souls and losers. Lyrics play a crucial role while the music — free from any genre restraints — is at the complete disposal of the musical world Capossela conjures up.

In his early pieces, Capossela's music was informed by the American underground culture and road myth embodied by Jack Kerouac and Charles Bukowski and by the "Italo-American" identity of the work of Martin Scorsese. His songwriting continues to explore the many facets of the Italian cultural diaspora from the Argentine tango of Astor Piazzolla to the American swing of Louis Prima. A dramatic and bewitching 'circus artist', Capossela is known for his theatrical live performances.

Vinicio Capossela has released nine albums in Italy. His latest studio set "Ovunque Proteggi" (Everywhere Protect) topped the country's album charts achieving platinum sales status and was described as "...the best side of pop..." by Vanity Fair Italy. The album is steeped in historical, biblical and mythological references. In fact, the artist took a sort of archaeologist's approach to the project, writing and recording in the very places the songs led him to, from a prehistoric cave in Sardinia to a Renaissance-era church in Sicily to a 19th century theater in the Veneto and to other significant locations.

Capossela has collaborated with artists as diverse as Macedonia's Kocani Orkestar, American jazz crooner Jimmy Scott and New York City guitarist Marc Ribot. He is also an award-winning novelist in Italy whose work "Non si muore tutte le mattine" (You Don't Die Every Morning) has been adapted for radio broadcast and for the stage.

Wednesday July 2, 2008 @ Highline Ballroom

431 W 16th St (Between 9th and 10th Ave), New York, NY

9:00pm Tickets: \$20

Info.: <http://www.highlineballroom.com/bio.php?id=507> [3]

or (212) 414-5994

Related Links: <http://www.viniciocapossela.it/> [2]



<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18416686> [4]

<http://www.myspace.com/viniciocapossela> [5]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/24/arts/music/24capo.html> [6]

Source URL: <http://iitaly.org/magazine/focus/art-culture/article/underground-visionary-capossela-returns-new-york-july-2>

Links

[1] <http://iitaly.org/files/capossela1214675178jpg>

[2] <http://www.viniciocapossela.it/>

[3] <http://www.highlineballroom.com/bio.php?id=507>

[4] <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18416686>

[5] <http://www.myspace.com/viniciocapossela>

[6] <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/24/arts/music/24capo.html>