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Shawna Virago *Objectified*

“sexy, sassy and genuine, no matter what sexual orientation you happen to be”
– *The Daily Californian*

“elegant, edgy and elegiac” – *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

“the sex symbol laureate of the West Coast transgender music scene” – *Eros Magazine*

“in this CD Shawna Virago NAILS the bare bloody bones of tranny girl rage, fears, and dreams” – *Kate Bornstein*

“I am ready for my close-up...” begins celebrated transsexual songwriter Shawna Virago’s CD *Objectified*. “First I better go and throw up” she continues, illustrating perfectly Virago’s bold songwriting style – one part sex, one part politics, two parts poetry.

A longtime favorite in San Francisco’s underground transgender music scene, Shawna Virago is widely celebrated as a gifted lyricist and edgy provocateur. Virago’s debut CD *Objectified* is a collection of 12 original songs ranging from folk-punk to acoustic glam twang, with a dash of naughty queer Americana – with exceptional lyrics that range from sexy to sarcastic, polemic to political, haunting to heartfelt.

From the rockabilly-inspired romp “Dead War Hero” to the throbbing leather anthem “Transsexual Dominatrix,” to “Objectified” a treatise on the pressure to conform to idealized concepts of female beauty, to the tender and beautiful “Million Dollar Day,” an ode to barroom love, *Objectified* has a raging sweetness and raw humor that seduces the listener into joining the trans/gender revolution.

A transsexual feminist icon for the Twenty First Century, Virago is a wordsmith in the troubadour tradition whose songs are slice-of-life windows into queer and transgender life. Her piercing observations about survival in a predatory world, sticking up for the underdog, queer love and gender outlaws are backed by the bittersweetness of her steady acoustic guitar.

Virago is brimming with contradictions and complexities: once a punk rock boy, now a sexy blonde, she channels a DIY aesthetic as a guitar-slinging Candy Darling. The *San Francisco*

Bay Times said “if Keith Richards was a tranny that got together with Merle Haggard, Shawna Virago would be their love child.”

It’s no surprise that the stark poetry of Virago’s songs are drenched in the imagery of street level activism; Virago has been an anti-violence activist for over 15 years. At a time when increasing numbers of transgender people think disappearing into the gender binary equates success, Virago is too busy and defiant to “go stealth.” Miss Virago is the Artistic Director of Tranny Fest, the nation’s first transgender film festival, and her own films have screened through the U.S., Canada and Europe. Miss Virago is also a published writer and her newest work will be published this fall in the trans/gender variant anthology, *Gendered Hearts*, edited by Morty Diamond. Virago is featured in the new documentary *Diagnosing Difference*, directed by Annalise Ophelian, which critically dissects GID (gender identity disorder). Miss Virago also composed original music for choreographer Sean Dorsey’s acclaimed dance theater work *Uncovered: The Diary Project*, about pioneering transman Lou Sullivan. Virago is featured in *Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Feminites*, by Del LaGrace Volcano and Ulrika Dahl.

Objectified was recorded and mixed in San Francisco at the legendary Hyde Street Studios. Virago is currently making 2009-2010 tour bookings. Contact houseofvirago@hotmail.com for booking information and promotional materials.

www.shawnavirago.com