



For Immediate Release

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO PRIDE WELCOMES QUEER INDIE ARTISTS!

GAYLAPALOOZA

AT THE RIO GRANDE THEATRE

Friday, June 18, 2010

May 6, 2010 – Over the past 20 years, the GLBTQ community in Las Cruces and surrounding areas has celebrated Pride month with a variety of events aimed at celebrating the diversity of its members and their achievements. This year, the Rio Grande Theatre will host a kick-off event co-sponsored by Southern New Mexico Pride and the Doña Ana Arts Council, entitled **Gaylapalooza**, featuring three of the best and brightest Queer Indie artists touring today: **Daniel Cartier**, **Namoli Brennet** and **Eric Himan**. The musical extravaganza, hosted by Mistress of Ceremonies **Ivonna Bump**, will rock the Rio Grande Theatre stage on June 18, 2010, kicking off a weekend of family-oriented activities and events.

“There’s never been a show quite like this in Las Cruces,” says Rio Grande Theatre manager and SNM Pride Board member David Salcido. “It’s really a dream line-up for any Pride festival. All of the entertainers who have been scheduled to perform are at the top of their game; critically acclaimed singer/songwriters with strong fan followings and multiple awards to their credit. Ditch all of your preconceived notions about Queer music or mainstream gay icons. These artists and the music they make are the real thing!”

From New York City subway troubadour to **Elton John** protégé to star of the 2007 independent film *Flirting With Anthony*, **Daniel Cartier** has pretty much seen and done it all. A frequent mover on queer music charts and Logo’s *NewNowNext* music video showcase, Cartier’s many accomplishments over the past two decades are legion: producer, filmmaker, actor, writer, visual artist and, of course, singer/songwriter. It hasn’t always been an easy path, but through years of turmoil and inspirational rebound, he continues to be one of the most iconic Queer Indie artists working today.

After self-producing four critically acclaimed CDs, his latest release, 2010’s *Redemption*, showcases the powerhouse vocals, which “wrenched from a wounded place, set him on par with **Annie Lennox**.” (*Time Out New York*). Featuring a virtual cavalcade of guest artists from such bands as **Lynyrd Skynyrd**, **P-funk All Stars** and **The Wallflowers**,

Redemption, produced by Tony Award-winning producer **Joe McGinnis** (*Spring Awakening, Altar Boyz*), is a powerhouse production that's been called "classic vintage rock (**Pink Floyd, The Moody Blues**) meets **Radiohead** with a dash of **Rufus Wainright** drama and **Smashing Pumpkins** angst" (*Interview Magazine*)

Singer/songwriter **Namoli Brennet** has been relentlessly touring the country in her battered Volvo wagon since the release of her 2002 CD, *Boy in a Dress*. Based in Tucson, AZ, the enigmatic and colorful Brennet has covered over 30,000 miles and 43 states over the past 7 years, playing everywhere from the San Francisco Trans March to DC Pride, as well as legendary folk venues like Cambridge's Club Passim and New York's Bitter End. In between producing, engineering and releasing 7 CDs on her own label, Flaming Dame Records, she's shared stages with **Melissa Ferrick, Jill Sobule, Michelle Shocked** and many others.

A four-time Outmusic award nominee, Brennet's music has been featured in the *Advocate, Chicago Free Press, No Depression* and *Performing Songwriter Magazine*. Her song "We Belong" was recently featured in a documentary of the same name which details the struggle of a gay teen in rural PA who has the courage to stand up to bigotry and intolerance in his high school. As a songwriter who's known as a talented lyricist and storyteller, Brennet has a gift for creating vivid characters and situations. On her latest release, 2010's *Black Crow*, she's used those talents to create an intimate self-portrait, with stunning and heartbreaking results.

Striking, gay, tattooed pop-rocker **Eric Himan** has amassed a loyal following at club dates across the country, ever since the debut of his first self-released and self-titled album in 2000. Drawing comparisons to such artists as **Maroon 5, John Mayer, Ani DiFranco** and **Tracy Chapman**, Himan's 2008 release, *Resonate*, sold out its first shipment before the official drop date. Touring tirelessly for close to a decade, while running his own record label, Thumbcrown Records, he has become a poster boy for Queer Indie artists, appearing in such notable periodicals as *The Advocate, OUT Magazine, Instinct*, the *Boston Herald* and the *Phoenix New Times*.

Appearing regularly on Sirius Radio's OUTQ Channel and with music videos on heavy rotation on Logo's *NewNowNext*, Himan's many accomplishments include an endorsement by Fender Guitars, playing the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago (where he opened for **Cyndi Lauper**) and a spot in the "40 Under 40 LGBT Pioneers" list compiled by the *Advocate*. Just recently, Himan took first place in the We Are Listening Singer/Songwriter Awards and netted both the Best New Artist and Best Male Vocalist at the Absolute Best of Tulsa Music Awards.

The Rio Grande Theatre is located at 211 N. Downtown Mall, in Las Cruces. Doors open at 6:30pm and the performance begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$20, with a portion of the proceeds going to Southern New Mexico Pride as a fundraiser for its weekend events. For more information visit www.SouthernNMPride.org, www.RioGrandeTheatre.com or call (575) 523-6403.