



## Artist Biography : Lilian Hak

When it comes to Dutch chanteuse **Lilian Hak**, big names appear on the bill almost immediately. Her song *I Never Speak to Strangers* is the 'soundtrack to an unmade James Bond movie, while her album **Old Powder New Guns** has a 'Miles-Davis-in-Paris-cool' feel to it. The comparisons may seem extreme, but that's what happens when you immerse yourself in the atmosphere of famous flicks from the 1950s and 1960s, and come up with a record that's heavily influenced by scenes from Bacall and Bogart movies.

With her big sea green eyes and petite figure, it's no wonder that Lilian Hak makes smoky, sensual music. Although she's conservatory trained, acoustic instruments were not her first choice. Her first albums are beat driven, heavy on the electronics and samples, and sparse on the vocals. And she wasn't making brainless, pounding techno, either. "When I write music, it has a very visual place in my mind. It has a place full of characters, colours and landscapes," Lilian explains. She worked with famous electronic artists like Scanner(UK) and T.Raumschmiere(G), played venues in Europe and the United States, and supported bands like M83, The Kills and Kashmir.

She then diverted course to the theatre, writing and producing two shows for travelling theatre festival, De Parade. In these shows, she sang the first version of *Lonesome People*, a torch song that makes listeners want to get up and stand heavy-hearted, watching raindrops drip down from their 1930's style apartment building. The song was made using movie soundtrack samples and people responded very well to it. They wanted, no, they needed this song, and they needed it now!

Over the next few years, this response and her own renewed interest in old soundtracks lead to a trip to a skyscraper in Bangkok. There, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor, in the apartment of a friend and with a big suitcase full of DVDs like *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946) and *Dark Passage* (1947), she found the time and the right place to put all the sketches, ideas and atmospheres together. The samples and images gave her a sense of direction, she wrote all the lyrics herself, and arranged the strings, horns and rhythm sections. *Old Powder, New Guns* was about reshaping the past into something that was as timeless as the movies and pictures that inspired her.

The album hit like a glimpse of stocking from a beautiful woman. "Old Powder New Guns is burlesque, theatrical and with the grand gesture," wrote top Dutch music magazine, OOR. Daily newspaper De Volkskrant said, "It doesn't poke at cheap nostalgia in any way. The songs are too good, too original in a modern way, produced with the latest technology." Music blog FileUnder.nl simply stated, "God damn it, what a voice!" Venues were filled, TV shows were booked and plans to take this show on the road outside the Netherlands were made. A short trip to New York had her doing a session for WMFU radio.

Lilian Hak was featured in several prime time TV shows such as De Wereld Draait Door, Nederpopshow TV Ned 3, NOS TV NED 3 Noorderslag and popular radioshow GIEL 3FM, TROS muziekcafe Radio 2 and Radio 1.

A passion for classic film soundtracks has led to an exuberantly catchy Christmas carol: **Christmas Dinner by Lilian Hak (featuring Wouter Hamel)**. This single was released in The Netherlands in December 2010.

Hak and **Hamel** met during their musical studies. The artistic chemistry they shared all those years ago rekindled when their paths crossed again. *Christmas Dinner* brings back memories of duet recordings by legends like Doris Day, Mel Tormé, Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra.

In June 2011 she released her second single "Rebels Outlaws Misfits", taken from the album Old Powder New Guns. **Matthew Herbert** (UK) made a brilliant remix, "Rebels Outlaws (Matthew Herbert's Hello Mix)". It's an inspired version of a great song, and a perfect melding of two exciting artists.

Till December 2011 Lilian Hak and her 11-piece band did a theatre tour in The Netherlands with her visual and theatrical concert 'Old Powder New Guns'.

Recently (February 1, 2013) Lilian released her album **Lust Guns & Dust**. A record inspired by the atmosphere of Spaghetti Western movies. This new album include two tracks with featuring singer **Ozark Henry** (from Belgium). They wrote those two tracks together.

For the next months Lilian will play with her new 6-piece band in venues, festivals and theatres.

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**Info:**

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

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

<http://www.youtube.com/lilianhak>

<http://www.last.fm/music/Lilian+Hak>

The album Old Powder New Guns is released by Lilian's own independent record label SirenMusic and distributed by Rough Trade. Her latest album Lust Guns & Dust is released by SirenMusic and distributed by Bertus.

**Musicians** : Salle de Jonge (drums), Rutger Schehrer (timpani/percussion), Lucas Dols (bass), Erik Rutjes (guitar), Bastiaan Mulder (guitar) and Lilian Hak (vocals/keys/theremin).

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**Selection of Dutch press quotes about her album 'Old Powder New Guns' (2010/2011):**

"Old Powder New Guns is burlesque, theatrical and with the grand gesture"  
OOR (Dutch music magazine)

"Nowhere it remains in stabbing cheap nostalgia. The songs are too good, too original in a modern way, produced with the latest technology "  
Volkskrant (dutch daily newspaper)

"Very attractive and theatrical combination of Lilian's dramatic vocals and caricaturised, orchestral accompaniment of violins and horns."  
NRC (dutch daily newspaper)

"An album full-packed of atmosphere and a lady with a very impressive voice."  
Musicfrom (Dutch music blog)

"How a love for classic movie soundtracks has led to one of the most remarkable, most adventurous Dutch pop record you'll hear this year"  
Alternative Blog

"Lilian Hak is bombastic"  
Number one Dutch radio DJ Giel Beelen (Radio 3 FM)

" It's Havana in the fifties; it's Paris as Miles Davis hits the town; it's absolutely now."  
Fillesourire

"The songs have a dark melancholy of film noir, Hitchcock suspense, or the bravado of Once Upon a Time in the West. Hak is Doris Day, Rita Hayworth, Vera Lynn and Catherine Deneuve. "  
Volkskrant (dutch daily newspaper)

