

lahannya

welcome to the underground

Lahannya has always lived life on her own terms, eschewing convention and bending the rigid rules imposed by society to her advantage. It is therefore no surprise that her first release was a totally self-produced track on the Amduscias compilation of anarchist US diy label **Zenflesh**. Amidst the aural assault of **Noise/Girl** and the nightmare soundscapes of **Petit Mal**, **Lahannya's** "Drowning" at first appears to be a highly unusual contribution, but in terms of attitude and philosophy **Lahannya** is a perfect fit. Inspired by the positive feedback and the **Zenflesh** way of just doing it, **Lahannya** went on to produce her debut EP and release it on her own label. The 4-track "Drowning" EP was very positively received by fanzines and underground music Web sites worldwide, which compared its sound to **Throwing Muses**, **Cranes** and a more ambient **Garbage**.

After moving from Brighton on England's South coast into the heart of London **Lahannya** took up a DJ residency at the infamous **Slimelight**, London's longest running alternative club night and a regular hang-out for national and international underground artists. Her DJ activities led to interesting friendships and collaborations, the first of which was her contribution to the 2003 **Greenhaus** release "Another Life". In 2004 **Lahannya** began her long-term collaboration with **Soman**, resulting in club hits like "Tears", "Eye to Eye", "Mask" and the remix of **Combichrist's** "Sex, Drugs and Industrial" as well as festival performances at **M'Era Luna**, **WGT** and **Summer Darkness** among others.

At **M'Era Luna** 2004 a chance encounter with **Lutz Demmler** of controversial German goth-rock band **Umbra et Imago** provided the trigger for **Lahannya's** return to her own material. Their brief acquaintance turned into fast friendship and eventually the decision to work together on **Lahannya's** full-length debut album. "Shotgun Reality" was a departure from both her early solo work and her recent collaborations, yet its genre-breaching fusion of alternative rock, powerpop and gothic metal was instantly recognisable by the idiosyncratic vocal style and imaginative lyrics that have become **Lahannya's** trademark. In late 2006 **Lahannya** and **Lutz** were joined first by **Belle** (**Killing Miranda**, **Nosferatu**) and shortly after by **Chris Milden** (**NFD**) and together the glamorous quartet presented "Shotgun Reality" live at sold-out tours in the UK and France with **Courtney Love's** anarchic ex-collaborator **Emilie Autumn** and j-rock lolita **Moon Kana**.

For **Lahannya** standing still is a bit like dying and therefore the band are starting 2008 at full steam: Just six months after catapulting right into the heart of the European alternative scene with their impressive debut there will be a new release, in time for **Lahannya's** extended tour supporting German goth-rock sensation **ASP** in the UK, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The "Welcome To The Underground" EP features four brand new tracks and a variety of remixes by renowned artists from the alternative scene. The stunning artwork was created by **David Bircham**, whose graphic novel **Brodie's Law** has become a worldwide underground success.

The EP presents the prequel to a story that will unfold in the next album and is a subject that is very close to the heart of **Lahannya** and her band. "Welcome To The Underground" paints a bleak picture of our future - a future in which due to fear and lethargy our nation has sleepwalked into a surveillance society and our personal lives are under state control. Individualists, free thinkers and anyone seeking an alternative lifestyle either lives a life of pretence, constantly on guard, or is forced to exist completely outside society as we know it, in the underground. Not everyone is prepared to accept that we no longer live in a free country and the underground is rising to fight back...

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