

Just enjoy the show

>> Australian singer Lenka is performing in the city on Saturday at blueFrog



DIVAS OF ROCK

A unique platform for talented female musicians, Divas of Rock at Vivanta by Taj hosts a number of great musicians every year. This year, they're bringing Lenka, who will be performing in the city for the first time. The concert is in association with VH1, Sony Music and blueFrog.

When Saturday, November 23 at 10.30pm **Where** blueFrog, Lower Parel **Tickets** ₹1,000 from www.bookmyshow.in

Australian pop sensation, **Lenka** is going to be performing in the city this weekend as part of the Divas of Rock concert. **Rhea Dhanbhoora** talks to her about the performance, her inspirations, her latest album and being a new mum

If you're humming along to the headline, you'll be as excited as we are to hear that alternative pop singer Lenka is in Mumbai. There's a distinct creative energy you can't miss when you listen to her music or watch her quirky videos and songs. Her music will soothe you and make you want to dance at the same time — there's a magical quality about Lenka that we can't draw ourselves away from. The cheery Australian singer, whose song *Everything At Once* was recently used for the Windows 8 commercial, will be performing this weekend as part of Vivanta by Taj's annual property, Divas of Rock. We talk to the new mum about working through motherhood, her new album, *Shadow* and what she loves best about Mumbai on her first visit to the city.

First off, let me just say — we're so excited that you're here in Mumbai and we can't wait to see you perform! Are you equally excited to be in the city?

Thank you so much! It feels so great to receive so much love. Since this will be my first performance in India, I am really thrilled and looking forward to engaging with the crowd.

You burst onto the music scene with *The Show* and now we're all humming along with *Everything at Once*, the Windows 8 commercial — tell us a little bit about that journey?

I was initially approached by the China branch of the company for the Windows 8 association. They asked me if they could use my song and video for their commercials and I thought it would be a great opportunity! I believe it works in my favour as not only does Windows 8 have amazing products, using my song also helps me reach out to a new fan base. So, I would like to think of it as a bonus!

Is it difficult to travel and perform so much now that you have a baby?

Motherhood has changed everything! My singing is the same, but the songs are softer and sweeter for the baby. Quinn [Lenka's son] actually likes upbeat music, so that is what I am writing again, now that he's a toddler. My perspective as a songwriter has changed. I want to pass on some of my wisdom to my child's generation.

Have you eaten Indian food yet?

Yes, of course! I love tikka masala, like most westerners. It really is delicious. I'm looking forward to trying proper Indian chai.

What do you think of Bollywood and Indian music?

There is an Indian restaurant we go to that plays Bollywood films. They are so over-the-top! Very impressive and magical. I think you need to know the stories to enjoy the music. It's an obsession in India I hear...

We all have our favourite Lenka tune. What is yours?

To be honest, this keeps

changing, but currently my favourite song is *Like A Song*, from my first album.

How would you describe your music and where do you draw inspiration from?

Most of my songs are soothing and quiet. I like the way my songs can make an individual feel relaxed and dreamy. As an artist, I think it is essential for me to contribute by providing my listeners with songs that can help

THE LENKA FILE

- Lenka studied acting at The Australian Theatre for Young People and starred in a number of TV shows such as *Home and Away* and *Spellbinder*.
- She was also in a number of feature films such as *The Dish* and *Lost Things*.
- She was a member of Australian electronic-rock crossover band, Decoder Ring before becoming a solo artist.
- She is married to visual artist James Gulliver Hancock who helps create her eccentric videos.

put them at ease at the end of the day. I owe my inspiration and voice to Björk. I believe that's the reason why my songs' characters come through. It is because of my love for Björk.

Tell us about your new album. Was it a challenge to make or did it just flow?

Shadow is my third album and first as an independent artist. This album is very close to me as it was written and recorded while I was pregnant. Creating an album can never be a challenge for me as since my acting years, I have always loved to sing.

Do you want to say anything to your fans before the show?

A big thank you for liking my music and welcoming me into your beautiful country. I am really excited and look forward to seeing you soon!

What can we look forward to next from Lenka?

I am currently writing songs for film and TV projects and hopefully, I will be releasing another album by next year!