

Antony and the Johnsons

Born in Sussex, England in 1971, Antony spent his childhood in England, Amsterdam, and in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to NYC at the age of 19. In 1990, he founded the performance collective Blacklips with creative partner Johanna Constantine, and spent the next several years developing his voice and ideas on late night stages around NYC. Antony emerged with a focus on music with his musical ensemble "the Johnsons" in 2000. The same year British experimental musician David Tibet of Current 93 released Antony's debut album, *Antony and the Johnsons*, and a follow-up EP, *I Fell in Love with a Dead Boy*, in 2001.

Antony and the Johnsons' second album *I Am a Bird Now* won the UK's Mercury Prize in 2005 and was called Album of the Year by Mojo magazine. Featuring Peter Hujar's timeless portrait "Candy Darling on her Deathbed" on its sleeve, the album featured guest appearances by Lou Reed, Devendra Banhart, Boy George and Rufus Wainwright. Antony and his musicians played over 150 concerts around the world between 2005-2006, including at Carnegie Hall, La Carre, the Sydney State Theater, and the Queen Elizabeth Hall with guests including Little Jimmy Scott and Marc Almond.

Antony and the Johnsons collaborated with experimental film maker Charles Atlas and presented "TURNING" in Nov 2005 in Rome, London, Paris, Madrid, and Braga. This multimedia collaboration, which focussed on themes of transformation and metamorphosis, featured live video portraits of some of New York City's most enigmatic women. The Guardian called the Barbican TURNING "fragile, life affirming, and truly wonderful (five stars)", Le Monde in Paris hailed TURNING at the Olympia as "Concert- manifeste transsexuel".

Antony worked extensively with Lou Reed live and in the studio on albums *Animal Serenade* and *The Raven*. In 2006-07 Antony toured and sang backup in Lou Reed's first full performance of his landmark album *Berlin*. During this time Antony collaborated with Björk on two songs "The Dull Flame of Desire" and "My Juvenile", which were a feature of her 2007 album *Volta*. In addition Antony appeared with Björk in NYC and London during her 2007 world tour. Antony's vocals can be found on five of the tracks on the self-titled debut dance album, *Hercules and Love Affair*, released in March 2008 by DFA/Mute, including on the single "Blind." Other musicians who Antony has collaborated with include Rufus Wainwright, CocoRosie, Laurie Anderson, Marc Almond, Michael Cashmore, Current 93, Linda Thompson, Matmos, and Joan as Police Woman.

Antony appeared as a prison inmate, performing his song "The Rapture" in Steve Buscemi's movie *Animal Factory*. In the Wachowski brothers' *V for Vendetta*, the main characters dance to Antony's "Bird Gerhl" as it plays on V's illicit Wurlitzer. Antony covered Dylan's "Knockin' On Heaven's Door" for the Todd Haynes film *I'm Not There*. Antony also appeared in Hal Willner's "Came So Far For Beauty: a tribute to Leonard Cohen" and appeared in the film documentary of that

performance singing "If It Be Your Will".

In 2008 Prada commissioned Antony to create the soundtrack for an animated short film entitled "Fallen Shadows" as a backdrop to their Fall 2008 Collection.

Antony also premiered his visual artwork at Palais Des Beaux Arts in Belgium, Isis Gallery in London and in a group show entitled "Six Eyes" which he also curated at the Agnès B's Galerie Du Jour in Paris. Antony acted as guest designer for the Summer 2009 issue of Francis Ford Coppola's Zopetrope magazine.

"A beacon of intelligence and imagination" The Guardian, February 2009

A case could be made that Mr. Hegarty himself is following some uncharted lines as an artist and performer." New York Times Feb 19 2009

This year Antony and the Johnsons wrapped up a successful tour of North American and Europe in support of their 2009 release, "The Crying Light". Both these tours have garnered exceptional reviews; "(five stars) Whatever he sang, it was spellbinding. And thanks to the strange, almost otherworldly beauty of Hegarty's voice - sometimes like a choirboy's, sometimes like a Deep South soul singer's, sometimes like a Fifties crooner's, sometimes all three in a single phrase - there was an unsettling quality to the evening... Sublime music, performed here with scary concentration: songs that transcended genre..." The Telegraph, May 25th, 2009

Antony and the Johnsons' third full-length wisely focuses on the frontman's enormous talent...Hegarty's command has never been greater: The album's opening note, quivering and clinging like a spider in a wind-buffed web, could send an unprepared listener to the brink of tears." SPIN, February 2009

"The Crying Light" premiered at number 1 on the Billboard European Top 100 Album chart. "Epilepsy Is Dancing" was the first single from "The Crying Light" featuring a video directed by friends The Wachowski Brothers.

Antony and the Johnsons also played a series of unique concerts in collaboration with symphonies across Europe last summer. Presenting a wide array of material including songs from "The Crying Light", the concerts featured large format orchestras (36-49 players) presenting arrangements developed by Antony and Nico Muhly and conducted by Rob Moose. Premiering at the Manchester Festival, Antony has also been commissioned to create a stage environment for "The Crying Light" inspired by Bauhaus stage lighting design and considering the dreams of crystals inside mountains.

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