



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shane Solo / districtmisfits@gmail.com / 202-670-2084 / www.districtmisfits.com

HELP ME, WANDA! chosen to participate in Capital Fringe Festival extension July 28-29, 2017

HELP ME, WANDA!

Presented by: DISTRICT MISFITS

Written and performed by: Toni Rae Salmi

Directed by: Shane Solo

Extension performances: July 28 at 10:15 PM and July 29 at 8:45 PM

Venue: Logan Fringe Arts Space, 1358 Florida Ave., NE

Tickets: \$17.00 each, available at capitalfringe.org

Audiences now have **two more chances** to see the “charmingly vulnerable and wickedly talented” ([The Washington Post](#)) **Toni Rae Salmi** and her band in **Help Me, Wanda! DISTRICT MISFITS** is proud to announce their rock cabaret celebrating the barrier-bashing “sweet lady with the nasty voice”, Wanda Jackson, has been selected to be part of the **Capital Fringe Festival Extension Week!**

PRAISE FOR HELP ME, WANDA!

“‘Help Me, Wanda!’ is a big #WCW — woman crush Wanda. Creator and star Toni Rae Salmi takes major inspiration from rockabilly wailer Wanda Jackson to craft an entertaining and well thought-out cabaret act that could have you crushing on both songstresses.” - [The Washington Post](#)

“It was rockin’ music mixed with moxie, and a crowd-pleaser from beginning to end.” - [DC Metro Theatre Arts](#)

“‘Help Me, Wanda’ feels like a party, and Salmi is a charmingly vulnerable and wickedly talented host.” - [The Washington Post](#)

ABOUT THE SHOW

Join writer and performer Toni Rae Salmi and her 4-piece band as she takes a poignant and empowering look back on her own life while celebrating the preeminent Queen of Rock, Wanda Jackson, in an original show blending rock n’ roll and autobiographical storytelling.

One of the original rock n’ rollers, Wanda toured with Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis while making records as uninhibited as any of her male counterparts. Inducted into the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame in 2009, the “sweet lady with the nasty voice” created a powerful legacy that can be heard in everything from the in-your-face attitude of the riot grrrl movement to the raw emotion of Adele.

Inspired by Jackson's far-reaching influence, *Help Me, Wanda!* includes interpretations of both rockabilly favorites from Jackson's catalog to more contemporary songs from the likes of Jack Whites and Elle King.

Wanda Jackson is far more than musical inspiration for Salmi. "I grew up singing my whole life," she says, "but my path in life just didn't lead me to doing something about it. This production is me examining exactly why I didn't make those opportunities for myself before and why I am taking the leap now."

ABOUT DISTRICT MISFITS

DISTRICT MISFITS is a DC performing arts collective dedicated to providing a creative home for artists who don't always fit a particular genre and are rebelling against any system that expects them to. In creating performances that mix genres and styles of expression, we utilize the talents and passions of artists limited only by their imaginations to infuse DC with non-traditional art that embraces what it means to be different.

TONI RAE SALMI (Writer/Performer)

has been performing in the DC area since 1999, and was last seen as Barbara Grant in the revival of *Perfect Arrangement* for the Source Theatre Festival. Toni Rae is a company member of Pinky Swear Productions, where she directed and performed in *Cabaret XXX: Les Femmes Fatales* (Pick of Fringe: Best Musical) and *Cabaret XXX: Love the One You're With*; directed *Carol's Christmas* and *Bondage*; and performed in *Benched* and *Cabaret XXX: Everyone F**king Dies*. She has also performed with The Hub Theatre, Taffety Punk Theatre Company, WSC Avant Bard, Imagination Stage, The Kennedy Center, MetroStage, Theater Alliance, and The Keegan Theatre. Toni Rae is pursuing a master's degree in Arts Management at American University.

FELIX PAGÉS (Musical Director/Band Leader) is multi-instrumental musician, singer and arranger. In addition to playing in multiple band projects, Felix began developing cabarets with Pinky Swear Productions in 2011, where he became known for his unique ability in creating extended medleys and mashups out of almost any genre of song. Felix was the band leader/music director for Pinky Swear's entire *Cabaret XXX* series: *Les Femmes Fatales* (Pick of Fringe: Best Musical), *Love The One You're With*, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Everybody F**king Dies*.

SHANE SOLO (Director) is a multidisciplinary producer, director, actor, playwright, and sound designer. He is the former co-artistic director of Relapse Theatre Group, a non-profit theatre providing an artistic outlet for people in recovery. Currently, Shane is a company member of Pinky Swear Productions, in addition to leading the DC performing arts collective DISTRICT MISFITS.

CAPITAL FRINGE

**This production is presented as a part of the 2017 Capital Fringe Festival,
a program of the Washington, DC non-profit Capital Fringe.**