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CALL FOR PAPERS (February 2001)

20 Years of Madonna: New Approaches to Madonna's Cultural Transformations

In the six years since the publication of The Madonna Connection, Madonna, perhaps one of the most consistently transgressive and self-transforming artists of the late 20th century and early 21st century, has presented a set of strikingly new challenges to cultural analysis.

The release of Evita in 1996 was at once the culmination of her recurrent interest in Hispanism and the beginning of an unexpected transformation into exemplary matriarch. The arrival of her two children, her second marriage and the release of two critically acclaimed and best-selling albums have renewed media interest in Madonna. This new attention seems to have been attracted in no small part by the latest persona which seems, on the surface at least, to signal a dislocation with past personae. New developments in Gender, Queer and Ethnic studies also shed new light on her entire oeuvre. Consequently, there is a fresh need to (re)address configurations of race, gender and sex(uality) in Madonna's work to date. In view of this, we are seeking contributions to a volume that will be covering the following themes:

Madonna and:

Hispanism
Hinduism
Judaism (kabbalah)
Japanese culture (the Geisha look)
Black culture
All-American culture (Hollywood, Country and Western, Cowboy look)
European culture (Cockney, Germanic)
Motherhood
Marriage
Gay and Lesbian culture
Queer culture
The Internet (fan sites and discussion boards/web domain/webcasts)
The class system in the UK and the US (Fashion magazines/hunting/London's East End) Girl acts (Spice Girls/Britney)

We are hoping to publish this volume with a major publisher, to tie in with the twentieth anniversary of Madonna's first single release in 2003. We hope that it will be possible to present work in progress at the 2002 UK IASPM (International Association for the Study of Popular Music) Conference which will be held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom).

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