

ANNA BROMEE

En Frid (a) För Själen

by Regina Grafunder

A special tribute show to Frida's music from singer Anna Bromée will open in Frida's hometown of Torshälla on March 28.

The show is called 'En Frid(a) För Själen,' which in Swedish means 'A Peace For The Soul' and if you add the (a) it also means 'A Frida For The Soul'.

The show opens at Sagasalongen where Frida used to watch films as a kid including the Elvis movie "Jail-house Rock" that inspired her to pursue a career in music.

After that it will go on tour in Sweden, starting April 3-7 in Gothenburg, at Göteborgs Stadsteater.

Anna is an actress, scriptwriter and singer and she spent her childhood and teens in the same county where Frida grew up before her – Sörmland. ABBA INTERMEZZO spoke to this wonderful, multi-talented woman.

Anna, please tell us a bit about yourself. What have you been doing lately?

Over the last few years I've been on a national tour in Sweden with an Edith Piaf-concert called "**Jag ville dansa med lyckan**" ("I want to dance with happiness").

In that show, I'm on stage with wonderful soul-singer Gladys del Pilar who, among many other things, represented Sweden in the Eurovision Song Contest 2003.

It features the story of Piaf's life and my Swedish translations of her classic songs as well as unique songs of hers that were given to me personally by a composer who wrote music and lyrics for, and with, miss Piaf in Paris in the 50's and 60's. I am eternally grateful, happy and humbly proud of that.

Apart from that, I'm an actress in different comedy shows for Swedish television since 2013, for example "**Familjen Rysberg**," featuring Petra Mede who hosted the Eurovision Song Contest twice when it was broadcast from Sweden.

On stage I am, and have been over the past 15 years, in plays/shows in theatres such as Riksteatern (the national Swedish touring theatre-

company), Stockholms Stadsteater, Göteborgs Stadsteater and Lisebergsteatern.

Besides that, I do voice-overs for TV and film, write plays, lyrics and special material for Swedish artists.

Why do you call the show "En Frid(a) För Själen"?

Because that's what Frida's music has given me all through my life – peace of mind, comfort, strength, happiness and inspiration.

What is the show about?

The show does not tell the story of Frida's life – the focus is on her music.

It's a life-journey with her music, reflected through me – from her start in the 60's, via ABBA and on to her solo-albums like "**Frida Ensam**," "**Something's Going On**" and "**Djupa Andetag**".

It's my way of saying thank you to Frida for the music and for giving me inspiration through life's different paths – and the courage to try to be true to myself and follow my dreams the way she did.

She has given me her blessings

to do this show – for which I am warmly and eternally grateful and happy.

So I hope that the people who see the show will feel recognition in their own lives, be inspired and touched, laugh and enjoy the fantastic music of Frida.

Along the way the audience also gets to see some short video-clips of Frida now and from way back. And a few surprises.

The Frida-songs (and some ABBA-songs) that I sing in the show are specially arranged, and pre-recorded by some of Sweden's finest musicians.

Frida's friend and music-colleague Gunnar Sandevärn plays the piano in one of the songs ("Som en sparv" from the album Frida ensam), which I am very happy and grateful for.

Is there a full list of songs?

I am really grateful for your interest, but I would love to keep the complete list a secret until the show opens, so that the first theatre-audiences get a nice surprise.

However, I can tell you that it will be a personal mix of songs from

the 60's up to Frida's latest, and fantastic, 1996 solo-album "**Djupa Andetag**". A little hint is that among the songs in "**En Frid(a) För Själen**" are:

"I Wonder," which meant so much to me in my youth. And still does, but in a different context now that I'm an adult.

"Aldrig Mig" (from "**Frida Ensam**").

"Kvinnor Som Springer" (from "**Djupa andetag**") that Frida herself wrote the lyrics for, and that inspires me.

Are there any songs which have a special meaning for you?

In my teens I listened over and over again to "**I Wonder**" – relating to every single word that Frida sang which Bjorn Ulvaeus and Stikkan Andersson wrote so beautifully and "spot on". The doubts, the longing, the dreams. Searching for, and finding courage. It applies to many situations through life.

"Kvinnor Som Springer" so appeals to me today, when I'm about the same age that Frida was when she wrote it.

To me, it's the image of a person who's matured through all that's happened in life – good and bad. Now, the person is capable of using that in the best possible way in finding peace and being true to oneself.

Or at least try to. For a better future for yourself, and thereby being able to really open up to the world and other people.

A way to a more humble, peaceful and loving view on life. It's a powerful inspiration.

Was last August the first time you met Frida?

I had never met Frida before I got to see her in Torshälla this August. I am so happy and humbly grateful for her down-to-earth-warmth, open creative mind – and her faith in letting me do this tribute-show.

Have you met any of the other ABBA members?

I did a short interview with Benny Andersson for a Swedish TV-show ("**Allsång på Skansen**") some 15 years ago.

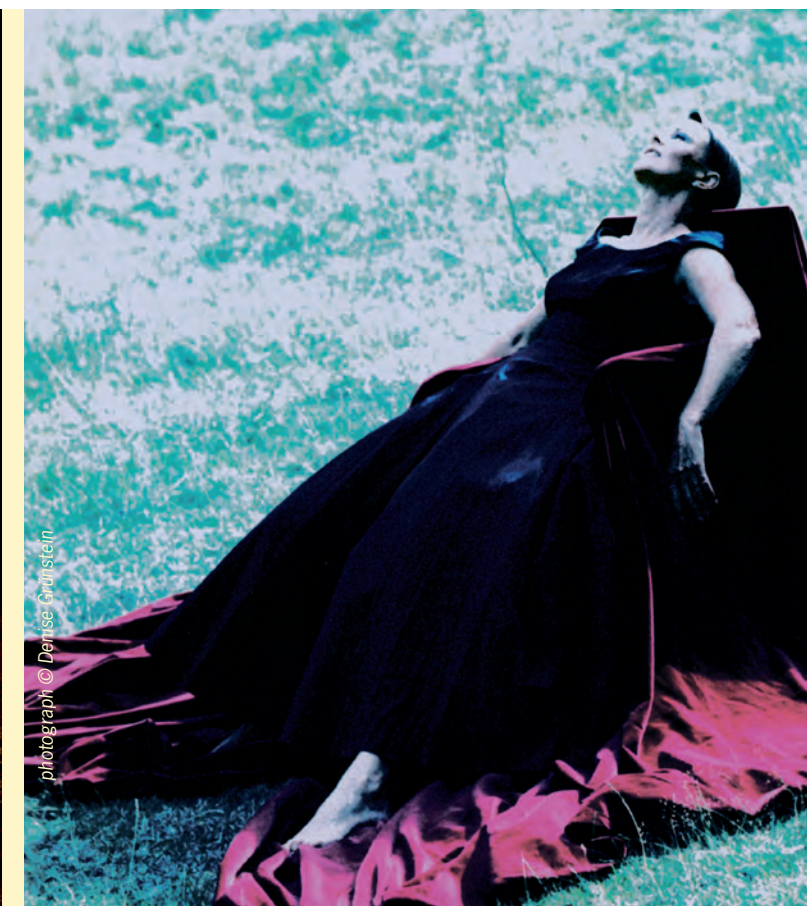


large picture:
Anna Bromée meeting
Frida in Torshälla in
August 2017.

above:
promotional
poster for
Anna's tour.



photograph by Ola Lager © Premium Rockshot



photograph © Denise Gustafson