

# Andrea Menard

Actor + Singer + Writer + Messenger

## -Biography -

**Andrea Menard**, an acclaimed Métis singer, actor, writer, and messenger, is becoming an ever-more creative global force.

From a new collection of uplifting songs to be recorded, a repertoire of new orchestrated material, a new television series, to a screenplay taking up much of her time, the Métis songstress lends her talents to the international stage as well as to the music and film industries.

The magnetic Menard has the voice and worldview that inspires real change in the human heart, a universal concept that has launched her music, her film and television work, and her very being to the far reaches of the globe.

## MUSIC

The creative spark inside Andrea Menard caught fire on her third album, *Sparkle*, a multi-genre original work that celebrates the glittering winter and the holiday spirit. Andrea has been touring the *Sparkle Tour* and her satellite youth show, *The Little Spark Tour*, across the Canadian prairies for the past three years, and will continue to bring her empowering message of ‘unity’ to audiences young and old alike. The title song from her award-winning album, written with her long-time collaborator, Robert Walsh, has been sung around the globe and has been described as the “new Silent Night.”

Menard wrote and starred in a television holiday special, called *Sparkle: An Evening with Andrea Menard*, (Wabunganung Films) that was broadcast on APTN during the 2010/11/12 holiday seasons. She was nominated for a 2011 Gemini Award for her outstanding performance.

The talented songstress’ first two award-winning albums, *Simple Steps* (2005) and *The Velvet Devil* (2002), both feature original songs, written by Menard and Robert Walsh. *Simple Steps*, produced by Walsh, is “a little bit country, and a whole lot of folk”. It won a number of awards for its outstanding performance and production, including “Outstanding Aboriginal Artist” at the Western Canadian Music Awards. Menard's debut CD, *The Velvet Devil* is the music of her hit one-woman jazz musical play that swept up awards all across the country.

Both CDs have received much acclaim and interest across the country and internationally. Original music from *The Velvet Devil* was featured on the television series *Queer as Folk* as well as the soundtrack CD for Season IV. As a standout vocalist, Andrea is also featured on numerous compilation CD’s including: *Real Divas*, a national compilation CD featuring Canada’s finest female jazz artists.

## FILM, TELEVISION & STAGE

The award-winning film adaptation of her one-woman musical stage play *The Velvet Devil*, which Menard has performed all over Canada, debuted nationally on CBC's television series *Opening Night*. The adapted film script, written by Menard and director, Larry Bauman, with music written by Menard and Robert Walsh, swept 13 awards at the 2008 Showcase Awards, including Best Lead Female, Best Original Score, Best Original Script, and Best Dramatic Feature. Andrea's performance in the made-for-television movie received rave reviews and garnered a Gemini nomination for Best Performance by an Actress (2006). *The Velvet Devil* was produced by Executive Producer, Michael Snook of WestWind Pictures (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*).

Andrea starred in the dramatic series, *Rabbit Fall* (Angel Entertainment), which is a supernatural crime drama filmed on location in Saskatchewan. Andrea played the new constable sent to the eerie town of Rabbit Fall, where she combat criminals as well as supernatural forces. Menard, who performed all her own stunts, won Best Female Lead at the 2009 SMPA Awards for her role and was nominated for a 2009 Gemini Award for Best Actress in a Dramatic Role.

Menard also starred in three seasons of the dramatic series, *Moccasin Flats* (Big Soul Productions) which aired on Showcase & APTN. She was also nominated for a Gemini award in 2006 for her performance as Amanda Strongeagle, a groundbreaking role featuring one of the first lead lesbian characters on a Canadian television series. She also played a recurring role in Verite Films (*Corner Gas*) renegeadepress.com (Global). Menard is part of the ensemble cast of the Gemini-winning animated comedy series, *Wapos Bay* (Dark Thunder Productions) that just ended their 7-season run.

Andrea performed in Germany at the Indianer-Inuit Film Festival, where they screened the film version of *The Velvet Devil*. She also won Best Actress at the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival, for her role in *A Windigo Tale* (Windigo Productions). Her first music video, *Evergreen*, also screened at the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival, the Reel World Film Festival, the Indianer-Inuit Film Festival, and was nominated for Best Music Video at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. (link to *Evergreen* video: <http://www.youtube.com/velvetdevilmenard>)

Currently, Andrea plays the role of Debbie Fraser in the edgy dramatic series, *Blackstone*, (Prairie Dog Film & TV) which is filmed in Edmonton, Alberta. The second season of the gritty drama, about politics on a reserve, currently airs on Showcase and APTN. Andrea is also the new host of CTV's *First Story*, an aboriginal current affairs weekly segment. Most recently, Andrea landed a role in the all-star cast of *Hard Rock Medical*, where she plays an ex-musician turned medical student in northern Ontario.

## **NOTABLE PERFORMANCES**

Andrea Menard dazzles audiences on screen and stage –alone, on a bare stage, singing a cappella, or accompanied by a 50-piece orchestra. Andrea’s reputation as a powerhouse performer has earned her many invitations to perform for royalty, prime ministers, premiers, senators, ambassadors, governor generals as well as NATO generals. She has been awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal for her outstanding contribution as an artist.

In celebration of Saskatchewan's Centennial, Andrea joined an acclaimed cast (including Joni Mitchell, Buffy Saint Marie, Leslie Nielson, Colin James) in the *Lieutenant-Governor's Celebration of the Arts*, performing for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Andrea performed with a grand combination of both the Saskatoon and Regina Symphony orchestras for her original jazz song, *Sunny Makes Me Sunny*. She has also given command performances for His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex, at Regina's Globe Theatre and His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, at the Saskatchewan Premier's Community Luncheon.

Andrea toured Saskatchewan with a fundraising concert tour for the Food Banks with country music star Brad Johner, and toured the country with Tom Jackson on the Huron Carole. She was part of an all-star cast on the George Canyon Christmas Special, which aired on CBC in December 2007, and sang with the Canadian Tenors on CBC's *Holiday Festival on Ice*, which featured skating performances by several Olympic and World Champion figure skaters. Also, Andrea was asked to perform in the Saskatchewan Pavilion and the Athletes' Village in Whistler during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. In her 6<sup>th</sup> year as national cast of the Kinsmen Telemiracle, Andrea is committed to participating in this charity event for the long term, and for the second time, Menard co-hosted another event close to her heart, the Indspire Awards (formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.)

**For more information, visit Andrea’s websites:**

<http://www.andreamenard.com>

<http://www.velvetdevil.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/velvetdevilmenard>

<http://www.myspace.com/andreamenard>

<http://twitter.com/#!/andreamenard>

<http://www.facebook.com/andreamenardmusic>

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