

Dolls to win live converts

Dresden Dolls' punk/cabaret on stage

Dresden Dolls' bizarre marriage of punk-rock intensity and Goth-y cabaret style is hard to resist. In fact, vocalist/pianist Amanda Palmer and drummer Brian Viglione are now big enough to headline the Theatre of the Living Arts, appearing tonight on the Boston duo's seemingly endless tour supporting its self-titled 2003 debut.

"For a band like us, it's just a proven fact that the easiest way for us to convert people is to play in front of them," said Palmer, who met Viglione at a Halloween party in 2000.

The former street performer entrances audiences with her take-no-prisoners piano bashing and uncomfortably raw vocals.

Twisted tales

Her twisted tales of broken people, particularly the MTV2 hits "Girl Anachronism" and "Coin-Operated Boy," are show tunes for people who hate show tunes. However, Dresden Dolls' costumes and theatrical interplay are no "shtick," said Palmer.

"On the surface, we have something in common with Slipknot, but fundamentally we have more in common, under the surface, with Neil Young — someone who makes no use of costumes but is really about present-

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DRESDEN DOLLS'
VOCALIST/PIANIST
AMANDA PALMER

ing a hardcore, passionate performance," she said. "In a land with tons of copycat music and inauthentic bands and people wanking, those are the people that really resonate with us, not the people that are dressing up in costumes and putting on makeup."

After finishing its run of East Coast dates, Dresden Dolls will head to Europe, with plans for a show in its namesake German city.

"We're terribly excited about that," said Palmer of visiting the place most famous for its World War II misfortune. "We've had a lot of people reach out from Dresden. It's very intimidating, but we'll see what happens."

MATT SMITH

Dresden Dolls appear tonight at 9 p.m. at the Theatre of the Living Arts, 334 South St., Philadelphia. Regina Spektor and The Side Effects open. Tickets: \$53. Call 215-922-1011. On the Web: www.thetla.com; Dresden Dolls on the Web: www.dresdendolls.com.

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BOSTON-BASED PUNK/CABARET DUO Dresden Dolls (Amanda Palmer, left, and Brian Viglione) play the Theatre of the Living Arts tonight.