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## Queen of Tarts Releases New Album International Women's Day Music Celebration

Local 'PopTarts' music promoter Amanda Easton will launch her new album at an International Women's Day event showcasing some of the best female independent music acts in Sydney.

The launch party of Amanda's second album 'Chanteuse' at Newtown's Vanguard on March 8 will feature special guest PopTarts artists Evelyn Duprai, Tania Murray, Yolanda Thomas, Kylie Memory, Snez and Jo Elms.

'PopTarts' is a collective of hundreds of fully independent self-financed original pop artists who perform at a successful event with the same name at Sydney's Empire Hotel in Annandale every Monday.

'Since International Women's Day inspires women around the world to achieve their full potential, I thought it would be a great occasion to hold a showcase of some of the best local female artists. And I couldn't think of a better way to launch my new album, with its title of 'Chanteuse' (literally 'female singer' in French) than having it coincide with a whole night celebrating women in music,' Amanda said.

Amanda describes her new album as theatrical pop, featuring chilled electronic beats and electric guitars as well as jazz elements including upright bass and trumpets. It was produced by Michael Carpenter and Matt Fell at Leichhardt's Love Hz studios.

While Pop Idols fight it out on our television sets, girls like Amanda and the 'Tarts are following a more independent path to pop success. In an era where live music struggles to keep its foothold in Sydney, the regular weekly Inner-West PopTarts event is now in its sixth year.

PopTarts has also toured around Australia ('Tarts on Tour') to various venues and university campuses and also hosted charity nights, including 'Tarts for Timor'.

"I originally started PopTarts because I wanted a place to play! My music just didn't fit into the pub-rock style that most venues seemed to want. Then I realised there were a whole lot of us, particular girls, in the same boat," Amanda said.

"There seems to be a bottomless supply of amazing independent pop artists in Sydney – people who drop in to check it out are always astounded at the quality of the acts,' she said.

As well as being PopTarts' promoter, Amanda is well known as a session and backing singer. She has appeared twice at the ARIA Awards, backing Powderfinger and Candice Alley and has toured around Australia with Richard Clapton and Wendy Matthews. Amanda's self-titled debut album, released in 2004, featured two singles that charted in the independent (A.I.R) Top 10.

'Chanteuse' will be available nationally at records stores, distributed by MGM, from March 3. It will be available for secure digital download from [www.amandaeaston.com](http://www.amandaeaston.com) from February 16. Tickets for the 'Chanteuse' International Women's Day party on March 8, starting at 8:30pm, are available from The Vanguard ([www.thevanguard.com.au](http://www.thevanguard.com.au)) and Moshtix outlets throughout Australia. For more information please visit [www.amandaeaston.com](http://www.amandaeaston.com) or [www.myspace.com/amandaeaston](http://www.myspace.com/amandaeaston).

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Attached Photo: Amanda Easton launches a new album on International Women's Day with help from the PopTarts.

