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'Twist' Songwriter Tena Clark Dishes On Her 'Dessert' Project

Britt Bickel // Morning Show Editor

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Photo by Kevin Winter/Getty Images

Being a Southern belle growing up playing music in New Orleans, famed songwriter **Tena Clark** was the obvious choice to score the ambitious modern-day Broadway adaptation of the beloved tale of *Oliver Twist* in Debbie Allen's new production *Twist*.

With the story's setting in depression-era New Orleans, Tena had the expertise to highlight the blues, hot jazz and gospel music of the time, but at first she was hesitant to take on the project. Tena stopped by The WAVE to detail on what made her decide to become involved with one of the most critically acclaimed new musicals and her key part writing all the sensational music for the show!

Even though you might not be familiar with her name, you're most surely familiar with her work. Songwriter Tena Clark has penned hits for a number of artists including **Chaka Khan**, **Dionne Warwick** and **Patti LaBelle** just to name a few, and now she has taken on the new role as the songwriter for the hot new musical, *Twist*.

When first approached to take on the project, Tena resisted because she's never been involved with Broadway plays before. But after reconsideration, she took a meeting with the producers, took the treatment for the play and wrote six songs while on vacation. And the rest she says "is history."

"I always called *Twist* my 'dessert' project, because it's this project

“ I think this show just resonates love and that it's what's inside and that we're all more alike than not. ”

Tena Clark

The WAVE Morning Show
 With Pat & Kim, WAVE
 7/15/2011
 11:50 am

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About Pat Prescott:

Pat Prescott is a native of Hampton, VA and a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. After teaching junior high school for five years, she started her radio career at WYLD-FM in New Orleans.

Pat is a veteran broadcaster who has spent most of her career in New York, beginning with a stint as music director and midday announcer at legendary jazz station WRVR. She held a number of positions at WBLS and WLIB, including morning show host, news announcer, talk show host and public affairs director. For thirteen years Pat was the morning show host at

sitting on the side all these years that I'd go away and write. We actually put it on the shelf for 12 years," explains Tena.

But the project really went into motion after her "sister and partner in crime" **Debbie Allen** learned about this little dessert project that was just waiting to be revealed.

Tena showed Debbie the treatment for the play and "she listened to it, she read it, she flipped out over it and said 'we gotta do this.' And we started on this journey," said Tena.

After years of being pushed to the side, Twist fell into the right hands and was put into production. This show-stopping musical is currently running at the **Pasadena Playhouse** through July 24th until it moves onto the grand stage of Broadway. Catch this intriguing, inspirational production while you still can and buy your tickets at the [Pasadena Playhouse!](#)

Listen to our extended interview with the lovely and talented Tena Clark about her role with the play and creating all the amazing music for the play!

Re-listen to our interview with Twist's director [Debbie Allen here.](#)

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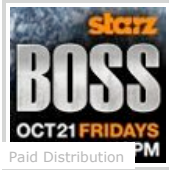
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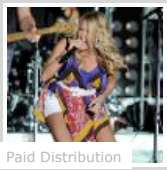
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New York's smooth jazz station CD101.9.

Along with her on-air work, Pat appeared for 8 years in the New York company of the hit Off Broadway play "Mama I Want to Sing." She is also a popular voiceover artist who for 10 years was the voice of the USA Network's award winning late night program "Night Flight." In addition, she is the voice of Time Warner Cable New York.

For six years Pat co-hosted the morning show on 94.7 The WAVE with popular jazz artist and radio host Dave Koz and then for three years with GRAMMY nominated singer/songwriter Brian McKnight. Currently, Pat can be heard every weekday morning on The Pat and Kim Morning Show with co-host Kim Amidon.

Pat is very active in the community and has received numerous awards and citations for her contributions. She is also the recipient of Radio and Records' Smooth Jazz Personality of the Year Award for 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

About Kim Amidon:

Hometown:

Born in Middletown, CT we moved to Riverside, Ca when I was 7 and so I am pretty much a Southern Californian.

Radio Stations You've Worked At:

KACE, KUTE 102, KHJ, KEARTH 101, KOST 103

When you're not working, what hobbies do you have?

I enjoy playing tennis and golfing. I love to garden, read and hang with my kids.

Favorite Movie:

Classics like "Sound Of Music," and I'm a sucker for any romantic comedy too, like "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "The Holiday," or "When Harry Met Sally."

I love to laugh so movies like "Liar,Liar," are fun. But my favorite are period pieces, if there is great scenery or costumes, I am there. I loved, "Sense and Sensibility," and "Pride and Prejudice." In fact, I wish I would of lived then!

Best concert(s) you've ever been to:

Madonna, Janet Jackson, Luther Vandross, Bruce Springsteen at the Coliseum, The Stones

Favorite Vacation Destination:

I loved all of Europe, but the kids always want to go to Hawaii or houseboat on Lake Powell, so that's what we do these days, it's fun too!

Best place to eat in Los Angeles:

Anywhere, Too Hard a question...lol.

Favorite Food/Beverage:

Sushi, Mexican, Mediterrrian, Italian, oh heck we like it all.

Favorite TV Show:

Grey's Anatomy, Damages, Food Network's Chopped, Dexter, Nurse Jackie and The Big C!

Favorite Artists:

Luther Vandross, Anita Baker, Mary J, Reba, Linda

Website

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Ronstadst my high school favorite.

If I wasn't working in radio, I would be: Working on my novel and walking my dog, Kiwi.

Favorite thing about LA: You can find anything you want at anytime you want.

Best part of working at The WAVE: The music is so great!!! And so are the people!!

One place I always take out of town visitors in LA: Disneyland of course.

Something personal you'd like to share: I am just so happy to be here at the Wave

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The 100 Best Scary Songs



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Hilarious Pics of Scared People



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100 Celebs' Hot Costumes



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