

BIO 2026 (longform)

The Dresden Dolls

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The Dresden Dolls announce a global tour to celebrate the freshly re-recorded release of *Yes, Virginia... (Tailor's Version)*, out on vinyl, CD, and on all streaming services August 7, 2026. Guest vocalists include Jinkx Monsoon and Veronica Swift.

The Dresden Dolls—the pioneering punk cabaret duo featuring singer-songwriter Amanda Palmer and drummer/multi-instrumentalist Brian Viglione—are returning for a powerful new chapter.

The band's landmark 2005 album *Yes, Virginia...*, which was originally released on Roadrunner Records and features the recently viral song "My Alcoholic Friends" (240 million streams on Spotify and rising fast), was fully re-recorded from scratch by the founding band members over a few months in late 2025 at Mad Oak Studios in the band's hometown of Boston, Mass.

The re-recording is titled *Yes, Virginia... (Tailor's Version)*, a tip of the hat to Taylor Swift, who famously also re-recorded and re-released her first few iconic albums in order to reclaim financial and artistic control of her material.

The track listing remains identical. Originally hailed for Viglione's unique and passionately expressive and orchestral drumming style in collision with Palmer's signature piano attacks and unflinchingly emotional songwriting, The Dresden Dolls defied genre and skirted mainstream success. Palmer's brutally frank and sardonic song lyrics—delivered in a wide range, from whisper to scream, with a clear distaste for autotune—explore sexuality, identity, addiction, capitalism, Holocaust denial, and social isolation against a bombastically hopeful landscape of joy and community. *Yes, Virginia... (Tailor's Version)* also includes live favorites "Sex Changes," "Backstabber," "Mrs. O," "Sing," "Delilah," and "Me and the Minibar," which was performed in loving tribute by queer icon Jinkx Monsoon with a full orchestra at her Carnegie Hall debut concert in February 2025.

Working near their original stomping grounds (the band formed in Boston in 2000), Palmer and Viglione reunited for a few months to re-record the album with a raw, live-to-tape approach at Mad Oak Studios with their friend and longtime collaborator Benny Grotto, an award-winning Boston engineer who originally worked with the band as a studio assistant under the wing of *Yes, Virginia...*'s original engineer/producer duo, the Fort Apache Studios legends Paul Kolderie and Sean Slade.

The new recording also features new guest vocalists: Veronica Swift, an award-winning, critically acclaimed jazz/rock phenomenon, and Jinkx Monsoon, a recent breakout Broadway star and two-time champion of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Both singers—along with Lady Gaga, Doja Cat, Marina Diamandis, Gerard Way, and Billie Eilish — have cited The Dresden Dolls' style and Amanda Palmer's songwriting as formative influences.

The reimagined album will feature new front and back cover artwork by South African surrealist painter Niki McQueen, using elements of hand-stitched embroidery provided by Polish musician Gaba Kulka, a longtime Dolls friend and collaborator.

Why now?

The timing of the release follows the resolution of a 20-year contract with Roadrunner Records, through which the band has gained the right to re-record the three albums originally issued on the label.

Yes, Virginia... (Tailor's Version) revisits the original tracks with two decades' worth of life-soaked perspective and hard-won artistic and personal growth. Both Palmer and Viglione have endured difficult divorces and stayed private about the details, though one can sense they say what they need to say using songs that speak emotional volumes: theirs is a musical dialogue of rage and restraint that tips hard left and right like an old wooden warship careening, ever upright and on tempo, in a brutal storm.

Their performances of these vintage songs could have mimicked the old recordings, but instead they reflect a deepened, more mature musical connection, with renewed nuance and a wider emotional and sonic range. The knowing glances are almost audible, as Viglione's drums dig in and Palmer's hands flutter and strike from muscle memory, all captured with added musical mastery, greater wit, and more compassion for humanity.

The Dresden Dolls' enduring impact continues to resonate with new audiences worldwide. The band has amassed nearly 3 million followers on Spotify, with "My Alcoholic Friends" surpassing their previous hit "Coin-Operated Boy," leading to the band celebrating their first platinum single a full 20 years after the album's release.

Their renewed presence extends across platforms, including more than 100,000 YouTube subscribers, while recent viral momentum on TikTok has introduced their music to a new generation ready to explore the darker, theatrical side of punk: fans of The Last Dinner Party, Chappell Roan, and Sofia Isella have found themselves wandering the dark woods of the algorithm to find the hidden gateway into the sonic world of The Dresden Dolls. "Coin-Operated Boy" recently received a high-profile Halloween spotlight from Doja Cat, and Lady Gaga recently cited the band as an early influence in an interview with *Rolling Stone*.

The release of *Yes, Virginia... (Tailor's Version)* signals a broader resurgence for the band. Dresden Dolls are currently working on new material, some of which has already been performed live in recent years, and are actively planning future touring.

ABOUT THE DRESDEN DOLLS

Formed in Boston in 2000 after a chance meeting at a Halloween party, Amanda Palmer and Brian Viglione quickly established The Dresden Dolls as a singular force in the underground music scene. Their fusion of theatricality, punk energy, and cabaret sensibility helped define the “Brechtian punk cabaret” genre.

In 2003, the band won the prestigious WBCN Rock & Roll Rumble and self-released their eponymous debut album, featuring “Coin-Operated Boy” and “Girl Anachronism,” the latter of which was featured on the HBO series *Weeds*. A summer support offer from Nine Inch Nails in 2005 followed.

Extensive international touring kicked off, including tours and slots with Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry, Patti Smith, The Cure, and Panic! at the Disco and appearances at major festivals including Lollapalooza, Coachella, Bonnaroo, Fuji Rock, and Glastonbury. They went on to collaborate with the Boston Pops at Boston Symphony Hall and have won multiple Boston Music Awards.

Since entering an unofficial and lengthy hiatus in 2008, both artists have pursued wide-ranging creative paths. Viglione has performed with acts including Nine Inch Nails and Violent Femmes, while Palmer has built a multifaceted solo career encompassing crowdfunding, online writing, and public speaking. Her 2013 TED Talk has been viewed nearly 20 million times, and Palmer’s 2014 memoir *The Art of Asking* became a *New York Times* bestseller. Viglione lives in Los Angeles, and Palmer recently moved back into her childhood Boston home.

Now, after years of individual evolution and intermittent reunions, Palmer and Viglione return. It’s time for The Punk Cabaret.

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