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**Dana Sipos reveals new album, *The Astral Plane*,
out June 25, 2021 via Roaring Girl Records**

**“a consummate singer and songwriter
with a wholly unique sound” – *No Depression***

**“one of the most incredible songwriting
talents out there” – *Folk Radio UK***

Victoria, BC-based artist Dana Sipos is set to release a new album, *The Astral Plane*, on June 25, 2021 via JUNO Award-nominated musician Miranda Mulholland's label, Roaring Girl Records. For *The Astral Plane*, Sipos once again teamed up with experimental producer Sandro Perri and reunited with her accomplished studio band for the project, consisting of Thomas Hammerton (keys, piano, organ), Mark McIntyre (bass), Nick Zubeck (guitar), and Blake Howard (percussion), with guest appearances from Lydia Persaud (vocals) and Michael Davidson (vibraphone). To bring the new songs to life, the crew decamped to a large converted 1860s stone carriage house, The House of Miracles, in Cambridge, Ontario, in the summer of 2020. The result is an impeccably curated collection of sounds, anchored by Sipos' haunting vocals and evocative lyrics. The album will be preceded by several single releases, including “Light Around The Body,” which came out March 31st; “Skinny Legs” which will be released on April 28th; and “Breathing Barrel,” which is set for a May 26th release.

Sipos opens *The Astral Plane* with an invitation for the listener to revel in the quiet, sometimes off-putting nature of the spaces in between. “*Don’t let the light in, don’t let the moon on, I just want to sit with the darkness for a little bit / The day has fallen down.*” Winding down the opening track, Sipos meditates on the temporary, often painful nature of our earthly experience: “*We’re two broken bones, I guess, camped out in borrowed bodies just waiting to set.*”

This invitation arrives after a full minute of undulating piano and shimmering guitar, guiding the listener into an emotionally and sonically rich landscape. What follows is a deeply personal exploration, tracing the imprints of memory that form and take hold over the many lifetimes of a person, a family, the environment. Running parallel to this investigation of family histories and legacies, there are strong undercurrents of collective climate grief, the shifting faces of loss and inherited trauma echoing the ecological crises of our time.

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Many albums offer a snapshot in time, or a glimpse behind the curtain into a fleeting certain moment in the writer's story. On *The Astral Plane*, Sipos instead invites the listener beneath the surface, diving into complex personal histories and relationships and their ongoing reverberations, from the past and into the present and future.

Among the many forms of loss explored in this album, Sipos unearths the trauma of her grandparents' early lives, surviving the Holocaust, escaping from Communist Hungary with two young children, including Dana's mother. They arrived in Canada with \$5 sown into a jacket pocket and didn't speak a word of English. "I feel very lucky that they shared these stories and experiences with us," says Sipos. From her grandfather, she also inherited a love for singing, Jewish jokes, and Yiddish humor: "I grew up with a love of stories and storytelling across the board, the unfathomably dark and painful. And despite — or perhaps because of — the hardships, the ability to turn that darkness into humor." Sipos became a careful observer and close listener at the kitchen table on her grandparents' farm, where they settled in southern Ontario.

Sipos has long infused a quality of thoughtful observation into her songwriting, but there's a new urgency that drives many of these songs. "Skinny Legs" is a letter to her beloved grandmother, asking questions that cannot be posed in real time. "Greenbelt" specifically explores her upbringing on the farm and the ways, both subtle and overt, that trauma impacted the family over time. And on "Hoodoo," Sipos explores how this intergenerational legacy mirrors the profoundly damaged earth that generations to come will inherit, highlighting the lasting and cyclical nature of trauma.

In writing these songs, Sipos is holding memories, often painful ones, up to the light and asking: What is the contour of these memories in your body? How do they shape you? How are these inherited memories and experiences absorbed? What does their aftermath look and feel like?

Described as "one of the most incredible songwriting talents out there" by *Folk Radio UK*, Sipos' work combines enigmatic lyrics and bold production choices. Hailed as a "luminous and compelling work" by *Exclaim!*, her 2018 release, *Trick Of The Light*, was nominated for English Songwriter of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards, shortlisted for the Ontario Arts Council Colleen Peterson Songwriting Award, and was a finalist in the Kerrville Folk Festival "New Folk" songwriter competition. The release was supported by tours and festival dates throughout North America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. *Trick Of The Light* received acclaim from CBC, *The Bluegrass Situation*, *Penguin Eggs*, *Folk Radio UK*, and *No Depression*. *Trick Of The Light* followed a 2015 album, *Roll Up the Night Sky*, released on Nashville-based Muddy Roots Records, which was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award in the Pushing The Boundaries category, celebrating innovation in creating new folk sounds and extensive international touring. *Roll Up* caught the eye of outfits like *No Depression*, who lauded Sipos as "a consummate singer and songwriter with a wholly unique sound."

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