

Patricia Vonne – Bio

Particia Vonne aka Patricia Vonne Rodriguez was born in San Antonio, Texas. Vonne was one of ten children born to a Mexican father, who happened to play the drums in bands in his youth, while Patricia's mother was Spanish by birth, and played guitar – she sang folk songs to her kids when they were young. It's hardly surprising therefore that Vonne and some of her siblings would end up pursuing a career in the entertainment business. During her teen years she listened to the recordings of Stevie Ray Vaughan and Joe Ely. It was however the diverse mix of contemporary music performed by Los Angeles based band, The Cruzados, that most appealed to Vonne. As she told an interviewer, *"They sang in English and Spanish, which made us proud of our heritage."* Between 1984 and 1988 The Cruzados cut two albums for Arista Records.

Moving to New York in 1990, Patricia quickly scored a slot as singer and later bass player in the pop/rock combo Mick & The Maelstroms. In parallel with her career as a musician, Vonne established a career as a model and appeared in national and international commercials. She also appeared in a number of movies including **"Desperado"** [1995] – directed by her brother, **"Spy Kids"** [2001] and **"Sin City"** [2005]. Midway through the nineties Vonne began writing songs, in the process refining a style that journalists have dubbed ranchera rock'n'roll. Vonne's musical creation merged Trad. Mex - corridas and rancheras, with rock, country and blues references. One minute she'll deliver a torch ballad and the next a rock number. Drawing upon her own musical and cultural background, on occasions Patricia would collaborate on songs with her boyfriend, and now husband, Robert LaRoche. At one time LaRoche was a member of The Sighs who released recordings on the Virgin label.

Deciding to form her own band, she recruited Kirk Brewster, a Texan who had been in the Dallas based group The Werewolves. In the early Spring of 1999, Vonne and her band played the annual South By Southwest Music Festival in Austin, and following that appearance she decided to return to Texas. Vonne and her husband moved to Austin in 2001, and she was soon playing venues all over Texas and has shared stages with Los Lobos, Joe Ely, Alejandro Escovedo, Raul Malo, Pat Green and Charlie Robison and more. Onstage Vonne employs flamenco dance movements and plays castanets as well as sings. In 2002, Vonne toured Europe for two months with Tito and Tarantula led by Tito Larriva of The Cruzados, and during that tour played guitar, mandolin, keyboards, castanets and sang backing vocals. She paid tribute to her favourite band in the song "El Cruzado." Vonne has also toured Europe in her own right, and played shows in Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Italy, Holland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Her brother is film director Robert Rodriguez, and he included his sister's song "Traeme Paz" in **"Once Upon A Time In Mexico"** [2003], which he wrote and directed. In January 2003 Vonne released her self-titled debut on her own label, Bandolera Records. She gained # 2 slot as Best New Live Act in the 2003 Austin Music Pundits Awards. An enhanced version of **"Patricia Vonne,"** c/w a video of "Traeme Paz" was released in Europe by the Dutch based Corazong label in late 2004.

Her second album **"Guitars & Castanets,"** was produced by Carl Thiel [Bob Schneider, Monte Montgomery] **"Guitars & Castanets"** is a high-octane mix of rock'n'roll and south of the border mariachi. Guest players include guitarist Charlie Sexton [Bob Dylan], singer-songwriter/ guitarist Jon Dee Graham, and Rick Del Castillo [of Austin Latino band Del Castillo] and bassist Mark Andes [Spirit, Jo Jo Gunne, Heart]. The album was released in Europe by Corazong in early May 2005, and by Corazong USA in late June 2005.

Discography : **"Patricia Vonne"** [2003] ; **"Guitars & Castanets"** [2005] :

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 05/05

[605 words]