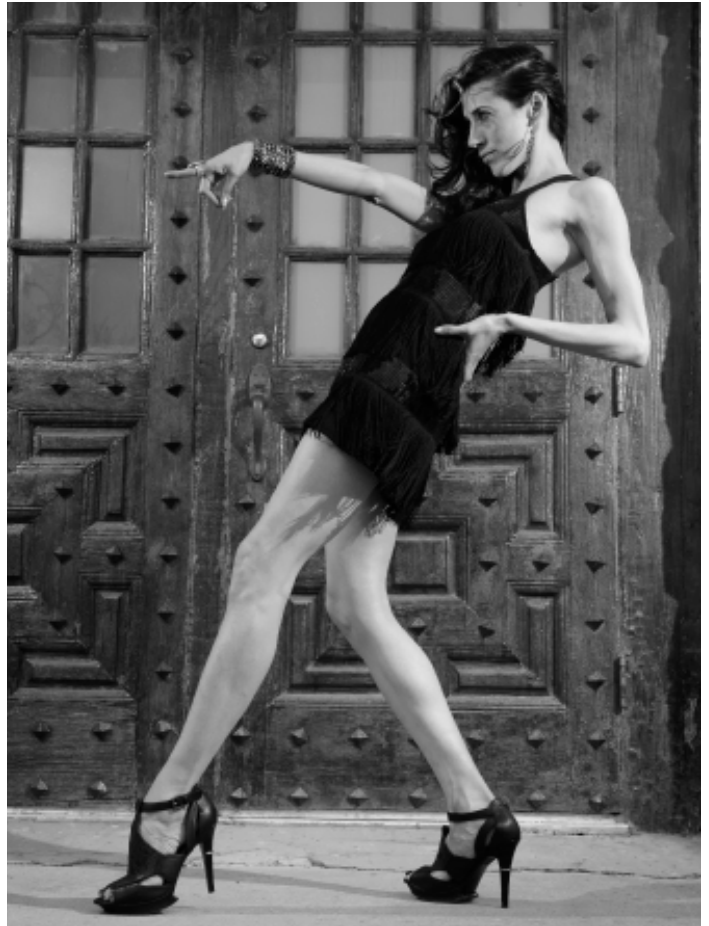


# PATRICIA VONNE

Growing up in a family of 12 in San Antonio was an extraordinary experience. It taught me so much and contributed to who I am today.

**I** will never forget the times my mother gathered the entire Rodriguez brood in the living room to sing her favorite Mexican folksongs as she played her Spanish guitar. She was a registered nurse who worked the graveyard shift so she could be home when we got out of school. She kept a pair of castanets in her closet which I was so intrigued by that I begged her to give me a lesson. I use them onstage for every show now.

My dad was born in Rio Grande City, Texas and was a travelling salesman for 30 years selling cookware door to door. He put himself through college with a music scholarship as a drummer for the college band. For special occasions they would invite the mariachis over which was a cultural experience for us. This influence at an early age has made



me strive to preserve the rich cultural heritage of my childhood by writing bilingual music. My parents sacrificed everything for us and I am eternally grateful for their love and support.

Weekends were our favorite treat when mom would take us to the Olmos Theater in San Antonio to watch double features of MGM musicals and Hitchcock films. I always wanted to be Cyd Charisse! And it's no wonder my brother, Robert, became a maverick filmmaker! That experience was gold.

“CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FREEDOM OF GOING AFTER WHAT YOU WANT IN A CITY LIKE MANHATTAN?”

At age 19 my parents trusted me enough to move to NYC to pursue the arts. Can you imagine

the freedom of going after what you want in a city like Manhattan? It was an experience that sharpened my competitive edge. It taught me courage, assertiveness, dedication, focus, and a level of professionalism that I strive for. I formed my band in 1998 and performed at SXSW in 1999. That experience led me to move back to my native Texas in 2001. I released my self-titled debut in 2003, “Guitars & Castanets” in 2005, “Firebird” in 2007 and my new CD “Worth It” in 2010. With 19 European tours under my belt I look forward to the next project.

I believe passion is the secret to happiness and rock ‘n’ roll. When you love what you do you go the extra mile to make it come to fruition. To help keep my music alive, I got my real estate license to help fund my own projects. I want to continue to go that extra mile because as long as I’m having fun and doing it with a passion it’s all worth it! ■

Written by Patricia Vonne



PHOTOS BY STEVE VACCARIELLO-STANBERRY & ASSOCIATES