

VERSATILE VONNE

As a director, musician, actor and producer,
Patricia Vonne knows no limits

By Katerina Cotroneo

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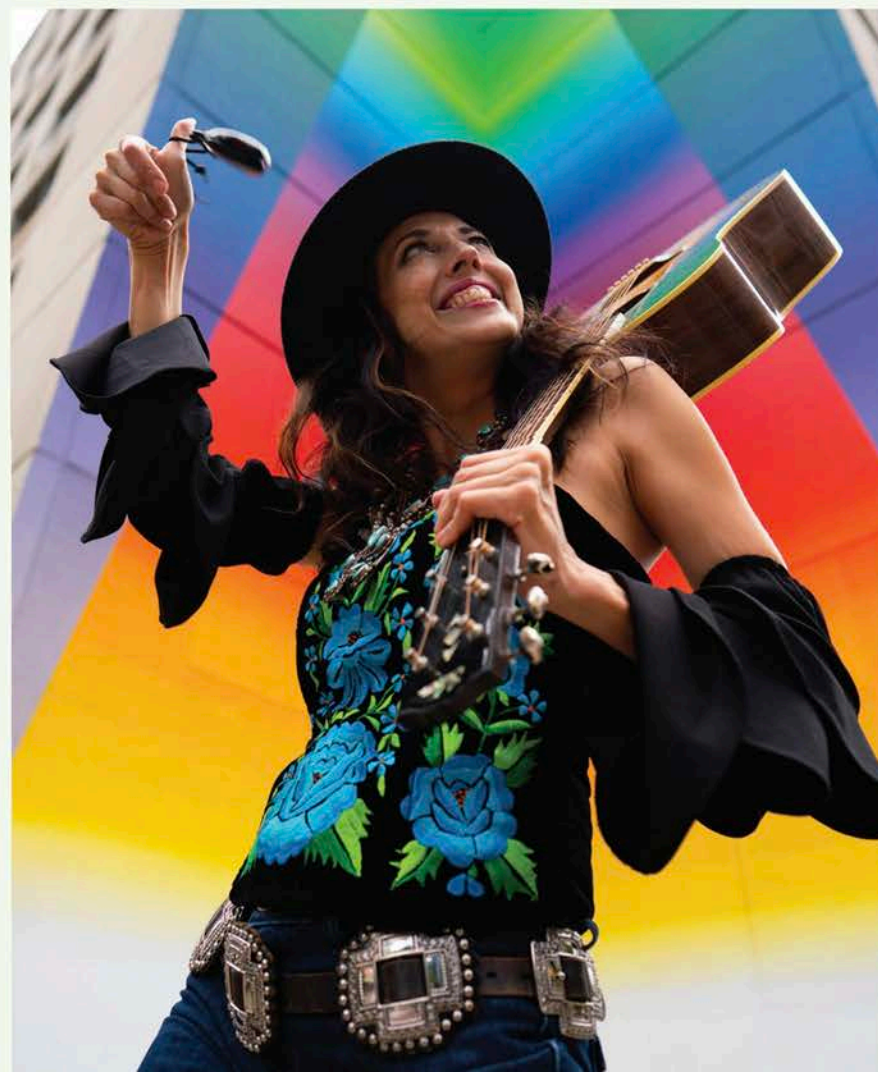
Coined “The Renaissance Women of Austin” by “The New York Times,” Patricia Vonne truly juggles it all as a creative entity that never ends — from writing her own songs and performing worldwide, to now writing and directing her debut film “Cold Dark Hollow.” What started as taking classes at the Austin School of Film led to time in Paris at film festivals, writing courses and a vision. Taking notes from her brother Robert Rodriguez (well-known filmmaker), and with massive help from Erin Lee Lopez, she built up a skeleton crew and made her vision take a living breath and come to life on screen.

She wanted this to be a simple suspense with a positive message. The film is based on women empowerment using real needles (acupuncture), showcasing “how a relationship can turn toxic quickly, and you’re essentially in a twilight zone,” described Vonne. It stars her sister Angela Lanza and is written, directed and edited by Patricia Vonne herself. The film has won the following accolades: Winner for Best Women Empowerment Short at Paris International Short Festival, Best Thriller at Cannes Shorts 2022, Best Actress at Cannes

Independent Film Fest, Best Cinematography at Madrid Int. Film Fest, Best Drama and Best Actress at NY Int. Film Awards, Official Selection at Nice International Film Festival, Florence Movie Awards, Rome Doc Film Fest, Barcelona Planet Film Festival and NYC Film Fest.

When asked why the title “Cold Dark Hollow,” Vonne says there is a San Antonio rock band called The Infidels, and in their song “Down Here,” there is a lyric featuring “cold dark hollow” — which inspired her in more ways than one. Often in new projects, Vonne finds herself sourcing her heritage. She takes a little bit of her past and ensures it’s in her future, inspiring her.

For example, when asked how her Texas roots inspire her, Vonne says, “Tremendously, without even knowing it.” One of the most important cities for Latin music, San Antonio is home to a long list of musical icons including Steve Earl and Rosie Flores. Vonne is an Austin resident currently and has been for about a decade, but she travels between the two to see family and work. She gushed about the modernness and edge of Austin and the heritage and History of San Antonio, making Texas an inspirational place to call home. It’s truly incredible how she takes so much inspiration from her culture and surroundings.



As an actress, musician, director, etc. you wouldn't think she was a shy kid, but Vonne swears it and says she didn't speak until she was four. Growing up watching MGM films and attending live shows sure pushed her to go the creative route and made her love the scenery. Her parents, she says, were huge influences on her and her siblings, always having mariachis over for special occasions and singing together.

One thing about Vonne, she'll go big before she goes home. This is true about everything she does. She's currently wrapping up a tour in Germany, making her fans happy and always working on the next thing. During the pandemic, she worried about low-income families and how they would be taken care of. She rallied her fans and ended up feeding 70,000 people at the foodbank.

"Thank god I learned how to go live," she says about live streaming. She entertained her fans in exchange for their donations. Vonne sometimes dresses up as her "Sin City" character sings live to raise money for her local food bank. Renaissance woman indeed.

Vonne has eight diverse and unique albums on her label Bandolera Records. She frequently tours, keeping her inspired and meeting fans from the Netherlands to Hamburg and everywhere in between — allowing her to work with other artists such as Chris Isaak, Los Lobos, The Mavericks, Alejandro Escovedo and Joe King Carrasco. Acting-wise, she played Dallas in "Sin City" and "Sin City 2," amongst other roles, and she's acted with some of the best and most well-known names in Hollywood — including Bruce Willis, Salma Hayek, Danny Trejo and Antonio Banderas. However, she's nowhere near done despite her impressive career. With "CDH" doing as well as it did for her first directed film, Vonne no doubt has more to show us in the future. You'll see her in "Spy Kids Armageddon" on Netflix here soon! Patty and Tony are actually named after her and her brother Robert. Whether it's more albums, roles in films or directing her own, she will undoubtedly continue making a name for herself.

patriciavonne.com **T**

