

Mp3 Ana Key - F



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Girl rock/punk/blues/comedy. Titles alone are gut-wrenchingly funny. Weird Al meets Madonna at McDonalds. 18 MP3 Songs FOLK: Folk Pop, COUNTRY: Country Rock Details: Vee has played guitar and written her own songs since she was in High School but first real band was The Strumettes, a wild acoustic country/folk/punk band with a comic theme of runaway housewives, formed back in 1990 with co-writer Kathy Cox. The pair created a stack of comic and political songs which found their way onto ABC radio, festivals and many song-writer nights. A host of musicians have played with The Strumettes including Peter Knox from the Zarzov Brothers, Mary-Anne Cornford from Stella One Eleven and Denise Thomas and Amanda Townsend. Vees first Album 'F' is a comic production with a feminist bent. Under the name of Ana Key and the Minority Group and with great input from a new guitarist and producer John Nolan, the band then worked the songs into a cabaret act. In 1999 they presented the show at the Sydney Fringe Festival and received live coverage on triple J, 2SER and Bondi FM. 'F' has 18 tracks of some of the funniest songs ever released. Two tracks are on the European Midem Compilation. The album received a lot of airplay on Radiorakel in Norway, where 'Ana Key and the minority group is being called by djs 'the latest sensation from Australia'. We love it and play it twice a day on RadiOrakel,' (susan casperson-dj) Ana Key (aka Vee Malnar) has played at many Songwriter Nights around Sydney as a solo artist, and as a band - Ana Key and the minority group. Ana Keys first Album 'F' is a comic production with a feminist bent. Under the name of Ana Key and the Minority Group and with great input from a new guitarist and producer John Nolan, the band then worked the songs into a cabaret act. In 1999 they presented the show at the Sydney Fringe Festival and received live coverage on triple J, 2SER and Bondi FM. 'F' has 18 tracks of some of the funniest songs ever released. Two tracks are on the European Midem Compilation. The album received a lot of airplay on Radiorakel in Norway, where 'Ana Key and the

minority group is being called by djs 'the latest sensation from Australia'. We love it and play it twice a day on RadiOrakel,' (susan casperson-dj) Self-taught on the guitar at age 13, Ana Key began songwriting and performing in High School, but spent her twenties in and out of different jobs, including bit parts in acting and waitressing. "I spent most of my time sitting around with actors and poets in coffee shops, writing and singing my lengthy love songs in E minor and hoping that I would somehow get a recording contract! I never had a real job or any money." Through a friend, Johnathon Smith she managed to get a short demo of her songs recorded at a Canberra radio station but the demo was never sent anywhere and music just wasn't on the cards at the time. After a two year stint at Drama School and unable to find secure work, she was able to explore different cities and country towns around Australia, but finally settled in Sydney where she attended Art College, worked in Theatre and continued to write and paint. "I was passionate about a lot of things, and my biggest difficulty was just deciding what to do as a career. I found it too difficult to settle in any one medium and got a lot of cop from other people about it. But it was the only way I knew how to do things. I wouldn't just write a song, I'd paint a picture about it. I'd write a short story, I might even make a short film about it. In essence I was always just developing the theme, the content, in different forms." But in 1988, after moving to Wollongong, Vee started to find her footing in the arts, in painting and in music. She co-founded an all girl band, The Strumettes, who recorded a suitcase of demos, performed live in pubs and festivals and whose songs found a spot on ABC National. "We attacked music with politics and everything was in two chords, otherwise it was just too hard to keep together. Being a girls band we liked to chat a lot about our problems and everything had to be worked out as a team. No one liked being told what to do, and there was friction but also a lot of fun. We had a girl power attitude and our songs were feminist, but we seemed to affect a lot of local young women who bought our demos. It was the best and the worst time of my life. Creatively, I was doing the best work ever, selling my paintings and recording my songs but my personal life was a mess." With a Diploma of Fine Arts from Tafe, and a Bachelor of Creative Arts from Wollongong University in '91, Vee returned to Sydney after the band broke up. "I quickly got involved in the Sydney scene again. I met John Nolan, a guitarist who had worked in a lot of bands in London, and he and I worked as a duo and then as a band with Ann Brita Nilsson on keys and backing vocals, David Wilkinson on Bass, and Gary Hyde on Drums. It was a great time and John taught me so much about music, and helped me to arrange my songs. I called the shots but he more or less held the band together musically... As Ana Key and the Minority

Group the band produced a Sydney Fringe Festival stage show and a CD 'F', a tongue in cheek, 18 track, comedy album, that had some audiences rolling in the aisles. The album never charted and was played more often in Norway than in Australia. "Some of the album was new material I'd written but some were co-writes from earlier days in the Strumettes with Kathy Cox. It was good to finally put the old demos onto a CD, even if it wasn't with my all girl band." But within a year of playing pubs with the 'F' album, Vee's songwriting developed as did her stage act. A lot of the comedy songs were dropped and a more serious side emerged. "I'd written a whole new album that was different to the stuff I'd done before and I was looking for someone who was not only a great engineer but also a great producer. I found that in Davis." Davis J Sparx produced Vee's second album, No Ordinary Day, a Gothic/Ska/Rock/Blues album. The dark atmosphere on most of the CD comes from a combination of smooth and unusual harmonies, backward synths, stringed instruments and long hours in the studio with no sleep. The band were expertly guided to a finished product of quality sounds and mixing and one of the tracks, ..Winter.. won a song contest with SCALA. ..We were all so proud of that album and it gave us such a buzz to go out and do the gigs with those songs. So many people loved it and we knew we had a winner, but once again, I never got my recording contract. I sort of thought well this is as good as I get, and if it's not being noticed, then there's no point in doing any more albums... Vee did however, do one more incredibly innovative album with Davis J Sparkz. It was called Keep Playing No Matter What Happens! He played most of the instruments and Vee did all the vocals and backing vocals. ..It wasn't as much fun as working with the rest of the band, but I really liked the way these tracks turned out. They have a lot of soul. The ironic thing about this album is that I stopped playing live and stopped recording almost completely. And it was after this album that I felt I had recorded enough material to go out and sell myself, but somehow I had no interest in doing that and my life took another direction. I put my music back into another stage show, Rock Chicks, a re-vamp of ..F.., but bigger and better. .. Vee's latest work in progress, Rok Chikz, a comedy TV pilot is a development of the stage show ..F.., and includes some of the songs she did with the Strumettes. ..I still have a lot to say about the politics of being a female, and the role women play in society, as caretakers, wives and mothers and Rock Stars. At the end of the day, I would still love to play live every week, and I would love to do more recordings, but for lack of time and the fact that life changes and you move on to other things you can't do it all. I know I will never be one of those people that plays and records and tours all their lives, and I admire those people, and I can't seem to stay faithful to one

craft long enough to do that. I love to combine my mediums and life only makes sense when I do that. I learn from it and grow. But also, I..m seeing many women going through the same frustrations in the music business as I went through. They produce brilliant songs and yet can..t make a career out of the thing they love. So Rok Chikz addresses those issues head on, and it..s a great laugh as well. In a way, I..m still writing the same tunes really, the same lyrics, but it..s just in a different medium...

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