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## Anouschka



### How did your project start?

This album started 3 years ago. I've been working on it in baby steps since it requires a lot of funding and co ordinating. I released the first half as an EP June 2010 to fund my volunteer work with wildlife conservation in Africa. My dog Jasmine had died from cancer. I was devastated. I had her ever since I adopted her from Much Love in LA. Since then she had travelled the world with me and was my best buddy. I dedicated the EP to her and left for South Africa. The EP has received top rotation in Netherlands, Belgium and Germany and in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It placed in the top 10 on the Berlin Reverb Charts ever since its release and hit # 3 in Feb/March 2011. The positive feedback has encouraged me to continue, although there's been so much waiting sometimes I felt like just giving up. I prefer to record in an obsessive one week spurt but that was not financially possible. I hope to release this full length in late spring. The album will include the single "Dying to Be Free" - a song intended to raise awareness against canned lion hunting and trophy hunting in general. It is co-written with South Africa's leading wildlife conservationist Gareth Patterson, and proceeds from the single will benefit wildlife conservation.

I should mention that I have superb people working with me. Harris Johns is co producing the songs. Chuck Anthony (Ace of Base, Back Street Boys, Eric Bibb) plays electric guitar on some of the tracks, James Bradley Jr. (Beastie Boys, Anita Baker, Slash, Chuck Mangione) plays drums, and Ulf Ivarsson (Skyhigh) on bass. Everyone has worked with music legends and bring great energy, wisdom and spirit to the project. I am very grateful for this.

### What are your influences?

My influences span the spectrum. I love rock, jazz, blues and punk rock. Some artists that come to mind are: Suzanne Vega, Rickie Lee Jones, Melissa Ethridge, Marianne Faithful, Sting, Keith Jarret, Milton Nascimento, Billy Joel, Eric Clapton, Stevie Nicks, Billie Holiday, Dire Straights, Earth Wind and Fire, Paul Simon, Carpenters, Doors, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Sex pistols, Ramones, Souxie and the Banshees, Debussy, Irving Berlin...

I like dark, personal voices. Since I am also an actress I like emotion and mixing things up. The pretty singing so many girls do is fine but I get really bored after a while. I'd rather hear Cher (who sings notoriously off key), Marianne Faithful whose got the cracks of life in her timber or Nina Hagen. A lot of the artists I grew up on like Tom Waits, Bob Dylan, Dire Straights, Heart, Doors, Bowie and Led Zep- didn't have perfect intonation or pitch control - and who cared? They had attitude, a lifestyle, personality and a message... They were inimitable. That's my biggest influence- anyone who is unique, a true original. Raw and authentic beats polished and copied any day in my book.

### How do you want to be known by others?

As a decent person. As a unique and true musician, actress, songwriter, lyricist and performer with credibility and charisma. I'd like to leave a legacy of sorts- preferably using my talents for a better tomorrow. I am very worried about the state of mankind's soul. That is why I am spreading my call for a "Culture of Compassion"- to be kind to our earth, one another and our animals. I would like to be known as a good mother (if I have children), friend, lover, and family member. What we take to the grave is the honor with how we led our lives. All else is trimmings. (But I don't mind having them!)


### What are some of your highlights/achievements?


For me attending Berklee College as one of the rare female guitar students at the time and graduating Cum Laude was extremely challenging. I had little formal training, I was ten years older than most other students, and I was undergoing extreme stress in my personal life during those years. Very few people know how difficult this was. I am very proud that I didn't give up.

More recently, I am very proud of passing my exams and become a South African certified field guide after boot camp training in the Bush. It stretched me. It was mostly physically tiring and overly intense. For 2 months all I did was get up around four am and spend the day in the Bush and evenings studying. I hardly slept and I have to say: I really like my 8 hours of sleep!

I believe this album will be a major achievement once it's done. I have worked on it so long and been so patient. I feel that every song on it is strong. I would like to increase sales and get songs placed in media projects and finally make some real money! I would also like to tour and play big stages with a band! Those would be some dream achievements for me

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