



Spotlight

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An In-Depth Look At The Hottest Area Artists

Debra Devi

A 'Wild' Solo Debut From A World-Class Guitarist

Who: Debra Devi continues to gain national acclaim as one of the most remarkable rock guitarists on the east coast; her work with her previous band, Devi (including the album *Get Free*), catapulted her to new levels of success. She's also an author and a writer, but now she's on the move again with a just-released EP, *Wild Little Girl* (on the True Nature imprint), the first work she's released nationally under her name. She's produced four music videos for the EP, which have already aired on outlets across the country.

From blues to hard rock to ballads to covers of classics, Devi has already done it all in stunning fashion, and this new EP only adds to her burgeoning reputation. Tracks range from crunchy pop-rock ("Butterfly") and Gov't Mule-inspired jamming ("Tired Of Waiting") to pulsing disco-rock ("Stay"), Black Crowes-style sass ("Shake It") and Devi's soulful Americana tune "10 Miles To Clarksdale." Devi's '70s-influenced guitar playing is the thread that weaves throughout – whether she's playing slide, rhythm, or lead.

The EP's title celebrates the freedom girls feel to express themselves and imagine their futures before society's conditioning kicks in, suppressing their creativity, self-confidence, and wildness.

"Girls are extremely capable at math, science and the arts, often outperforming boys," Devi explained, "but something happens to girls around age 15. They become increasingly silent in class. They deny their intelligence. I went



through that myself, so as a female guitarist I want to encourage girls to be loud, strong and powerful."

Devi fell in love with electric guitar when she heard the feedback on "Suzie Q" by CCR as a kid. "It was the spookiest thing I'd ever heard, and I couldn't stop listening to it," Devi recalled. Growing up in the Midwest, however, she got the message that only boys played in bands. In college, though, Devi saw Bonnie Raitt perform and couldn't stifle her own desire to play guitar anymore. She bought a Fender Mustang and moved to New York City. Devi taught herself how to play, joined bands, and toured the country.

Devi is also the author of the blues glossary *The Language Of The Blues: From Alcorub To Zuzu*. Learn more at debradevi.com.

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Rhythm Tracking With Jimi LaLumia

Goodbye, David: The obits just keep on coming, right to the end of 2017: When I think of David Cassidy, I think of how utterly intoxicating pop culture was during the 1970s. "Hippie" music competed with bubblegum on Top 40 AM radio, which is where all the action was, and Cassidy was swept right into the thick of the action. The TV series "The Partridge Family" was designed to follow "The Monkees" as a fabricated recording act that actually had hit records in the real world, and as with the The Monkees, it all worked like gangbusters.

Sadly for Cassidy, once the show was over, so were the hits; it is sometimes much worse to experience huge stardom and fall from that height than it is to never get there in the first place.

When I think of Cassidy, I think of my early-on mentor and pal, Gloria Stavers, the steely "Devil Wears Prada" editor of the first rock-pop publication in America, *16 Magazine*. It was from that platform that Stavers steered Elvis Presley and The Beatles toward

Cassidy did with *Rolling Stone* (the infamous "nude Cassidy cover" issue).

Oh, how the pieces fell apart from that point on for Cassidy, who reportedly had a decades-spanning battle with alcohol and the defeat that comes when someone new takes your place (in this case, Bobby Sherman; you can look it up). The



music biz is not for the weak of heart – you have been warned.

Like Butter: My new favorite Long Island-based band is Buttered Soul. I saw them pack a room to the rafters, and they kept them there with brilliant cover



versions of the classic rock songs that most of Long Island's music fanatics grew up with thanks to WBAB and WRCN back in the day. When you get the chance to experience this excellent group, make a point to do so.

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