

Suzi Quatro – In the Spotlight (2011)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *A Girl Like Me* 02 – *Whatever Love is* 03 – *Spotlight* [play](#) 04 – *Strict Machine* [play](#)
05 – *Breaking Dishes* 06 – *Rosie Rose* 07 – *Hurt with You* 08 – *Hot Kiss* 09 – *Turn into* 10 –
Hard Headed Woman 11 – *Singing with Angels*

With Joan Jett witnessing something of a revival thanks to the recent Runaways biopic, the original leather-jumpsuit-wearing rock icon Suzi Quattro returns to prove that nearly 40 years on from her self-titled debut, she can still pack a few punches herself. Co-written with previous collaborator Mike Chapman (Blondie, Mud), *In the Spotlight*, her first album since 2006's *Back to the Drive*, shows that unlike many of her counterparts, the contemporary pop scene hasn't completely passed her by. There's a raucous cover version of Rihanna's Good-Girl-Gone-Bad album track "Breakin' Dishes," which turns the R&B anthem into an equally feisty slice of barroom rock; a guitar-chugging mash-up of Goldfrapp's electro-pop reinvention in "Strict Machine"; her own 1973 U.K. chart-topper "Can the Can," cleverly referencing the subtle similarities between the two; the Hole-esque grunge of "Whatever Love Is," a sly nod to her riot grrrl pioneer reputation, and the yelping, dirty, garage blues-rock of "Hot Kiss," which could have been lifted from the first few White Stripes records. As convincing as these attempts to show she's not stuck in some '70s time-warp are, it's the tracks which hark back to her heyday which are likely to leave her former glam rock army swooning. Acknowledging the influence Elvis had on her career, "Hard Headed Woman" is an old-fashioned rockabilly rendition of his 1958 standard, while "Singing with Angels" is a heartfelt tribute to the King featuring his guitarist James Burton and backing vocalists, the Jordanaires, but elsewhere, opener "A Girl Like Me" sets the tone with its ballsy attitude and anthemic Knack-inspired guitar hooks, "Turn Into" features shades of classic girl group doowop with its Spector-ish Wall of Sound production, and the title track is a spacy, T. Rex-esque acoustic-driven ballad which reveals Quattro has lost none of her whiskey-soaked lung power. A misguided attempt at cod-reggae aside ("Hurt with You"), *In the Spotlight* is an impressive comeback, which admirably doesn't rely solely on nostalgia to make itself heard. --Jon O'Brien, AllMusic Review

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Suzi Quattro may not be a name that immediately leaps to mind when asked of influential women in Rock and Roll, especially with those raised on a diet of post 1980's pop culture. However Suzi deserves to be mentioned not just in hushed tones of reverence and slight nods but to be celebrated and enjoyed over and over again.

In the Spotlight is the new album by the Michigan born singer and for a woman who has created foot tapping music since the early 1970's, she has never sounded better than she does on this album. Perhaps it's the element of time or the creative freedom she now obviously enjoys and none of the pressure to keep on the treadmill of album after album just to appease recording executives.

In the Spotlight is Suzi's second album after her comeback in 2006 and whilst she may now be a lady of a certain age, she still knows how to shrug off years of the absurd notion that when women go under the radar of popularity they should retire gracefully. Alongside the likes of Chrissie Hynde, Stevie Nicks and Debbie Harry, Suzi can not only be seen as an inspiration to women coming through the Rock ranks today but also as a quality artist whose Rock and Roll distinctive voice and top bass playing is cleverly stamped on every track of the album.

Suzi rolls back the years with the opening number A Girl Like Me, a guitar driven anthem that sure to remind older Suzi fans of her heyday but sounding fresh enough to sit comfortably on any younger fans music collection with just a little bit of pride.

The gentleness of Spotlight may bring the tempo down slightly but the raw emotion in Suzi's voice on this track is one to savour. The subtlety of the vocal range perfectly complements the lyrics and will leave the listener humming along with a tear in their eye.

It can't be easy for some musicians, no matter their calibre or reputation, to attempt to make a comeback or even produce a second album after so long away from the public eye. However when you have the guile and spirit that Miss Quattro has in spades then no matter how long you have been away, it still sounds pretty awesome. --- Ian D. Hall, liverpoolstudentmedia.com

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Pierwszy od pięciu lat nowy studyjny album legendarnej królowej glam-rocka! W ciągu 40-letniej kariery Suzi Quattro sprzedała 50 milionów egzemplarzy płyt na całym świecie i umieściła na międzynarodowych listach wiele przebojów, m. in. "Can The Can" i "Devil Gate Drive". Z powodzeniem występowała też w telewizji (w serialach "Happy Days", "Minder" i Midsomer Murders", na scenie ("Annie Get Your Gun") i jako prezenterka radiowa.

Na nowym albumie powróciła do współpracy ze swoim pierwszym twórcą i producentem Mike'iem Chapmanem, który krył się również za sukcesami Sweet, Mud, Smokie i Tiny Turner i który wyprodukował bestsellerowe albumy Blondie, Pat Benatar i The Knack. Wśród 11 zamieszczonych na płycie kompozycji, 4 to nowe piosenki autorstwa właśnie Chapmana i dwie napisane przez Suzi. Nie zabrakło też coverów; warto zwrócić uwagę na "Strict Machine" Goldfrapp i "Breaking Dishes" Rihanny.

Dodatkową atrakcją jest bonusowy utwór "Singing With Angels" - muzyczny hołd, jaki Suzie złożyła Elvisowi Presleyowi. W jego nagraniu wziął udział James Burton, gitarzysta Króla oraz nagrywający z nim chór The Jordanaires. --- rockmagazyn.pl

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