

# DEBORAH HOLLAND SINGER-SONGWRITER

“Somewhere Between Johnny Rotten and Peggy Lee”



A distinctive mix of contemporary folk, quirky/intelligent pop, and adult alternative songs reminiscent of Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, Randy Newman, and Loudon Wainwright III. Stunning vocals, catchy melodies, both witty and poignant lyrics wrapped in an acoustic and electronic swirl.

## Instrumentation

Deborah Holland- vocals, guitars, keyboards

## Biography

At the age of fourteen, the inability to turn a cartwheel changed the direction of Deborah Holland's life. "After not making the cheerleading squad in junior high school, I began playing guitar and writing songs," she says. And the rest, as they say, is history. Deborah went on to become the lead singer and songwriter of Animal Logic, a trio rounded out by Stewart Copeland of Police fame and jazz star Stanley Clarke. Their eclectic sound led to two critically acclaimed albums, worldwide touring, and appearances on David Letterman, The Tonight Show, VH-1, and MTV.

As a solo artist, Deborah's live shows have captivated audiences at Tin Angel, The Ark, The Bluebird, Eddie's Attic, Schuba's, the Ram's Head, and many more. Her fourth solo release since her Animal Logic days, *BAD GIRL ONCE...* (RageOn Records, 2006), has been described by reviewers as "gritty, honest, funny, and heartfelt" and "exquisite." The album is a blend of styles as diverse as folk, rock, blues, jazz, and electronica—all strikingly unified by Deborah's voice. Roger Dietz of *Sing Out!* magazine says that *BAD GIRL ONCE...* "is splendid; chillingly warm and on target as anything I have heard since the first time I listened to Antonio Carlos Jobim and wondered how it is that some musicians can turn life into breathtaking art."

Deborah's third solo release, *THE BOOK OF SURVIVAL* (Gadfly Records, 1999), was called "an album that demands repeated listening." (*Dirty Linen: Folk & World Music*) Roundly well-received for its memorable melodies, witty lyrics, and Holland's "lovely, thoughtful voice" (*Sing Out!*), it was played on over one hundred radio stations. Her second solo recording, *THE PANIC IS ON: SONGS FROM THE GREAT DEPRESSION* (Gadfly Records,

1997), was an album of political songs from the 1930's which gained her a wide following among folk radio DJs and folk music fans. Dirty Linen magazine described it as an album "contain[ing] songs of importance beautifully arranged and played." Prior to that, FREUDI-AN SLIP (Dog and Pony Records, 1994), her first solo release, received heavy airplay on AAA, college, and public radio stations. In 1995, she was heard on the nationally syndicated radio programs "Mountain Stage," "The Difference with Todd Rundgren," and "World Café." She also recorded duets with Jackson Browne and with Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket.

In addition to making records, Deborah scores music and writes songs for film and television, is a full-time professor of music at California State University at Los Angeles, and performs live. Add to this being a mother, and you have the makings of a hectic lifestyle, one which Deborah says has given her an idea of what a professional juggler feels like. But apparently she wouldn't change a thing. "Music is as much a part of my life as breathing," she says, "and it has been a whole lot more satisfying than making the cheerleading squad ever would have been."

### **Website**

[www.deborahholland.net](http://www.deborahholland.net)

[www.myspace.com/deborahholland](http://www.myspace.com/deborahholland)

### **Discography**

*Bad Girl Once...* (RageOn Records) 2006

*The Book of Survival* (Gadfly Records) 1999

*The Panic Is On* (Songs from the Great Depression) (Gadfly Records), 1997

*Freudian Slip* (Dog and Pony Records) 1994

*Animal Logic II* (IRS Records) 1991

*Animal Logic I* (IRS/Virgin Records) 1989

### **Press Quotes**

On *The Book of Survival* (Gadfly Records)

Deborah Holland's songs are twisted. I mean that in the best way...[a] lyrical ironist to match Warren Zevon, Holland is equally gifted with melody. Her songs are bright, energetic, and roots-based, with more rock than folk to their sound...Holland can move you, but she seldom pushes. Best of all, Holland has a sense of humor. [The Book of Survival] is an album that demands repeated listening. It's a delight to hear a singer who wears her mind on her sleeve, yet never intimidates her listeners. As a wordsmith, Deborah Holland concerns herself with the balance between heart and mind. As an artist, she makes the balance seem effortless.

Dirty Linen: Folk and World Music FEB/MAR 2000

On *The Panic Is On*: (Gadfly Records)

"Deborah Holland beautifully sings starkly produced versions of American songs of the world-wide depression of the 1930s, some familiar, some not so familiar...This disc contains songs of importance beautifully arranged and played."

Dirty Linen: Folk & World Music

"Deborah Holland, the lead singer for Animal Logic (with Stewart Copeland of the Police and jazz bass great Stanley Clarke), has delivered a stunning solo collection... *The Panic Is On* showcases the range and richness of Holland's voice. It is also a tribute to her keen social awareness."

Denison Iowa Review

"Oh my this is nifty! Original music that pushes limits while remaining very listenable with some old words that are frighteningly relevant today... Fabulous!"

Sounds Celebrating Resistance

On *Freudian Slip*: (Dog and Pony Records/Caroline)

"Holland is much more than the usual 'female pop artist.'"

Chattanooga Free Press

"Her first solo release confirms that she deserves all of the success and the accolades."

Pasadena Weekly

On *Animal Logic II*: (IRS Records)

"Holland's songs mix dark, intelligent lyrics with bright, interesting melodies - these are poems with pizzazz... If Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt or Rosanne Cash had recorded this album, critics would be raving and sales would be in six figures."

Chattanooga Free Press

On *Animal Logic I*: (IRS/Virgin Records)

"Holland has a voice of cutting clarity, controlled passion and subtle nuance."

Chattanooga Free Press

"Holland's stick-to-you-ribs melodies and title-anchored lyrics are so quickly memorable that a couple of them sound like pre-Beatles standards."

The Washington Post

## Performances

Clubs, Arenas, Colleges, and Theaters in North America, Europe, and South America, 1989-2006. Hundreds of venues including Radio City Music Hall and The Ritz, New York; El Mocambo, Toronto; Theater Of Living Arts, Philadelphia; Universal Amphitheater and The Palace, Los Angeles; The Paradise, Boston; The Parkwest, Chicago; The Arena, Park City; The Warfield, San Francisco; Elysée-Montmartre, Paris; The Melody, Stockholm; The Paradiso, Amsterdam; London Dance House, Cologne; Theaterfabrik, Munich; Grosse Freiheit, Hamburg; The Palladium, London; Canecão, Rio de Janeiro; and Projeto, São Paulo; The Ark, Ann Arbor; The Bluebird Café, Nashville; Tin Angel, Philadelphia; Club Passim's, Cambridge; Eddie's Attic, Atlanta; etc.

Mountain Stage 1995 and 2000; The Difference with Todd Rundgren; World Café, 1995; "Rose Colored Glasses" and "Spy In The House Of Love" music videos on MTV & VH-1, 1989-1991; The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson, NBC, 1991; Late Night with David Letterman, NBC, 1989; New Visions hosted by Nile Rodgers, VH-1, 1989. \_

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