

[Kim Cameron](#)

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Us DC natives love artists like Kim Cameron – the kind of musician working her ass off not only to get her music out there... but to maybe help bring the DC scene into a little light. She's come a long way; from a backup singer in a cover band to now working for her own label. It's the kind of attitude we at PensEyeView.com aspire to – work on your passion and forget the naysayers.



Cameron already has an album behind her – a collection titled “Contradictions”. It's a shining example of her alternative pop style – all the more appreciated when you see the path Kim took to create the record. I mean – imagine going from covers, to 18 original tunes... in relatively short time. It's not easy.

But Kim remains busy as ever with her own publishing company and band – the Side FX Band. She talks about the difference between her solo act and playing with some backup: “I love working with a group. Your songs are so much more interesting then when you only have yourself to rely on. I love hearing other people's ideas and sounds - I just think it makes a huge difference in the final outcome.”

You may have to wait a while before you see Kim in concert – she's beginning her concert push in Asia. But she'll be back, and then you can check the schedule. There's a lot more to learn below, so dive into the XXQ's.

XXQs: Kim Cameron

PensEyeView.com (PEV): Hailing from Washington, DC, how would you describe the emerging DC art and music scene?

KC: DC is not known for their music. We do have a lot of interesting and diverse artists, so that influence is prominently found throughout the city. When you look at all of the events -- from the Mall to the Embassy's to the festivals to the big clubs - we are the host of a lot of entertainment. I believe that variety is what keeps these musicians on their toes and fresh.

PEV: Tell us about your creative process. What kind of environment do you have to be in to work?



KC: Most of my song writing has been on vacation. I really have time to reflect on my feelings and past experiences when I have time alone. Now, having said that, there are exceptions to the rule, "Won't Break Down" was written after a very tough day with my then corporate boss. Yeah, I was a bit pissed off that day - and I think the song delivers that emotion. 90 percent of my songs are about people I met. I love listening to their stories and feel compelled to write about it. There are a few about me, but even those I believe have some elements of others in them.

PEV: What can fans expect from a live Kim Cameron show?

KC: To have a great time. That's what I hear each show - "I had a great time" and that to me is the best compliment in the world. I love music and love being around music 24 x 7- and if I put someone through my world, I

think they should enough it as much as I do, so I very much make the show interesting, entertaining - something that people will feel good that they came to see. The best part, I believe, in my show, are the stories. I think music is all about storytelling - so when people come to hear the music, they not only get a little toe tapping, but they also get a chance to hear about the story behind the song.

PEV: Tell us about your first live performance. How have you changed since that first show to where you are now?

KC: My first live performance was when I was in third grade in Southern California singing in front of the whole school and parents, teachers. I was pretty nervous, but once I started singing, everything else fell into place. I would say, I have changed a bit from my grade school performance, but those belly nerves are still there until the show begins.

PEV: As the lead singer/songwriter for the Side FX band, how is working with a group setting versus solo work, differ for you?

KC: I love working with a group. Your songs are so much more interesting then when you only have yourself to rely on. I love hearing other people's ideas and sounds - I just think it makes a huge difference in the final outcome.

PEV: You describe your career as a performer and songwriter as "a long, bumpy one". Tell us why you put it that way.

KC: Urgh. Let's see, I really started out as a backup singer for a cover band. I was not sure I could rise above that stage, but I did. Then, I challenged myself out of covers into original, meaningful work. No one except my closest friends encouraged me to pursue this route, so I really had to go at it alone. My cover band at the time thought I was crazy and left me, I had to financially support my passion by myself--which is no small project, and had to keep picking myself up when my first couple of songs were...hmmm, let's say not up the right quality. Yes, very bumpy.

PEV: Where do you feel you will be ten years from now?

KC: Working on my 10th album...hopefully someplace warm.

PEV: What's one thing we'd be surprised to hear about you?

KC: I am a natural blond.

PEV: Was there a certain point in your life when you knew that music was going to be a career for you and you were determined to make it happen?

KC: Only recently. I always wanted it to be, but I did not have the vision until 1 year ago when I became my own label.

PEV: What one word best describes Kim Cameron?

KC: Happy.

PEV: Traveling is now a large part of your life. How is life on the road for you? Best and worst parts? Any fun stories?

KC: Worst - airports -- I hate the whole take of your shoes and belt and hat and.....Best - all the new people you have the opportunity to meet.

PEV: With one album already "Contradictions" and a second album on the way, 18 original songs, countless live performances, an outstanding band and my own publishing company, you said "I feel like I have finally made it. Yes, I finally feel complete". What do you think it took for you to feel so comfortable saying that now?

KC: When you work hard at anything and reach certain goals - I think you cannot help but feel confident and comfortable. I work every day, 12- 15 hours a day, and when I am not working at this, I am dreaming about it. But I love every minute. I now have fans that not only send me great notes about the music, but truly get what I am doing - truly get that I am sharing their stories to world. That just feels good.



PEV: How have all your friends and family reacted to your musical career? What's it like when you get to play at your hometown?

KC: They are now just discovering it. They always knew I was into music but not like I am now. They have been behind me 100% so far.

PEV: What can we find you doing in your spare time, aside from performing?

KC: What spare time?

PEV: Is there one artist or group that would be your dream collaboration? Why?

KC: So many! Would love to work with Carly Simon or Lionel Richie or Kings of Leon. I realize those are all totally different sounds, but I guess that I why I really would love to find out what would have when you mix pop into any of those sounds.

PEV: Is there an up and coming band or artist you think we should all be looking out for now?

KC: Joy Williams - she's still pretty new but she has a nice sound.

PEV: If playing/writing music was not your career, what would you most likely be doing?

KC: Trying to figure out how to make money living on the beach.

PEV: How would you describe your sound?

KC: Alternative pop. I have mixed some rock and jazz into my pop sound - so I think Alternative Pop is the best description.

PEV: So, what is next for Kim Cameron?

KC: It appears I will be touring in Asia - so that will be the next big step in my career!