

BACKGROUND

Ami Williamson



Ami singing with a stringless guitar

Forceful, funny, powerful and poetic, Ami Williamson is a Folk Singer/Songwriter like no other!

Ami is one of those rare female singers. While her roots are firmly in the tradition of singer/songwriter, her richly diverse upbringing had Ami taking the stage not only in opera and classical, but also touring with her father, legendary country music artist John Williamson.

Ami has a unique musical heritage, both her grandparents were classical singers and sang duets (Soprano and Tenor) for ABC Radio in the 1930-60s. Ami grew up listening to her grandparents sing at home and on stage in musicals and classical oratorio. But it was John Williamson their son who began to write songs and brought a creativity to the vocal tradition of the Williamson's.

Ami first showed a love of the performing arts at a very young age and was selected to perform in a touring group for Johnny Young Talent Time.



Ami and The Supremes



"Singing in the Rain"

Ami studied ballet, jazz, tap and acting as a child and was accepted into The McDonald College (School for the Performing Arts) ranking 3rd in NSW for HSC Music.



At age 9 Ami began singing back-up vocals for her father on TV programs such as The Midday Show (with Ray Martin) and Good Morning Australia, as well as many vocal recordings on his albums.



After high school Ami was accepted into the prestigious Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she studied classical singing and piano for 6 years and then went on to win two scholarships; firstly to study the German language at the Goethe Institute in Berlin, and secondly to further her studies in Opera with world renowned Baritone Thomas Quasthoff at the Hochschule Fur Musik in Detmold, Germany.

Ami studied acting part-time at the Ensemble Theatre with Hayes Gordon during her studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Upon graduation from the Conservatorium Ami auditioned for Opera Australia where she was accepted into the chorus with understudy roles at the Sydney Opera House.



Ami (on the floor) as a fairy in Opera Australia's *Iolanthe* (picture courtesy SMH)

It was during Ami's time in Germany that she began to write songs and realise her childhood dream to be a songwriter. Ami had always written poetry in her youth and therefore the combination of music and words came very naturally to her. Ami then released her debut album *Close to Home*, writing all ten songs and co-producing, playing many of the instruments, a remarkable feat for a first album.

Today, after many albums and concerts, Ami's celebrated "One Woman Show" has been performed at major festivals and venues in Australia and abroad including The Port Fairy Folk Festival, The Brunswick Music Festival, The Woodford Folk Festival, The National Folk Festival to name a few. Ami's "One Woman Show" has been described as a "roller coaster of fun" showcasing Ami's many talents as an accomplished singer, songwriter, musician (piano, drums, harp, guitar, dulcimer) and storyteller. Her tales are wicked, poignant and sometimes downright hilarious matched by her brilliant, versatile voice and flamboyant stage presence.





Ami Jamming with Doc Neeson (*The Angels*) and Angry Anderson



Ami as *Sheila* in the new aussie musical "Quambatook"

"Congratulations on your 'show-stopping' number in the show and good luck for an equally responsive audience over the next 3 nights, you stole the show!" - John Kerr, 2UE.



Ami entertained the troops in the Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan

“Ami Williamson is a genius, she’s just so musical and my favorite act at the Port Fairy Folk Music Festival”

- International folk icon Judy Collins on Channel Ten’s “The Circle”

“ Nothing scares her, she’s fearless on stage!”

- Joan Baez

“I cried, I laughed- then both at the same time - one woman show at it’s best”

- The Sydney Morning Herald

“What do you get when you mix an entertainer with a songwriter? An ex-opera singer with a comedian? A folk singer with a set of drums? A show girl with a poet?..... Ami Williamson!”

- The Canberra Times

“Ami is my newest most favorite performer! She is brilliant. I don’t know where to start.....her songs, her voice, her musicianship, her HUMOUR, her frock, her hair or just everything!!!”

- Todd McKenney



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