

## **WENDY JAMES BIO 2019**

**WENDY JAMES**, born in London, is an English singer-songwriter notable for her work with band Transvision Vamp, collaboration with Elvis Costello, Solo work and further collaboration with James Williamson from Iggy & the Stooges, Lenny Kaye from The Patti Smith Group and James Scavunos from Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds.

### **TRANSVISION VAMP**

#### **LP ALBUM:**

**‘POP ART’**

**‘VELVETEEN’**

**‘LITTLE MAGNETS VERSUS THE BUBBLE OF  
BABBLE’**

MCA/Universal Records

Transvision Vamp was formed by Wendy James and co-writer and guitarist Nick Christian Sayer. In West London they teamed up with Dave Parsons and Tex Axile. The band was signed to MCA records by Dave Ambrose, the notorious A&R man from EMI records who had also signed the Sex Pistols. They recorded their first LP album **‘Pop Art’** and released a first single **‘Revolution Baby’** and then charted with their second single, a cover version of Holly & The Italians **‘Tell That Girl To Shut Up’**, followed by a third single **‘I Want Your Love’** which went to No.5 on the UK singles chart. The album **‘Pop Art’** was released later in 1987 and went to No.3 in the UK album chart. Extensive touring of the UK and Europe continued throughout this year as their success grew, starting on the University circuit and ending with playing two sold out gigs at the London Town

And Country Club, taking in the Marquee Club along the way with queues two-fold around the block of Wardour Street, London. The album art was done by Jamie Reid, famous for his Sex Pistols artwork. When the album launched in America, living members of Andy Warhol's Factory, Sylvia Miles, Danny Fields, Paul Morrissey, threw Wendy her 'Welcome to New York' party in celebration of being the new toast of the town in NYC and the album being called 'Pop Art'.

The second album '**Velveteen**' was recorded in London at Metropolis Recording Studio, Sarm West Recording Studio, Townhouse Recording Studio and Olympic Studios in Barnes, made famous by The Rolling Stones. The album entered the UK albums chart at No.1 position and the main single 'Baby I Don't Care' went to No.3 in the UK singles chart and a hit around the world. The 'Velveteen' LP became a hit all over the world, especially Australia and Spain and the band toured it non-stop for 2 years. After a break from touring, instead time spent on new songwriting, the band went into the studio again and recorded their third and what would be the final album '**Little Magnets Versus The Bubble Of Babble**'. It is this album that Wendy has cited as her favorite, in particular, the song 'If Looks Could Kill'. The album started to take off in USA and the band went there and toured the US twice that year. In the meantime the UK record label, Dave Ambrose having departed his role as Managing Director, started to question the LP and internal politics of the record label in upheaval decided to pull the album from it's UK release date. Despite this the band did a run of sold out dates around the UK including successive shows at The Brixton Academy and The Hammersmith Odeon in London. In the end the album was released everywhere around the world but only available in the UK on import. The album proved the

band's most successful in USA but by that time exhaustion and record label politics had convinced Wendy and Nick to draw the curtain down on the band, which they did, in San Francisco in 1992. During the span of Transvision Vamp, Wendy was made a cover-star of many magazines all over the world and photographed by everyone from David Bailey for Tatler Magazine and Jurgen Teller for The Face Magazine and I-D Magazine. She became a household name the world over, made numerous television appearances and riots in Australia happened when Transvision Vamp toured there, with streets blocked off and police on horses having to hold back the crowds.

**Track Listing:**

**'POP ART'**

Trash City  
I Want Your Love  
Sister Moon  
Psychosonic Cindy  
Revolution Baby  
Tell That Girl To Shut Up  
Wild Star  
Hanging Out With Halo Jones  
Andy Warhol's Dead  
Sex Kick

**'VELVETEEN'**

Baby, I Don't Care  
The Only One  
Landslide For A Goldmine  
Down On You  
Song To The Stars

Kiss Their Sons  
Born To Be Sold  
Pay The Ghosts  
Bad Valentine  
Velveteen

**‘LITTLE MAGNETS VERSUS THE BUBBLE OF  
BABBLE’**

(I Just Wanna) B with U  
Ain’t No Rules  
If Looks Could Kill  
Every Little Thing  
Twangy Wig Out  
Don’t Believe The Type  
Pressure Times  
Crawl Out Your Window  
You Put A Spell On Me  
Back On My Knees Again

**ELVIS COSTELLO COLLABORATION  
LP ALBUM:**

**‘NOW AIN’T THE TIME FOR YOUR TEARS’**  
Geffen Records

While Wendy had been touring the US with Transvision Vamp she bumped into Pete Thomas the drummer from Elvis Costello & The Attractions. Both bands had played together earlier that year at a festival in Ireland called ‘Feile’. Wendy asked Pete if there was any chance of Elvis working with her as she felt the demise of TVV was imminent. He suggested to her she should

write a letter to Costello, which she did and so resulted a fully written LP album **‘Now Ain’t The Time For Your Tears’** (originally called **‘The Gwendolyn Letters’**) by Elvis Costello and his then partner Cait O’ Riordan, bass player from The Pogues. Upon receiving the demo version of the album from Elvis Costello, Wendy flew to Los Angeles and asked the USA MCA/Universal managing director Al Teller to release her from her contract. He instead offered that she move over onto Geffen Records, which Universal had recently acquired. She agreed and set about recording the album for Geffen. Chris Kimsey, famed Rolling Stones producer was engaged to produce the album and they recorded in Toulouse, France and subsequently mixed at Sunset Sound Recording Studios in LA. The album was released to much fanfare but failed to make a big hit on the UK or US charts, though it became a collectors item for Costello fans who knew that this was the first time in years Elvis had regrouped his band The Attractions to record the demos and he gradually released his version of all the songs too.

### **Track Listing:**

#### **‘NOW AINT THE TIME FOR YOUR TEARS’**

This Is A Test

London’s Brilliant

Basement Kiss

Puppet Girl

Earthbound

Do You Know What I’m Saying?

We Despise You

Fill In The Blanks

The Nameless One

I Want To Stand Forever

## **WENDY JAMES TIME OUT IN WEST LONDON**

After the whirlwind of not only Transvision Vamp but also the Elvis Costello collaboration, Wendy withdrew from the limelight to her home in Ladbroke Grove, West London and instead set about writing her own songs and beginning the next chapter of her musical life, which would see her not only releasing four independent solo albums but also leaving the Portobello Road, West London and moving to New York City. She also took this time out to focus on her private life with boyfriend Mick Jones from The Clash.

## **WENDY JAMES SOLO LP ALBUMS:**

**‘RACINE NO.1’**

**‘RACINE 2’**

**‘I CAME HERE TO BLOW MINDS’**

**‘THE PRICE OF THE TICKET’**

Cobraside Distribution

**‘Racine No.1’** was written and demo’d while Wendy still lived in London but the studio recording was done in New Jersey, USA at Sonic Youth’s recording studio. A Lo-Fi venture with Wendy playing every instrument and working only with an engineer. She then formed a band around her comprised of friends from London, New York and a guitarist from Sweden. They toured Europe and during this time Wendy quickly wrote a new amount of songs which would become ‘Racine 2’.

### **Track Listing:**

## **'RACINE NO.1'**

The Man

Grease Monkey

Princess Patience Blues

Hip Hop 156

W.13th

Blonde Mink Mimi

Heavy Metal Dude

That's The Breaks, Junior

Cakewalk

Life Goes On

Deluxe

**'Racine 2'** was a far more produced and fleshed out sound, working with the musicians who had toured with her for Racine No.1. They went to a large recording studio in New Jersey and over a six week period recorded the 13 track LP. Released once more independently with her US distribution company Cobraside Distribution, the album received many glowing reviews in the UK and US press but few sales relatively and no real prominence at radio mainly due to lack of funds to hire marketing and promo teams to bolster her distribution deal. The band toured again extensively around Europe and a couple of local NYC dates too.

### **Track Listing:**

## **'RACINE 2'**

Way

I'm Freaking Out

Racine

Bobby's Going Electric

You're A Good Man Sister  
There Ain't No Way – I Can't Do No Twenny In This  
Oui Ou Non – A Straight Boogaloo  
Stoned, Ripped And Twisted  
Essex Dog  
Those Leg Motherfuckers  
Bitter Funny

**'I Came Here To Blow Minds'**, the third solo album from Wendy James was written by Wendy once more but this time recorded in Paris, France with French musicians. The album was recorded in the basement recording studio of the famous 'APC' clothing label design studios on the Left Bank of Paris in St. Germain des Pres. When all the tracks were recorded, because of DJ work Wendy had been asked to do in Sydney, Australia, Wendy mixed the album in Sydney at BJB Recording Studios with celebrated Australian producer Scott Horscroft. The album was released once more with no budget to promote but this time on Vinyl, CD and Download, again through her distribution company in LA, Cobraside Distribution. Good reviews again, some stand out tracks, but no chart position to speak of.

**Track Listing:**

**'I CAME HERE TO BLOW MINDS'**

The Moon Dead In The River  
Where Have You Been, So Long?  
Don't Shoot I Ain't Dillinger  
Municipal Blues  
New Wave Flowered Up Main Street Acid Baby  
Speedball  
No Dice

You Tell Me  
King Hoodlum  
One Evening In A Small Cafe...  
These Beggar Memories  
You're A Fucking Mess, But You Sure Is Pretty  
I Came Here To Blow Minds

**WENDY JAMES COLLABORATION WITH JAMES WILLIAMSON AND STEVE MACKAY FROM IGGY & THE STOOGES AND JAMES SCLAVUNOS FROM NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS.**

Cobraside Distribution

Wendy James, James Williamson and James Sclavunos all decided to record a couple of numbers together, choosing two cover versions, one by Bob Dylan: the epic 'It's Alright Ma, I'm Only Bleeding' and one by Fred 'Sonic' Smith (MC5/Sonic's Rendezvous Band) 'You're So Great'. They booked a studio in Berkeley, Northern California called Fantasy Recording Studios and over 10 days recorded and mixed the two songs with engineer Jesse Nichols. The single was released in US as a download at iTunes and made a lot of the USA 'Best Single of The Year' lists.

**Track Listing**

**Single:**

You're So Great  
It's Alright Ma

**'THE PRICE OF THE TICKET'**

w/ Lenny Kaye (The Patti Smith Group), Glen Matlock (Sex Pistols), James Sclavunos (Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds)

## **James Williamson and Steve Mackay (Iggy & The Stooges)**

Cobraside Distribution

All songs written by Wendy James except the two cover versions with James Williamson, covers of Bob Dylan and Fred 'Sonic' Smith, the album was recorded in NYC with Ivan Julian (Richard Hell & The Voidoids) as the engineer. Live sessions with Lenny Kaye, Glen Matlock and James Scavunos made up the main-stay of the album sessions and then Wendy took the LP back to Fantasy Studios in Berkeley, California to once again work and mix with engineer Jesse Nichols. The art work was photographed and designed by her fashion designer friend Kym Ellery. The album is released on Vinyl, CD and Download and a glorious signed and numbered Picture Disc and a pre-sale campaign was launched with legendary A&R man Malcom Dunbar's new business model for selling records [pledgemusic.com](http://pledgemusic.com). The pre-sale campaign was a huge success and resulted in the LP entering the UK charts at No.15. Two 7" single vinyls came off the album :Indigent Blues'/ 'Bad Intentions And A Bit Of Cruelty' and 'Farewell to Love/'You're A Dirtbomb, Lester.

### **Track Listing:**

#### **'THE PRICE OF THE TICKET'**

Paloma's Downs

Indigent Blues

King Rat

Love From The 9th

Bad Intentions And A Bit Of Cruelty

You're A Dirtbomb, Lester

Screamin' Back Washington

Why Oh Why Do You Hurt Me Still?

Farewell To Love  
Cowboy Rhythm  
Situation Normal At Surfrider  
You're So Great  
It's Alright Ma

## **NEW ALBUM!**

### **'QUEEN HIGH STRAIGHT'**

DOUBLE DELUXE GATEFOLD VINYL AND CD. 20  
TRACKS

Wendy is in the studio and nearing the completion of recording her 20 song strong new DOUBLE DELUXE GATEFOLD VINYL. 2 LPS: 5 CUTS PER SIDE! Printed inner sleeves, liner notes - a real big record release! Wendy once again working with drummer and percussionist and all-round wing-man James Sclavunos and this time joined on Lead Guitar by James Sedwards, Bass by Harry Bohay-Nowell, Horn Section: Alex J. Ward & Terry Edwards and Accordionist Louis Vause. The range of songs is yet more skilled and profound; from her natural penchant for Alt Rock New Wave Pop Songs through to the most delicately composed heart wrenching ballads and whimsy to truly aggressive punk speed rock and the big pop sound of great girl groups The Ronettes, Shangri-Las and Marth & The Vandellas. Production values hailing from The Wrecking Crew, Bacharach & David and that Motor City Detroit Sound! Always with a firm eye (and heart) on The Stooges and The Velvet Underground.

### **Track Listing:**

**'QUEEN HIGH STRAIGHT'**

Queen High Straight  
Perilous Beauty  
Free Man Walk  
Stomp Down, Snuck Up  
Little Melvin  
Marlene et Fleur  
A Heart Breaking Liar's Promise  
Here Comes The Beautiful One  
Chicken Street  
Testimonial  
Bar Room Brawl & Benzedrine Blues  
Ratfucking  
She Likes To Be (Underneath Somebody)  
Bliss Hotel  
Freak In  
The Impression Of Normalcy  
I'll Be Here When The Morning Comes  
Cancel It... I'll See Him On Monday  
Sugar Boy  
Kill Some Time Blues

Wendy currently divides her time between New York City,  
Paris, South France and London

### **WENDY JAMES OFFICIAL MEDIA LINKS**

WEBSITE: <https://thewendyjames.com>

OFFICIAL STORE: <https://thewendyjames.com/store>

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/THEWENDYJAMES](http://www.facebook.com/THEWENDYJAMES)

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/THEWENDYJAMES>

INSTAGRAM: <http://instagram.com/thewendyjames>

SOUNDCLOUD: <https://soundcloud.com/the-wendy-james>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/user/>

THEWENDYJAMESVIDEO