

Good Drugs Bad Women

Sisters are doing it for themselves By Ruby Boukabou



Is being a burlesque star all that it's cracked up to be? Well if you count touring the world with an excess of rhinestones, dancing with the likes of Bon Jovi, launching a few DVDs and having to be hidden with the saxophonist for two hours backstage during a police raid, in a very tight corset... then yes(!) says Angie Pontani. Pontani, the prominent New York City burlesque gal, will be touring Australia with *Good Drugs, Bad Women*. Watch out.

What's your favourite part of the lifestyle?

It's a wonderful job. What other career requires the excessive usage of rhinestones? I just love the glamour of it, I love the stage, performing & meeting people all over the world.

The most challenging part?

Transporting costumes is always a challenge and at times the travel can be a little difficult.

What's your favourite classic burlesque number and why?

I am a gigantic fan of the fan dance. It is classic and classy and when done well is the real epitome of tease.

Why do we need burlesque in our lives?

I don't think I could live with out it! It is pure and simple entertainment. It's sexy, sultry, randy, racy and just a good time.

Could you describe turning points in your career?

I think one of the major turning points was teaming up with the musical act *Los Straitjackets* in 2001, with them we were able to mount national and international tours that really helped us build our audience, it also landed us several national television appearances and helped to facilitate our DVD releases, *Go-Go Robics 1 & 2* as well as *Twist Party*. The second was probably touring our *Burlesque-A-Pades* show, it was really one of the first full burlesque stage shows to travel the country and we got an amazing and overwhelming response.

What's been your most memorable (good) gig?

One of my personal best stage moments was recently in Barcelona. The crowd was just so amazing I felt like I was flying through the entire show. Every-time I get to play with a live band is also an amazing moment, the chemistry between a burlesque dancer and the band is always magical. Once I was on the same bill with Bon Jovi, it was an event for Target. That was amazing! Also recently in Des Moines the police came to a show to approve my costumes, then they stayed for the whole show, it was a blast! I felt so old school!

What's been the most memorable (bad) gig?

Recently I was in Los Angeles, booked to perform at a club. The police raided the club and they hid me and the saxophone player back stage for 2 hours and then the owner pulled the entire show, he was afraid to let me perform, thought the police would get me on some decency law, which is just silly. I felt terrible for the people who had come out and I felt terrible as I was back stage in a corset for 2 hours.

What are you doing when you're not devising a routine, sewing sequences, catching a plane, kicking a leg, throwing a corset or sipping champagne?

I babysit my sister's twins, garden, crochet and recently I just started a burlesque softball team. Last night was our first game. We lost 16 - 5, but we looked very cute!

Do you wear baggy pants and old tops while at home or keep the glamour rolling 24-7?

I don't own anything baggy, it's a condition I have. I'm a 24-7 glamour addict.

What: *Good Drugs Bad Women*

When: Saturday September 8

Where: Metro Theatre