

# Keeping Time

## with *ThundHerStruck's* Stephanie Leigh

L.A.'s well-known bombshell drummer Stephanie Leigh was born and raised in Southern California, where she began her musical endeavors. Following in her father's footsteps, she began playing drums at a very young age and by her teenage years had performed with several local acts. Later her career would include bands such as No Shame (CBS Records), Fair Game (Metal Mayhem Records), Flesh-N-Bone (featuring former Megadeth's Jeff Young), Rock Can-D (Emerald Press Comics), and The Party Girls (Bud Light Band-Superbowl '99).

Other projects include writing, directing and co-producing Rock Can-D's video, as well as the score and the drum performance for the song "State of Confusion." Stephanie also did drums and backing vocals for the songs "Somewhere in the Night" and "Blind Faith" from the movie soundtrack "The Bad Channel." She endorses Pearl Drums, Sabian Cymbals, and Ahead Drumsticks.

AAM recently caught up with Stephanie Leigh. Some refer to her as "One helluva hi-energy turbo woman. And if you've ever meet her you would know why!"

**AAM:** Stephanie, where does all that energy come from?

**SL:** A healthy dose of sex, drugs and rock-n-roll have always been my remedy! Hehe! No, really, I am part Italian and that really comes out strongly in my personality as well as my drumming.

**AAM:** Your bio mentions you have written, directed and co-produced various song and video projects. Are you still doing any of this?

**SL:** No, that was a very fun project that I had going, but like so many other musical endeavors the label shelved it! That project was actually a video for a futuristic comic book character that I modeled for named iCan-D. She was basically wanted and on the run for her knowledge of government cover-ups, so she and her band always played the underground, trying to let everyone know about the conspiracy from the government. It was really a great concept, and we had a lot of fun with it, but as we all know some good things have to come to an end. As far as doing any other video productions, it's hard to know what life has in store, so who knows!

**AAM:** Currently on tour with the band ThundHerStruck, an all-girl tribute band to AC/DC, you'll find

petite Stephanie behind the drums. What is it like to be a female drummer?

**SL:** Well, I suppose it might be similar to being a guy drummer, only your stuff swings in different places! As far as playing with ThundHerStruck, these girls are absolutely great and definitely know how to rock! It is the best feeling to be playing some of your favorite all-time tunes, not just with your friends, but with pro players who can jam their asses off! I like that you have named this issue "Women Who Rock" because that is totally what we do rock!!!! We

that girl players have had in the past. However, I believe that there are so many truly talented women in rock now that that [male-dominated scene] might be a thing of the past. There will always be the crap girl bands, but the great ones are making names for themselves and allowing girl bands to have the respect that they deserve.

**AAM:** Why the drums, Stephanie, why not the guitar, keyboards, or lead vocals?

**SL:** My dad was the DCI drum instructor all through the 60s and

face style), to the infamous Bonham Lag. Then my dad, who taught me the basic rhythm of it all, starting with my first rudiments!

**AAM:** If you could be the drummer in any band in the world, who would that be and why?

**SL:** I'm in it! Fun, fun and more fun!!! To me that's what it's about! However, if I wanted to be a huge famous success in the music world, I guess I would want to play with Ozzy. Yes, I said it! I love ol' Oz!!!! But truly I love so many different styles of music that I would love to play with bands ranging from AC/DC, to Dave Mathews, to Pink Floyd! Did I mention Y-N-T? Or how about Zeppelin? OK, that's impossible!

**AAM:** What is the most memorable show you've ever performed at?

**SL:** The most memorable? There have been an extreme amount of events in the past several years that come to mind! From Rockin' the Rivers with George Thorogood, to the White Horse Mountain Festival in WA (my family was there), to our own local Toys for Tots, which is always such a great show and a great cause! If I had to pick the most memorable, it's every time that we go overseas to support our troops! It's a very surreal experience to play on the front line in the war zone in Iraq. But the greatest rewards are the e-mails that we still get today from some of the soldiers whom we played for!!! One stated that for 2 hours of his day, he forgot that he was in a war zone. The rewards are very great for these tours, as they make such a difference in the morale of our soldiers!

**AAM** congrats you on your success as a "Woman Who Rocks"! Is there anything you would like to add to this interview?

**SL:** Thanks to All Access Magazine for keeping local music alive, to Pearl Drums, Ahead Sticks and Sabian Cymbals for believing in me as a drummer and standing with me for so many years; and to a GREAT FREAKIN' BAND that knows what it takes to kick major ass!!! I would also like to give kudos to the truly talented women who rock. You know who you are so keep on rockin' girls!!!!

Find out tour info for ThundHerStruck, The Ultimate All-Girl Tribute to AC/DC, at [www.ThundHerStruck.com](http://www.ThundHerStruck.com).



all know there are tons of girl bands out there who can't play worth a sh\*t, but try to cash in on the all-girl thing. But let's face it: Either you got it, or you got sh\*t!!!!

**AAM:** Do you think it's difficult to be a woman in today's music world?

**SL:** As I said, it's tough only for the reason that there are a lot of crappy girl bands out there and it makes it very tough for the truly talented to be taken seriously. You have to work twice as hard to get noticed because of the bad rep

70s so I grew up with sticks in my hands. I didn't really choose the drums, they chose me. And thank God!!! Can you imagine how much energy I would have stored up if I didn't get to beat the hell out of the drums?

**AAM:** Who are your influences, or whom do you admire the most?

**SL:** It's hard to give just a few. I have a seriously diverse amount of influences, from Dennis Chambers (madman in the studio), to Phil Rudd (who of course I admire his back beat but in-your-