



## WOMEN IN TEXAS MUSIC: STORIES & SONGS

By Kathleen Hudson



Photo by Bob Zink

Many years ago Alex Gillespie called me and asked if my non-profit would sponsor a series of radio shows for NPR on the history of rockabilly. I said yes, and in 2007 I received a call, saying, "You (THMF) have received a Peabody Award for this radio series." I said yes to the right person! I did have a chance to be an historical advisor and suggest a moderator for the entire series.

Enter Rosie Flores! We both traveled to New York to walk that stage with Alex and receive that award for "Whole Lotta Shakin," a series named after a song by Jerry Lee Lewis.

I have heard Rosie at SXSW, at the Continental Club, at Luckenbach, and at other festivals. Once at the Continental Club Wanda Jackson, the reigning Queen of Rockabilly showed up to see Rosie. What a reunion.

Rosie has history, and her roots in the music of Texas run deep. Her pink glasses, boots and colorful clothing can catch your eye, but her voice captures your soul. And then her rowdy rhythmic performance! Everyone loves Rosie, the BluesGuitarFlingin'Siren, as her facebook page says. And that electric guitar!

I remember talking to her about her times in California, Europe, and in

Nashville, but Texas is her home. I love being at her shows performing with roommate Patricia Vonne. I have been to that house and talked with both women about their lives. Two striking vibrant dark-haired women rocking the house. They do that.

Her website reveals a schedule into 2019, including many private parties and a Norwegian Cruise. June 2018 finds her at Poodie's, Poor David's Pub, and McGonigel's Mucky Duck. Austin, Dallas and Houston. A Texas circuit for her fans. She also has a blog that documents her colorful journey.



She performed on the Sirius Outlaw Country cruise, along with Steve Earle, Jason and the Scorchers, Lucinda Williams, Rodney Crowell, Dale Watson and more. She also went to Memphis and spent a week with Dale Watson, Celine Lee and the Ameripolitan Awards. Reading her blog is getting the inside story with focus on details like the photo of Elvis in her room in Memphis. She played guitar for Wanda Jackson in March and April. Now we need to showcase Rosie in Kerrville. Who is ready to do that? *Il's sont partis.* KH

[www.kathleenhudson.net](http://www.kathleenhudson.net)

[kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com](mailto:kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com)