

BRAZIL'S ANNA SETTON

Interviewed by Eric Myers

*Eric Myers explains: Brazilian singer/guitarist ANNA SETTON, 36, was in Australia in November, 2019, primarily to perform at the Sydney International Women's Jazz Festival. Her first album, simply entitled **Anna Setton**, was released in 2018, and met with extraordinary success, both in Brazil and internationally. This interview was commissioned by the editor of The Australian's Review, Tim Douglas, for the 'Spotlight' section which appears on page 3 of Review. I was informed by Mr Douglas that it would be run on Saturday, November 2, the last opportunity before Ms Setton's first performance in Cairns. However, when I opened The Australian on that morning I found that the Spotlight section was devoted, not to Ms Setton, but to the Latvian violinist Baiba Skride, who was touring for Musica Viva Australia. Tim Douglas later explained: "It was forced out at the very last minute in a reshuffle. ... I'm sorry we didn't let you know last week".*



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Eric Myers: What do you know of Australia?

Anna Setton: I was in Australia in 2000 for a few days on vacation but this was a long time ago and I was very young. I remember loving it, feeling at home, meeting amazing and kind people, beyond the wonderful beaches. This time I'll have more time to learn about Aussie culture and get to know Australia better. I'm so excited!

EM: Why did it take you so long to record your first album?

AS: For me, records are born from a desire, from an artistic unrest. By 2015, the year my daughter Dora was born, I still had no sense that this moment had

come. The album was very well received by critics and the public, which was a great joy for me. It was very carefully made, with a team who mean a lot to me. I really like this result and I think it was a beautiful debut.

EM: I understand you inherited your zest for music from your parents.

AS: Yes, my parents introduced me to a wide musical and cultural universe - classical music, jazz, rock from the 60s and 70s and especially Brazilian popular music (MPB). My mother sings very well, and at home there were lots of musical moments with my dad playing and us singing, or just listening to music together. But all in an amateur way, as a hobby. My father has always been more towards rock and my mother more connected to Brazilian music.



The great Brazilian artist Toquinho: he introduced Anna to the world of professional music: big theatres, big audiences, trips to several parts of the world, press conferences...

EM: What happened on your 15th birthday?

AS: I got my first guitar, and started taking guitar lessons, but still with no professional intention. During adolescence, I also took singing lessons and did some informal performances, so my taste for music increased. Later, when I was in college, studying International Relations, I realized that my greatest interest, my greatest pleasure, was in studying and making music and I decided this would be my professional path. At that time, we performed weekly in a bar next to the college, and I went more into the Brazilian repertoire.

EM: Who is Toquinho, and how important was he to your career?

Toquinho is a great Brazilian artist, super connected to bossa nova and MPB.

We met in 2011 at Baretto, a piano bar in São Paulo where I sang for seven years. That night, he invited me to participate in a big theatre show in São Paulo and to sing two songs with him on his album *Quem Viver, Verá*. We worked together for five years, and I was introduced to another universe of professional music: big theatres, big audiences, trips to several parts of the world, press conferences, and so many other things related to the music business.

EM: What role does your husband Edu Sangirardi play in your career?

AS: Edu and I have been together for 17 years, and he is the arranger and music director of my album and my shows. We compose together and he is the author of all original songs on my album. He is my greatest collaborator, the person who knows me the most, and helps me to follow this musical path.



Setton: After the birth of her daughter Dora, the mother and the artist became a unique and absolute person...

EM: Has your daughter Dora had a big impact on your life?

AS: Dora was born in November 2015 and I can say that becoming a mother was the most transformative experience I have ever had in my life. I think it opens a portal for us, we understand what it really means to love someone, the importance of our choices as creators and educators of this life we generate. This experience was essential to my artistic birth. After that, the mother and the artist became a unique and absolute person.

Anna Setton performed in Cairns on November 2, in Sydney on November 3, in Adelaide on November 8, and in Melbourne on November 9.