

music

# Doing It For Themselves

## Dimestore Dolls

set the stage for Lancaster Ladies  
of Rock and Roll



L to r: Liz Fulmer, Kelly Buchanan,  
Donna Volles

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE JOHNSON

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The main stage at Tellus360 warmed up fast as some truly magical women took control of the microphone at the first Lancaster Ladies of Rock and Roll event in January. The vibe from the packed room can be summed up in the sudden urge I got to put on a riot grrrl mix tape and practice my best yell-singing.

Organized by local musicians Liz Fulmer, Donna Volles and Kelly Buchanan of the Dimestore Dolls, the series aims to build up a strong community of women making music in Lancaster. The lineup is open to both sexes, as long as they'll play together as equals.

Fulmer is a Lancaster-based singer/songwriter slated to drop her third record in March. She performs frequently in and around town on guitar and piano, but has taken on the role of drummer for the Dimestore Dolls.

Volles has spent years laying down bass grooves for local bands, like the bohemian-pop trio Lavacave, which just released its first record. For the Dolls, she wields both upright and electric bass.

Buchanan is the group's lead vocalist and guitarist, and does some of the finest yell-singing around. She's toured nationally and garnered attention from MTV, NY1 and CMJ for her songs – some of which have been covered by Sara Bareilles and other major recording artists. To give a sense of just how hard this woman rocks, Buchanan made an astonishing recovery from traumatic brain injury in 2008 – the result of a near fatal blow to the head while playing amateur street hockey.

***J: How did the Dimestore Dolls get together?***

K: We formed when Donna and I decided to put together an all-girl act for the McCleary's Christmas Review of 2015. We had so much fun that we decided to keep it going and grow our concept. Liz joined in February 2016 after we bonded on and off stage at the first Concert for Refugees at Tellus360.

***J: Where did the name come from?***

K: We agreed it had to be a name we all liked, that fit what we were doing, and that I could feel comfortable repeating to my grandmother. Diesel Martini, Danger Dames, and The Shaming of the True made it to the top four, but we ultimately decided on Dimestore Dolls.

***J: What was the motivation behind organizing Lancaster Ladies of Rock and Roll?***

L: It can sometimes feel like music is a boys' club and we wanted to shift the narrative a bit.

K: We'd like to encourage more women to put on their performance hats and make music with one another, as well as with the talented men in the community.

D: Also, if someone is too timid to perform, this can hopefully be a space where they feel comfortable enough to try.

***J: How did Sara Bareilles end up covering a Kelly Buchanan song?***

K: Sara headlined a benefit show that ASCAP and my friends organized for me at the Troubadour in Los Angeles after my brain injury in 2008. She chose to perform my song "Kid Self" because the theme struck a personal chord with her.

***J: What's the state of women who rock in Lancaster?***

K: I moved here from Brooklyn and have been thoroughly impressed by the thriving local music scene. Women are an important element in this community. I think the conditions are right for us to do great things in Lancaster.

***J: What are your favorite Dimestore Dolls songs?***

L: It was Kelly's "You Are the Fix" that first had me sold on her music. I'm also loving "Hand Grenade" – a piece that I wrote for solo acoustic guitar and vocals.

D: I was immediately drawn to "You Are the Fix" and "Hand to Mouth". These tunes pack a punch. I like the sparseness in "Hearts Will Roll" – our country-esque ballad. Less is more in this case.

K: I like "Crazy's Got Its Perks" because it feels like the band's first real co-write. It evolved from organically jamming out one day, and recording the jam on the iPhone.

***J: If you could have a drink with any musician living or dead, what would you drink and who would the musician be?***

L: Bourbon. Definitely bourbon. And I'd say Sara Bareilles, actually, because her music spans from pop charts to Broadway, and takes risks in between.

K: Sheryl Crow, because I think she is a remarkably strong woman and a great songwriter. I'd probably drink a Miller Lite or Lancaster Brewing Company's double chocolate milk stout so that I stay sober long enough to remember what she says to me.

D: That is tough. I'm going to have to, instead, go food truck hopping with Mama Cass or Ella Fitzgerald.

• Lancaster Ladies of Rock and Roll  
March 2, doors at 7:30 p.m.  
Tellus360 – 24 E King St., Lancaster