



## LUCIE THORNE - KITTY & FRANK

Lucie Thorne's extraordinary new art/pop concept record *Kitty & Frank* traces the wild true stories of young frontier woman Kitty Walsh and her lover, the charismatic bandit and bushranger Frank Gardiner. In the 1860's, Gold Fever came to Wheogo NSW and, like *Deadwood*, it didn't end well.

Painting landscapes with dream-soaked synths, irresistible beats, poetry and pathos, Thorne has woven an astonishing arc of vignettes to create an album which is at once timeless and utterly modern. Inhabiting a sonic world that calls to mind a meeting of David Bowie's *Blackstar* and Kate Bush's *Ariel*, via Grimes and Alice Coltrane, *Kitty & Frank* spans a tale of Shakespearean proportions. All this at the hands of one of Australia's finest song-poets who has ventured to triumphant new ground with staggering certitude.

**"Vast and often breathtaking... these songs glow in the smoke of Thorne's incredibly expressive voice"**  
Michael Dwyer, The Age

**"So deep, lush and inventive you're transported to a post-Radiohead rock soundscape"** Martin Jones, Rhythms Magazine

Thorne first learned of Kitty & Frank while on a 'Blind Freddy's Bushranger Tour' in Canowindra NSW, led by historian and raconteur Craig Lawler. Therein sparked the seed which led Thorne to research and re-imagine their life and times. Drawn particularly to the idea of telling these stories from a female perspective, so very often all but erased from the pages of history, Thorne has dug deep and spun a wild and inexorable historical fiction that is cinematic in its breadth, beauty and urgency.

Two years after writing her first song for Kitty & Frank, Thorne sent herself off to a little shack on the Howqua River in Victoria where, in solitude, with a midi-keyboard and her imagination, she set to work.

"It was in that week by the Howqua that I first really clearly flashed on the *kind* of album I was going to make, sonically speaking. I had a week's supplies, firewood, no internet, a simple recording set-up, a borrowed keyboard and songs to write! Of course the whole wild story had been clanging around in my head for ages, but when I started writing synth riffs and melodies, suddenly I could really taste it: the shape of it. I've always written songs with a guitar in my arms, so to step away from that for much of the album and delve in to keyboard-world—really for the first time!—was an incredibly fun and liberating thing."

Thorne then took all this new material to her longtime collaborators: Hamish Stuart (drums), Chris Abrahams (synthesisers, piano) and Dave Symes (bass). With this dream-team in full flight and Thorne at the helm, most of the album was tracked by Simon Berckelman live to tape at Marrickville's Golden Retriever Studios over three days. Thorne then took these sessions home where she continued to arrange, re-layer and record. *Kitty & Frank* was mixed at Phaedra Studios in Coburg by John Lee (Lost Animal, Laura Jean) and mastered by Lachlan Carrick (Goyte, The Triffids).

**"Bold, brave.. potent. Thorne's a musician who has understood and conveyed desire better than most"**  
Bernard Zuel, Sydney Morning Herald

*Kitty & Frank* traverses a stunning expanse of sonic and emotional terrain; from the soaring gorgeousness of *Wheogo Hill*, the irresistible groove of *Catherine Christie*, the heartbreaking sparseness of *Darlinghurst*, and the melancholic perfection of album closer, *Twilight Star*. Mining the enduring themes of hardship, sorrow, adventure and love, Lucie Thorne has struck gold with *Kitty & Frank*.

**"One of my favourite songwriters & performers in the known three Universes"** Tim Rogers, Double J

**"Thorne conjures a simple narrative flow that, like a Raymond Carver story, transforms everyday life into high art"** Dan Bigna, The Canberra Times

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