



INTRODUCING KINGS & ASSOCIATES,
3 time winners of the 2018 Australian Blues Music
Awards for Best Band, Best New Talent and Best
Producer.
Finalist for the 2019 IBC Album of the Year.

Since their humble beginnings winning the 2014 ARBA award for 'Most Outstanding New Act' **KINGS & ASSOCIATES** have truly developed into one of Australia's most uniquely new and exciting neo blues bands. Within 3 short years The Kings have quickly become regulars at many festivals throughout Australia along with premier venues in most capital cities around the country, plus being internationally recognised through radio play throughout Europe and the US, and live performances in New Zealand and the USA.

Their debut album 'Red Dress' was tracked in various studios around Adelaide from April to June '14, with the guys heading to Nashville for final production and mixing with Andrija Tokic in July. Tokic mixed the Grammy nominated smash debut album for the Alabama Shakes 'Boys & Girls'. The album also features some of Nashville's best musos including the late Ikey Owens from the 'Jack White band' & 'The Mars Volta' on hammond, rhodes & farfisa. Red Dress incredibly hit no.1 on the iTunes Blues charts in Australia.

The follow up to Red Dress came with the much anticipated release of **TALES OF A RICH GIRL** on the 6th of October 2017 This marked over 2 years of writing, touring and recording with 10 new original tracks on the land mark release....and going by the reputation of those who helped make the album a reality it's no wonder expectation was so high. This started with tracking in LA in August '16 with 7 time Grammy winner **Jim Scott** as engineer and producer. Scott's catalogue of hit albums and awards include the Rolling Stones, Tedeschi Trucks, Sting, the Chilli Peppers, Foo Fighters, Matchbox 20 and Crowded House. After initially making contact with the management of the industry legend Scott personally reached out to the band to confirm his interest and 'book the session'. Bassist and co-songwriter Steve Portolesi rates this 6 day session in Scott's studio PLYRZ in Valencia north of Hollywood as the musical highlight of his career. *'Jim is the most down to earth guy we've met, and considering his massive list of successful recordings I have to say it was totally refreshing. He knew how to create the perfect environment to get the best out of you both in performance and creativity....but still having time to eat, hang and chat....'* Portolesi says, *'at times Kely [Sugars] and I had to pinch ourselves to remind us of where we were and who we were working with, this guy had worked with bands and artists who have sold millions of albums and influenced us personally, to have the opportunity to work with him and have him speak into our songs was humbling to say the least'*. So, after a brief 9 day trip across the pacific the album was tracked and it was back to Adelaide Australia to finish editing.

But, the quality didn't finish with Jim Scott and LA... the band secured the services of Nashville based **Vance Powell** to mix the album, another industry legend and multi Grammy winner. Powell's credits include Grammys with the Dixie Chicks and Jack White and had just finished producing the breakthrough album for Chris Stapleton. So it was back to the States again to mix the album in Music City....this time the band used the trip to perform live including shows at the legendary Bourbon St Blues Club in Printers Lane Nashville, and a quick fire semi-final appearance at the IBC in Memphis....between tracking in LA with Jim Scott, and mixing in Nashville with Vance Powell the guys had travelled over 34,000 miles in 8 months to finish their album.

'Unlike Red Dress where we felt we were finding our feet stylistically, Tales is a lot closer to our heart' says lyricist and vocalist Angie Portolesi. *'This album was written for most from real life experiences...friends dying, relationships breaking up, overcoming personal tragedy, significant life changes, these are all the stories of our lives...these songs represent who we are today in so many respects, they speak back to us like kids, and we can say we're proud of them'*.

By week 2 of its release the album went to number 1 on the Australian blues and roots radio charts, and reached number 15 on the Roots Radio international charts compiled from global radio play lists. Reviews have been nothing short of astonishing with Huff Post's Randy Radic labelling it *"a humdinger from the land down under"*, Chris Spector from Midwest Records describing it as *"killer stuff that knows all the right moves...."*, PBS Melbourne Peter Merrett stating *"wow! I think I've just been to heaven and back delivered a new man...."*, and Peter Szalony from Blues Blast Mag writing *"You are left emotionally drained after this soulful experience has concluded. There is such a seamless craftsmanship at work here that is cunning in its' deceptively simple approach. The magical*

voices of Angela and Benjamin set against expert musicianship and top notch production propel this effort into greatness. Hearing is believing!"

Tracks from Tales have been played on radio across the globe including JJJ and ABC Nation Radio in Australia, National Radio 101 in NZ, and by Paul Jones on BBC2 in Great Britain. Nominated in every category of the 2018 Australian Blues Music Awards the Kings ultimately walked away with half the pool winning gongs for Best Band, Best New Act, and Best Producer. The album also won 2018 ARBA album of the year and as of November 2018 is still top 20 in the Australian Blues charts.

Producing and performing music is not the sole focus or motivation for Kings & Associates. In conjunction with their new album the band continues their relationship with global NGO World Vision. This partnership was birthed from the 2016 Red Dress album which was produced as part of World Vision's #nochildforsale campaign to help raise awareness of childhood sex slavery, specifically in Brazil. Kings & Associates have developed a close relationship with World Vision as a partner artist, the issue of sex slavery remains a driving passion for the band and a huge influence on their artistic direction. *'We're not about bashing people on the head with a social message or pointing the finger'* comments Angie, *'our time in Memphis and specifically our visit to the site of the shooting of Martin Luther King reaffirmed in us how slavery has been with us for generations and the impact it's had on humanity is something we need to continue to address. It's not about saying "there are the bad guys", but for us it's about saying what in my life allows the repressed of this world to remain enslaved'.*

Tales Of A Rich Girl is available on cd from kingsandassociatesmusic.com and the bands' FB page along with iTunes, Amazon and most other on line outlets.

In 2018 Kings & Associates performed a string of shows in support of their new album which included festivals at the globally recognised **WOMADelaide, BlenheimFest, EchucaWinter Blues, the Fringe, Wangaratta Jazz and Blues**, and back to back trips to **New Zealand** consisting of a short promo tour in early March, followed by a full tour in August. New Zealand has quickly become a success story for the band and almost a 'second home'. In a little over 12 months they've risen significantly in profile highlighted by feature appearances at the **Bay of Islands Jazz and Blues Festival**, and a live performance across the country on **NZ RADIO NATIONAL**. The August national tour also took in shows in **Auckland, Wellington, Napier and Hamilton**.

As for 2019, and hot off the press the band is returning to the USA in July for a follow up recording session with Jim Scott in LA to record tracks for a new album. BUT...BIGGER NEWS STILL...included in this trip will be a series of shows featuring dates at the exclusive **Mammoth Lakes Beer and Blues Fest** in CA, **Rosemont** in Chicago, **Summerfest** in Milwaukee and dates in Mishawaka, Gas City, Dallas, LA, Morro Bay, Louisville, and Nashville. They begin the year with a run of dates in 4 states through Australia including the prestigious **Blues on Broadbeach** in Qld, **Bruthern Blues** and **Eltham Jazz** in Vic, the **Australian Blues Music Fest** in NSW, and will kick off the year in their home town in Adelaide SA at the famous **Govenor Hindmarsh** where they will be presenting the latest written tracks from the soon to be recorded 3rd album.