



ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT / EUROPEAN EDITION

FAMOUS STRANGERS

SELF-TITLED

Debut Full-Length Album

VINYL EDITION

06 AUGUST 2026

DIGITAL & STREAMING

21 AUGUST 2026

Famous Strangers

Hard Rock and Heavy Metal / Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada

Famous Strangers didn't form in a moment. They built up to one. Guitarist Jeff Kittlitz and drummer Brian "Beej" Jolly were jamming together for years before the band had a name. Bassist Braden Sustrik came in next. When Amanda Kiernan was called in to run through covers, the chemistry was undeniable. What started as a jam session turned into the four-piece that recorded this album.

Their sound is wide. Some nights it's straight metal. Some nights it's hard rock, blues, or punk. They write from jams, not formulas, and they aren't afraid of the left turn. The roots run through Dio, Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, and W.A.S.P. The modern lane runs through Halestorm, Jinjer, Spiritbox, and Unleash The Archers. When the four of them lock in, it sounds like Famous Strangers, and nothing else.

Their self-titled debut full-length, out August 21, 2026, is the result of nearly three years of writing and road-testing. Engineered by Jeff Kittlitz and Phil Anderson, produced by Jeff Kittlitz and Famous Strangers, mixed by Joel Wanasek, mastered by Maor Appelbaum. The seven-track sequence was guided by mentor Byron Stroud (Strapping Young Lad, Fear Factory), who came in to help the band find the order that hits hardest.

The band has shared stages with Danko Jones and Three Inches of Blood. They operate as a registered Alberta partnership and partner with CMM GmbH for the European campaign.

THE FOUR-PIECE

AMANDA KIERNAN

Lead Vocals

JEFF KITTLITZ

Guitars, Backing Vox

BRADEN SUSTRIK

Bass, Backing Vox

BRIAN "BEEJ" JOLLY

Drums, Backing Vox

The Record

Seven tracks. One self-titled introduction.

This is the record Jeff Kittlitz has been working toward his entire life, and the rest of the band has been waiting for. When drummer Brian “Beej” Jolly got the final mix back, his first reaction said it: *“I always wanted to be a part of a team that could make my band sound like a Judas Priest, like the upper echelon. And finally, we’re at that point.”*

Seven songs, drawn from a vault that goes back nearly a decade. *As Your Leader* was one of the first songs Jeff and Beej ever wrote together. *Ghosts of Men*, the first single, was rebuilt from an unreleased Motley Crue-style track called *Hollywood* when the band needed a rocker for an opening slot with Danko Jones. *Please Her* is one of the newer songs, shaped late with engineer Phil Anderson in pre-production rehearsal.

The sessions were vibe-driven. Long days with lights turned down low, the four of them locked in. Beej described one moment, mid-session, when the room shifted: *“I had a surge of goosebumps for a while there when we were in that glowing light.”*

Byron Stroud sequenced the album. The band drove around listening to the tracks with him, and the next day they called the order. *Fire Inside* opens. *Rain*, a near-ten-minute blues closer, came from a riff Jeff wrote in England on an acoustic guitar while it rained outside. It taps the band’s deepest roots: blues, classic rock, where they all started.

Self-titled, because this is the introduction.



12-INCH VINYL / ARTWORK BY ART SZABO

TRACK LISTING

- 01 Fire Inside
- 02 Ghosts of Men
- 03 Please Her
- 04 As Your Leader
- 05 Desires
- 06 Far Away From Home
- 07 Rain

The Seven Tracks

Stories from the band, song by song.

01 OPENER Fire Inside

Written under deadline. The band landed an opening slot for Three Inches of Blood and wanted one song the crowd would love. The first version was jammed live in Drumheller, where Amanda asked the audience what to sing about and got back "dinosaurs." From that, the melody emerged. Amanda eventually replaced the dinosaurs with the album's first real statement.

"The past does not define you. There is peace within."

02 LEAD SINGLE Ghosts of Men

It started life as an unreleased Motley Crue-style track called *Hollywood* and sat in the vault until the band needed a rocker for the Danko Jones show. They revisited it, jammed it, Amanda sang rough vocals over the take, then came back with the lyrics that locked the song in. The video, shot at Shade in Edmonton where Amanda DJs, brought in dancers and friends from the local scene.

"Screaming on the inside. Suffering is beautiful."

03 CENTERPIECE Please Her

A newer song in the catalog that came together late. Engineer Phil Anderson worked the band through every arrangement in pre-production rehearsal before the song circled back to its original form. Amanda's lyrics drop the album's most unrepentant line.

"Treat me right, or get the fuck out of my face."

04 SECOND SINGLE As Your Leader

One of the oldest songs in the catalog. Jeff and Beej had been playing it together for years, with an Iron Maiden-style middle section the band debated cutting before deciding to leave it in. Amanda's lyrics, sharpened with one line from Beej ("the devil is their crown"), make this the album's only political track. Not a manifesto. A snapshot of where the band stands.

"The power is ours. I have faith in humanity."

Tracks 05 to 07

And the lineage that runs through it all.

05 WILDCARD Desires

The only song on the album where Jeff wrote all the lyrics. He started writing it after his first night at the Bloodstock Open Air Festival, where he met someone he had to write about. Amanda took on a song she didn't author and gave it everything: heart, attitude, command. The dive bomb in the solo was almost cut before Amanda loved it so much it stayed. Now it's the version Jeff intended from the start.

"Give me your heart, give me your soul, fill my desires."

06 PUNK CUT Far Away From Home

The album's punk record. Bad Religion meets SNFU meets The Offspring, by Jeff's description. Days before the studio, Beej tore down the chorus and rebuilt it from the ground up, giving the song a snap that wasn't there before. Amanda's lyrics zoom out to the cosmic.

"I wanna live in outer space."

07 CLOSER Rain

A near-ten-minute blues closer in F sharp minor. The opening riff came to Jeff on a couch in England with an acoustic guitar while it rained outside. The lead hook is a Yngwie Malmsteen phrasing slowed down and stripped back. Phil Anderson helped simplify the guitar parts late in production so Amanda's vocal could carry the song where it needs to go. It taps the band's deepest roots: blues, classic rock, where they all started.

"Let that rain pour down. Wash away everything."

INFLUENCES The Lineage

THE ROOTS

Dio
Iron Maiden
Judas Priest
W.A.S.P.

THE MODERN LANE

Halestorm
Jinjer
Spiritbox
Unleash The Archers



OFFICIAL BAND PORTRAIT / 2026



LIVE / STARLIGHT ROOM, EDMONTON



BAND PORTRAIT

04 / PRESS PHOTOS

Full-resolution assets available via CMM GmbH or by request to fs@famousstrangersband.com.

The Vinyl Edition

12-inch black vinyl / Original artwork by Art Szabo



FRONT COVER ARTWORK



VINYL MOCKUP / GATEFOLD JACKET

Cover artwork designed by Art Szabo. Released as a 12-inch black vinyl gatefold edition. Original artwork and full design package available on request.

Credits and Production

Everyone who built the record.

BAND

Lead Vocals **Amanda Kiernan**
Guitars, Backing Vocals **Jeff Kittlitz**
Bass, Backing Vocals **Braden Sustrik**
Drums, Backing Vocals **Brian "Beej" Jolly**

PRODUCTION

Engineered by **Jeff Kittlitz, Phil Anderson**
Produced by **Jeff Kittlitz, Famous Strangers**
Mixed by **Joel Wanasek**
Mastered by **Maor Appelbaum**
Sequenced with **Byron Stroud**

SONGWRITING

All songs written by **Famous Strangers**
All lyrics by **Amanda Kiernan**
Lyrics on Desires **Jeff Kittlitz**

CREATIVE

Art Direction and Design **Art Szabo**
Cover Artwork **Art Szabo**
Band Photography **Jenna Kiernan**
Music Video **Brad Thompson Visuals**

RELEASE

Released by **Famous Strangers**
European Press and Distribution **CMM GmbH**
North American PR **Asher Media**

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