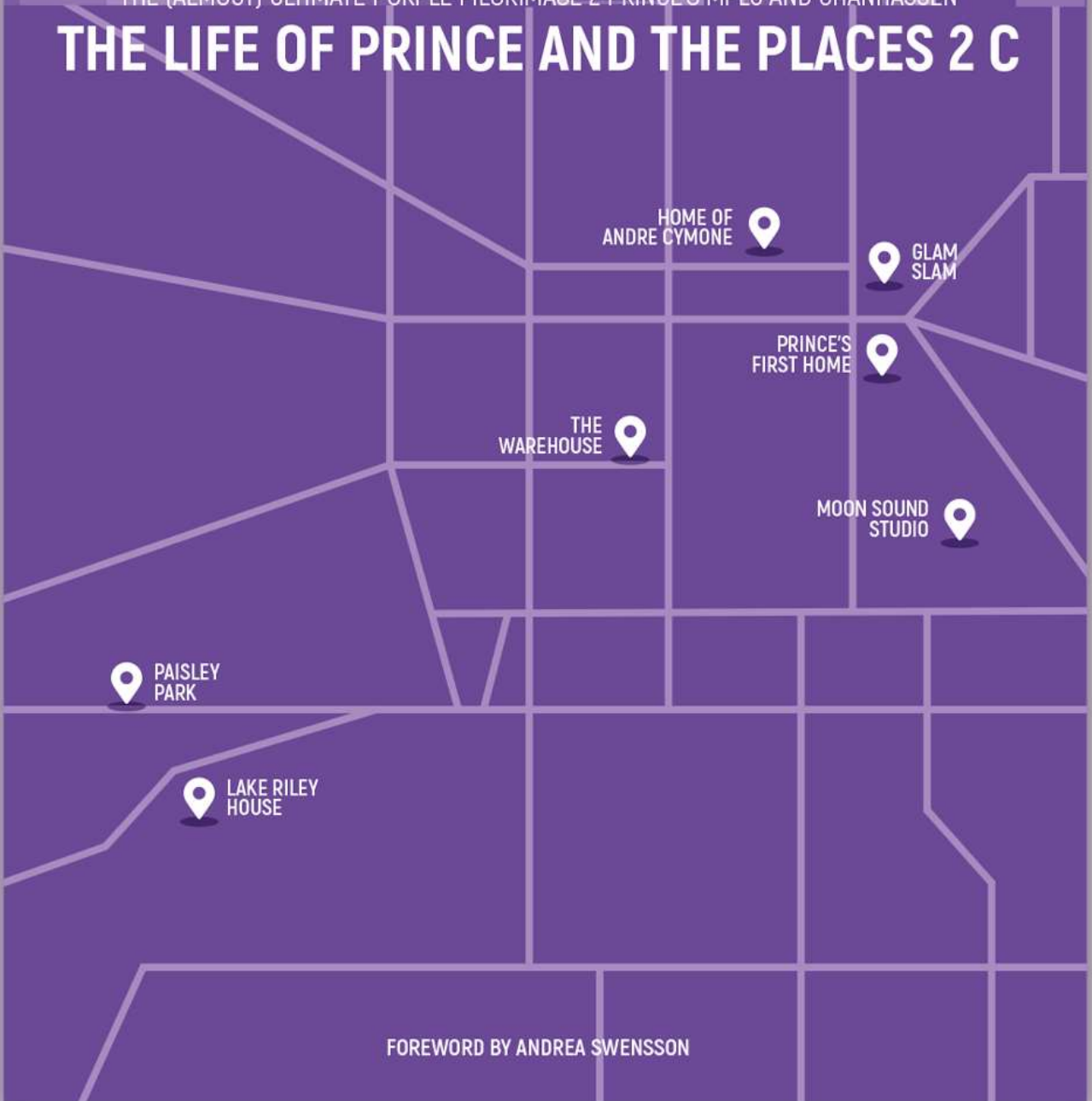


KENNETH RENNEBERG

THE (ALMOST) ULTIMATE PURPLE PILGRIMAGE 2 PRINCE'S MPLS AND CHANHASSEN

THE LIFE OF PRINCE AND THE PLACES 2 C



HOME OF
ANDRE CYMONE



GLAM
SLAM

PRINCE'S
FIRST HOME



THE
WAREHOUSE



MOON SOUND
STUDIO




PAISLEY
PARK



LAKE RILEY
HOUSE

FOREWORD BY ANDREA SWENSSON



A PRINCE BOOK BY KENNETH RENNEBERG

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Prologue

In 1983 I fell in love with the song “Something in the Water (does not compute)” and have been a Prince Fam ever since.

Purple Rain was the first Prince album I anticipated being released.

In 1985 I saw the Syracuse concert live on TV via Rockpalats (a German TV program); it was at that point the greatest concert I’d ever seen! Now known as “Prince & The Revolution LIVE”.

My first real Prince concert was in 1986 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Over the years I’ve attended 37 Concerts and 6 Aftershows. I’m Danish and most of the concerts I’ve attended have been in Europe (Denmark, Sweden, UK, France, Germany, and Switzerland) – expect from one – the last show I attended was in Sydney, Australia in 2016. I was lucky enough to see Piano & A Microphone in Sydney State Theatre on February 21st, exactly two months before his transition.

One of my biggest regrets is that I never got to see him perform at Paisley Park or in Minneapolis. In 1996 I had planned a trip, but I had to abandon it for personal reasons. In 2000 I tried to attend the Celebration but again I did not get the chance to participate.

As Prince Fam, you know that MPLS, Chanhassen, and Paisley Park is THE Purple Pilgrimage. The entire area IS Prince..... they loved him and he loved them and the place. If you want to experience Prince territory, this is the place to go.

When they announced the Celebration for 2017, I decided to take my first Purple Pilgrimage to Minneapolis and Paisley Park. I spent 6 days in 2017 and decided to go again in 2018 where I spent 8 days in Minneapolis and Chanhassen. First to attend the Celebration at Paisley Park but also to visit some of the most famous Prince places in the area. Or at least it was that way it started. In 2022 I spent 10 days going to Celebration, doing research, and documenting these places for this book.


There are so many beautiful places and so many places Prince loved and used over his almost 58 years on this earth. I can highly recommend going there in April or in the week in June around his birthday. First there are lots of activities in the area (concerts, charity events, dance parties, local record store events, tributes, and meet & greet events). You will obviously meet a lot of other Prince Fams from all around the world. And although I’ve met many Prince Fams over the years, meeting so many people with the same interests is always a fantastic experience. People are very friendly and helpful and no matter if you travel alone or with friends, I can guarantee you will find new purple friends, if you open your heart and your mind 😊

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When I was planning my first trip, I found it very hard to find one place where I could get proper information on where to go and what to see. There was even a lot of misinformation out there – even on some of the more “official” tours, I found the information was not always correct. So, I decided to go all-in to see how many places I could find and what kind of information I could research.

After my first trip I realized that many Danish, European and Asia-Pacific Fams, but also North American Fams, have never had the opportunity to visit and had many questions about how it was and what was worth seeing. So, from 2017 to 2018 I used a lot of time online researching as I could not find a complete list of Prince places. What started as a small list became a huge list that spread from the birth of Prince to his transition and beyond. After starting this project and researching I found many places that were not so oblivious. The project grew and that’s when I realized a third trip needed to be made for 2022 as there was no way I could go there in 20 or 21.

One thing was doing research of the different places in Purple Yoda land, another was to find the stories behind the places. Very early on it became clear to me that this could be the story about Prince and his life in Minneapolis and Chanhassen and the places you as a Fam would like to see.

3 – Mount Sinai Hospital – now Phillips Eye Institute

2215 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404

The official address was Chicago Avenue between East 22nd Street and 24th Street. But it’s easier to park on this side and just walk through the area.

Mount Sinai Hospital opened on February 19th, 1951. It was opened by the Jewish community and gave the Jewish doctors and nurses an opportunity to work in a city that was known for its antisemitism. The idea emerged after World War II, after a survey conducted that Jewish doctors faced discrimination and were routinely excluded from medical school faculties and private hospital staffs. It also gave an opportunity for African American doctors and nurses to work there.

In 1990 Mount Sinai merged with Metropolitan Medical Center to become Metropolitan-Mount Sinai. The new hospital could not survive after the merger, and the year after in 1991 they closed.

Today the building is the Phillips Eye Institute, a part of Allina Health Group.


June 7th, 1958 was a fine Saturday with temperatures between 15°C and 22,8°C (59,4°F and 73°F). At 6.17pm / 18.17 Prince Roger Nelson came into this world at Mount Sinai Hospital in South

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Minneapolis - so it states on the Certificate of Live Birth – when it changes to Rogers, I have not been able to find. Maybe it was a clerical error that was corrected afterwards.

9 – Prince's home from March 1965 to 1973

2620 8th Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 54411

Is a 1.932 ft² / 179 m², 3 bedroom and 2-bathroom house built in 1957.

The house was bought in 1965 after living at 915 Logan Avenue North for the last seven years – it started early with 7 😊.

This was also the house where Prince would play on John's piano, and his talent started to show. He also began to write songs in this house. Prince later took up the guitar – John L. gave him a Gibson.

"My dad called my piano playing 'banging,' and didn't pay much attention to it," Prince said. "I guess I was seven then. I never really listened to music, either, and I still don't very much. There's never nothin' I can get into. If I listen to a record, I hear something that I'd like to do differently, and I become too critical of it. You shouldn't be that way, 'cuz the group took their time and effort and worked on it. I'd rather just do my own thing." (Source Twin Cities Reader – January 1979).


Prince (Star Tribune interview, 1978): *"Around the time I was 8, I had a pretty good idea what the piano was all about. I had one piano lesson and two guitar lessons as a kid. I was a poor student, because when a teacher would be trying to teach me how to play junky stuff, I would start playing my own songs. I'd usually get ridiculed for it, but I ended up doing my own thing. I can't read music. It hasn't gotten in the way yet. Maybe it will later, but I doubt it. "*

This is also the place where things started to go downhill between Mattie and John L. and ended in divorce on September 24th, 1968 (Sources The Current Jay Gabler – September 2016 & Kristen Zschomler). Mattie got the kids, John moved momentarily to the Logan Avenue house, and then into apartment #105 at 1707 Glenwood Avenue (See 17).

Mattie and the kids stayed in the house, and in late 1968 Mattie married Hayward Baker.

As stated, many places, the relationship between Prince and Hayward was not very healthy at this point. As stated, many places it all ended up with Prince moving out of the house at the age of 14 (close to his 15th birthday). Some stories go that it was because of the arguments with Mattie but





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especially Hayward. However, there are also stories that the relationship between Hayward and Prince was fine in general. It was all the rules at the house Prince had a problem with.

21 – Nacirema Club – now El Bethel Baptist Church

3949 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55409

Nacirema Club is American spelled backwards. It was a social club from 1955 to 1987 with around 600 members. It hosted group meetings, Christmas parties, fashion shows, and jazz musicians in the weekends. During the 1960's and 1970's, segregation made it difficult for African American bands to get gigs at clubs catering to whites. A gigging circuit arose around a small number of clubs open to African American musicians. Nacirema was one of these circuit, along with Cozy Bar (See 20), the Flame, and the Foxtrot.

A club Grand Central played. Due to the age of Prince, he was let in the backdoor, behind the "stage". The club was very small, and I can only imagine the funky sweat on the walls of this club. Flyte Tyme would often play here opening for Wee Willie Walker and his band, Solid on Down. And Prince would occasionally play with Walker during his set (Source <http://collections.mnhs.org> – Landmarks by Jackie Beckey).

In 1989 this became a church run by Pastor Rev. Willis L. Gilliard and his wife.

When I visited this place, I was invited in to see the church and the rooms. They have of course been renovated, but you get the sense of the place when you see the pictures in the online EXPERIENCE folder.

Comments to pictures: The small room with cash register was used as dressing room. The restroom was.....restroom 😊. Church room was the club. The stage was situated around the area with the purple curtains. You see the door used by Prince to enter left of the stage. Although it has nothing to do with Prince the main color is purple.

When I meet the Pastors wife, she told me a sweet Prince story.

She started by saying she knew Prince. I asked, "how did you know him?", she said "I used to be his banker!".

She told me the story of Owen Husney bringing Prince to her bank to open an account. "Prince didn't say much, when he was there", she said.





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When Prince was recording his first album in L.A., she one Friday afternoon got a phone call from someone in his management. She was asked to come downtown Minneapolis Sunday afternoon at one of the hotels. When she came, she was presented with a check to cash into Prince's account Monday morning as he apparently had made an overdraw of his account in L.A.

A few months later Prince came into the bank to make a withdrawal, *"he seemed more nervous than normal"* she told me. He took the cash, looked at her a bit tense, and then quickly walked out the door. Quickly after he entered the door, ran towards her, and handed her something *"here!"* he said, and ran out the door again. Afterwards she looked down at his first album *"For You"*. It was one of the 25 first copies that was sent from WB to Owens office 💜

44 – Del's Tire Mart – demolished

1409 2nd Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55454


Del's Tire Mart was a tire store way back in the 50's and 60's and was in the late 70's owed by the late Steve Raitt—brother to Bonnie Raitt. Steve worked as a soundman and at one point for the local Minneapolis band Lamont Cranston Band, that used the garage for rehearsal from time to time. Steve also did some recordings in the warehouse and storage of sound equipment, one of them being Lamont Cranston Band's *"Up From The Alley"*, that Steve both engineered and produced. Steven also put together the TC Jammers, that played Bunker's (See 94) and some of the band members also played in Dr. Mambo's Combo (Source Owen Husney *"Famous People Who've Met Me, Discogs.com & prosoundweb.com"*).

Today the building (and other buildings from then) is gone and has been replaced with Courtyard by Marriott hotel and Seven Corners Parking Ramp.

Back in 1978 Owen was looking for a place that Prince and band could rehearse and was referred to Steve by the Knut-Koupeé Music Store. Prince also wanted to use this place as the audition place for expanding the band (Prince, André, and Bobby) with an additional guitarist and a keyboard player. Owen placed an ad in the local paper *"Musicians needed for road tour - Warner Bros. recording artist needs male or female keyboard/synthesizer player and guitar player who can sing. Please call 612-871-0715"* (Source Owen Husney *"Famous People Who've Met Me"*).

Gayle Chapman was recruited through the Del's Tire Mart sessions to play keys.





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According to Dave Rusan literally every guitarist in Minneapolis went to those auditions, even Dave himself. After his audition, Dave spoke briefly to Bobby Z. Bobby told Dave it went well, however Prince was looking for a black female guitarist.

Dez Dickerson also auditioned for Prince at Del's one cold October day in 1978. And according to Dez (in his book "My Time With Prince"), he got the gig as he was able to be a team player, until it was his time to shine. Dez's musical background brought some important musical genres to Prince's attention, as Dez was into both punk rock and new wave – the likes of Generation X, XTC and Ultravox (Source Dez Dickerson in Those City Nights – February 2011) – and heavier metal bands like Led Zeppelin. Something they would explore jamming in Prince's Edina house (See 47).

Prince, André, Bobby, and Gayle continued to rehearse in the garage and just before Dez officially joined the band, someone broke into the garage and stole all their equipment.

The band stopped rehearsing in the space after their equipment was stolen and moved into Pepe Willie's basement (See 46).

84 – Riley Creek


Arboretum Boulevard (near Paisley Park), Chanhassen - 7801 Audubon Rd, Chanhassen, MN 55317, it's just around the corner.....

The easiest way to get there is to walk out of Paisley Park and follow the walkway outside of the complex along with the highway. You will then be led to the tunnels that in Prince Fams world is known as Riley Creek – as it says on the *entrance* to the tunnels. If you're not inside the complex, you can park across the highway at Lake Ann Park Drive and walk towards the tunnels. Most people use the Lake Ann Park Drive parking lot or the parking lot near the mall. You then walk along Arboretum Boulevard and crosses the road under the Riley Creek tunnels and then you walk along the fence to Paisley Park.

The pathway from the parking lot through the tunnel at Riley Creek has turned into a walk of shared grief all its own. Many people pay their homage by writing/painting in the tunnels and hanging messages on the fence.

When Prince transcended in 2016 Fams gathered around Paisley Park, devastated, and wanting to show their affection and gratitude towards Prince and his family / friends.





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They started to hang flowers, drawings, pictures, and other appreciations on the fence around Paisley Park. Soon the fence was full, and people started using the tunnels to show their feelings. Today this place has become the Graffiti Bridge of affection and appreciation of our hero.

If you go to the Park, this is a place you need to go and make your mark as well.

During the years from 2016 to 2022 Daniel (Dan) Lacey took care of maintaining the Fams art etc. He was known as the Painter of Pancakes. Dan was not a Fam of Prince as such but there was something about the heartfelt affection from the Fams that caught Dan's attention and he started going to Riley Creek to create paintings. And soon he found himself maintaining the art of Fams that needed some TLC – to survive weather conditions. Unfortunately, Dan died on February 7th, 2022, from brain cancer. He continued his work during his two brain surgeries and treatments and was loved by the Prince community for keeping the legacy alive and for his talent and kind spirit.

Riley Creek has since 2016 been a place for Fams to gather and celebrate Prince with lights and/or music, parties, and of course write a message in the tunnels.

On your way from Riley Creek to Paisley Park you will halfway find a firehose that has been painted Purple. This is an official tribute to Prince from The Chanhassen Fire Department.

101 – NPG Store MPLS

1408 W Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

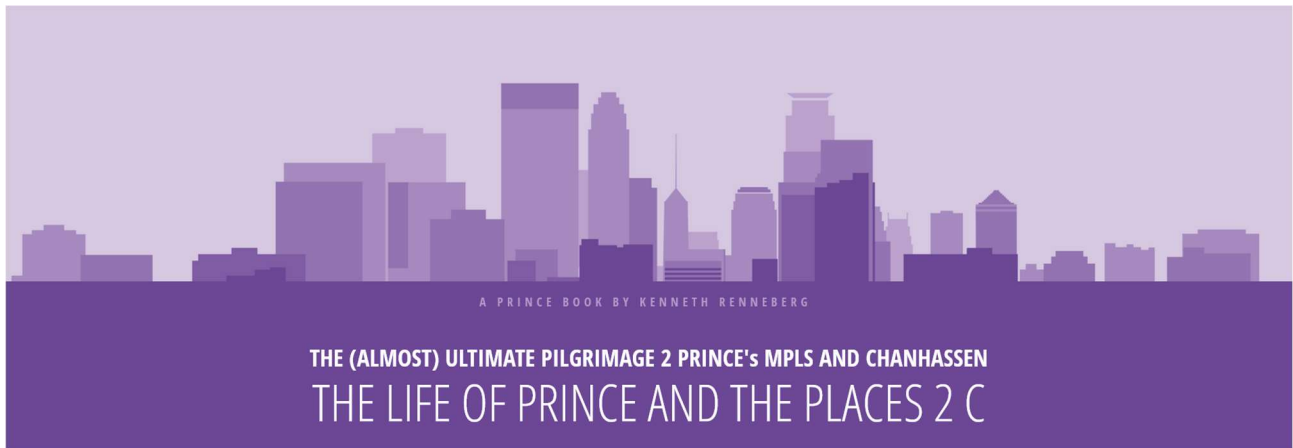
In the heart of the Uptown area (See 52) this 3.185 ft² / 296 m² store was built in 1907.

On August 3rd, 1993, ♀ opened his first physical store. The NPG Store in this beautiful area of Uptown, just across from Calhoun Square (now Seven Points - See 78). In the store you could buy all the merchandise from the different catalogues, accessories, t-shirts, candles, scents, tambourines, and music. Even some unreleased music was for sale in the store.

The inside of the store was princely decorated with memorabilia from his past. You would find one of the motorcycles used in Purple Rain, a cap worn by Vanity, some record awards, and lots of other stuff. There was even a phone inside the store, that would play unreleased songs if you took it off the hook and listened.

Upstairs you would find a video "lounge" where you could watch "The Undertaker" (1993), a mini film with the NPG Trio – it was first released in 1995 as a VHS video – and unreleased videos such as Empty Room, Pussy Control, and others.





Sometimes you would even see two women dancing in the storefront window to promote.

On his B-Day in 1995 (June 7th), the store premiered a new track for its customers “Poom Poom”.

(Sources Prince Museum on Facebook, princeshoponline, The Paisley 5 & Dime, princevault.com & Minneapolis/St Paul Business Journal, May 2016, Mark Reilly).

In 1996 the NPG Store closed and soon after (1997) www.1800newfunk.com was launched. Initially to process the orders for the Crystal Ball CD set, but it became the outlet for his merchandise and such.

Soon after the closing a new retailer took over the store – GoHome a small independent local retailer selling home décor, gifts, and candles etc. They kept the purple door and some of the indoor arts as well – his ♁ symbol on the floor in the basement, an airbrushed image of Prince as a mural on the wall on second floor, and other small things.

Prince was a regular customer of the store. A great deal of the things you see at Paisley Park is bought over the years at GoHome. Prince would come in a just point at chairs, couches, and stuff without saying a word. Someone would always sign the bill on his behalf, and make sure the store got the money. His last visit to the store was in February 2016. He would buy one of the fragrant candles “The Signature Scent in a Glass Jar” – it smells like fresh orchids, intoxicating gardenia, and midnight jasmine, it is made in soy wax. It can still be bought online (Source noyougohome.com).

GoHome closed the store in 2017 and became an online shop only. Since then, the store in Uptown has been divided into two businesses. Uptown Smoke shop on first floor (they have kept the purple color on the inside of the door) and Heart Yoga on second floor.

147 – Prince & Anna Fantastic Mural

105 N 1st St, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Downtown MPLS in the historic North Loop area, you find Aria Event Center. It’s an old theater that has been opened on floor plan and has amazing acoustics and a New York feeling to the interior. Normally it hosts events, weddings etc.

On the corner of North 1st Street and North 1st Avenue, you will on the North Street see a mural picture. It’s a famous picture of Prince & Anna Fantastic (Garcia) leaving Madam Butterfly in New York, 1988, during the LoveSexy period when they were dating.





Prince and Anna met in 1986 when she was 16. Anna has like many girlfriends of Prince, inspired a song or two. On her 18th birthday he gave her a pink cashmere coat, leading to the song “Pink Cashmere”. She also inspired the song “Vicky Waiting” that original was called “Anna Waiting” and given to her at her 18th birthday as well. Anna’s favorite drink was “Lemon Crush” (consisting of citrus-flavored vodka, crema di limoncello, triple sec and fresh lemon juice) and made a song about it. Anna also wrote a song called “Fantasia Erotica”, and they recorded it together for an album for her. It was shelved and ended up on Carmen Electra’s first album in a slightly different version. On the shelved Madhouse 24 album she was featured on the 18-minute version of “The Dopamine Rush Suite”, credited as Anna Garcia (Source theiconicprince.wordpress.com).

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Author: Kenneth Renneberg – Cover art: Marco ‘t Hart – Foreword: Andrea Swensson

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