

*I was down in the dumps with no place to go
Listening to nothin' on the radio,
Turn on the TV receiver, and I see
Beaver, Beaver Cleaver.
I was never an achiever 'til I got
Beaver Cleaver fever.*

Cole Porter it isn't. But for ex-con Angel, 24, *Beaver Cleaver Fever* is her own heartfelt longing for a simpler time, when TV moms made cookies and permed their hair, and TV dads smoked pipes and worried a lot about the kids' grades. "Life is kind of boring, so why not make it the way it was back when life was like *Leave It to Beaver?*" says Angel. "Instead of finding religion in jail, I found TV reruns."

With that cell-block epiphany, Angel became the founder, lead singer and songwriter of a four-woman punk-rock group called Angel and the Reruns. Tramping around the stage in outfits just this side of harlequin glasses and capri pants, Angel and her group—all alumnae of the San Francisco County Jail—perform songs inspired by TV shows of the '50s and '60s, including the sure-to-become-a-classic *Ode to Mrs. Kravitz* (the neighbor on *Beautified*).

"In jail, I found someone with the same vision of the world as mine," says group member Lovey, 23. "Angel and I never argued about changing the channel." Angel is shy on details as to the Reruns' crimes, but offers, "We didn't murder anyone." Still, her backups go solely by monomikers taken from series: Lovey and Ginger (the millionaire's wife and the movie star of *Gilligan's Island*) and Julia (from Diahann Carroll's sitcom of the same name).

Back in the real world, the Reruns are scoring at L.A. nightclubs, and their song *Buffy Come Back* is getting heavy play on some New Wave radio stations. (Angel reckons that TV's golden era ended in 1976, when Anissa Jones, who played Buffy on *Family Affairs*, died of a drug overdose.) Last month, the group taped their TV performance debut on *Dance Fever*, due to air in October. Like a Rerun dream come true, the judges will be Barbara Billingsley (June Cleaver) and Jerry Mathers (as the Beaver).

—Jan Charubin/Reporter: David Colker

JAILHOUSE ROCK: TUNING IN TV OLDIES

The ex-con punk band, Angel
& the Reruns, tells it like it was.

Photograph by Orah Moore

Angel, Ginger, Julia and Lovey get high on TV, crooning lyrics like "Here's one drug that won't make you puke, / You know I'm talking about Patty Duke."

TIME-LIFE
TV-CABLE WEEK