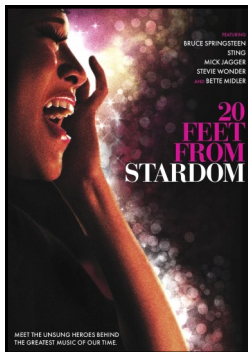


20 FEET FROM STARDOM - A DVD review by B. Derek Shaw



We take them for granted - yet they are the fabric of most hit songs released during the 1960's through the 1980's. When we sing the hook of a song, we are singing the part background singers are responsible for. We know the music, but don't know the names of this legendary talent. In mid 2013, the Academy Award winning documentary, "20 Feet From Stardom" was released.

This fascinating 91 minute masterpiece goes behind-the-scenes and brings to the forefront six ladies whose background talents are unsurpassed: Darlene Love, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer, Claudia Linnear, Tata Vega and Judith Hill. They sing the part of the song that most people remember. Most were the daughter's of ministers, hence a gospel oriented intro to music.

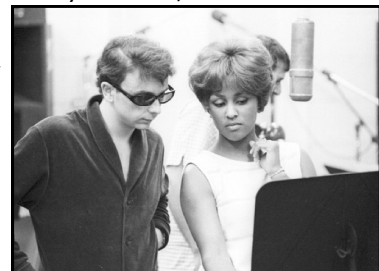
"You know when you think about the history of pop music and all the memorable hooks that people sang along with, they're singing with us most of the time because that's what we do on records. We come in and sing the hooks."

- Janice Dendarius, background singer for Sting, David Bowie, Blondie, Laurie Anderson and Donovan.

The documentary is interspersed with comments and interviews by: Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Patti Austin, Sheryl Crow, Mick Jagger, Lou Adler and more.

She is in 'The Rock & Roll Of Fame', so one would think Darlene Love's name would be a household word. Instead, Love ended up cleaning houses where her un-credited hits were playing on the radio. After hearing her own voice on "Christmas Baby Please Come Home" playing on the radio, Darlene took action. She has since performed that song every Christmas on "The David Letterman Show" since 1986.

Darlene backed Sinatra, Elvis, The Beach Boys, Sam Cooke, Sonny & Cher, and Dionne Warwick. Two of the biggest hits for the early 1960's girl group The Crystals were actually sung by Darlene, without The Crystals on the records at all. When "He's a Rebel" became a huge hit, producer Phil Spector promised Darlene she would have her name on the next Crystals hit, "He's Sure The Boy I Love." Phil didn't keep his word. Spector's famous 'Wall Of Sound' was missing a few bricks in the credit department. It took Darlene four decades to finally get some acknowledgment for her early work.



Once a member of Ray Charles' Raelettes, Merry Clayton got a late night call (while pregnant) in 1969, to become a rare female voice on a Rolling Stones song. It was a very stressful session, that cost Merry her unborn child. However, "Gimme Shelter" could never have been done without her.

Tata Vega (a current Elton John back-up singer) and Claudia Linnear, who sang with George Harrison, Ike & Tina, and Joe Cocker add some insight to the unseen backup singing world, as does relative newcomer Judith Hill, who was supposed to tour with Michael Jackson on the tour that never was.

"20 Feet From Stardom" is a fascinating documentary on these mostly un-credited singers. Back-up singers can make big money, however they can also lead lonely, isolated and depressing lives when the applause for the big stars they are supporting fades. Make it a point to see this movie.



#203, June, 2014

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KEYNOTES

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JUNE 2014 ISSUE #203 Inside... Wages of Spin II premiere Internet radio link Napoleon was here! 20 Feet from Stardom and more!



RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Spring has sprung! (After a winter that wasn't going to let up from many cold, blustery days.) The warmer weather brings outdoor activities, concerts, Bar B Que's, car cruises and more. It also is a great time to visit the Pennsylvania Music Expo.

The shows this year have all been strong. Attendance is up - many new faces in both of our showrooms. (It doesn't hurt that the fine folks from the Continental Inn have our message on the marquee on BOTH SIDES the week before EACH show!)

Keep collecting those tunes!

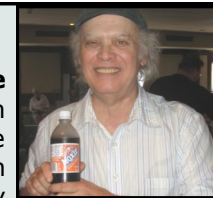
Derek

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Our thanks to Vice President Eddie Collins for his continued efforts in bringing special guests to the Pennsylvania Music Expo each month. His ability to bring Jerry Samuels (Napoleon XIV) to our show was fantastic. He and his wife were great people to talk with. Thanks Eddie!



Can you believe that winter is now behind us and the warmer weather is kicking in. After the cold days we had, you certainly won't hear me say anything about it being too warm outside!

Dealers, keep in mind its a good idea to freshen up your items for sale each month, that will keep the music seekers coming back if you update your inventory. It also helps keep our shows interesting to the buyers since they never know what they're going to find.

More to come!

Dave Schmidt 2014 KRC President NRCMusings@aol.com

WAGES OF SPIN II - PHILLY PREMIERE GARNERS RAVE REVIEWS

By Eddie Collins

One of the most talked about scandals in rock and roll, took place during the year of 1960. Defined as 'payola', this means paying cash or gifts in exchange for radio airplay. The initial court case involving this practice was the result of a probe by the Federal Trade Commission, in which complaints were filed, against a number of record companies, and distributors. A closer look was focused on deejays who were reportedly accepting gifts from those parties, in return or playing their records. On May 9, 1960, it was disc jockey Alan Freed who was initially indicted, and upon denial of involvement, received a small fine with suspended sentence, and a career in shambles.



The evolution of payola was brought to the masses in 2008, with the release of Wages Of Spin, a documentary written by Shawn Swords, and produced by Character Driven Films. A highly acclaimed in-depth look at the alleged 'pay to play' scheme, Wages Of Spin explored the movers and shakers behind the mask of payola, and the artists who's records were, or in many cases not, getting proper airplay due to not playing the game. Thus, payola would reportedly continue to be a controlling factor remaining under the radar, within the record and radio industry for many years to come.

In researching material for the Wages Of Spin sequel, originally set to cover the years 1960-1964, Swords and co-writer John Monroe, were intrigued in finding there was a much greater perspective of payola evident during

the period of 1979 - 1990, involving the government, and more so, a DOJ investigation into MCA Records and holdings, discussing it's relationship with Ronald Reagan, Edwin Meese, Howard Baker, and other high profile figures in the realm of politics, entertainment and organized crime. These facts soon became the focus for the Wages Of Spin II 'Bring Down That Wall'.

The documentary, also features interviews with disc jockeys, such as Joey Reynolds, Bruce Morrow, and Jerry Blavat, in addition to recording artists Charlie Gracie, Tommy

James, and others, sharing their insight of how payola was a catalyst in making and breaking hit records. In April, an east coast premier was held in the Philadelphia region, at the Byrn Mawr Film Institute, and attending were many noted celebrities, who also appeared in the film, including Big Jay Sorensen of WCBS - FM, Steve Kurtz of WVLT-FM, and legendary Philly record producer, disc jockey, and promoter Giant Gene Arnold.

Continued on page 2





KRC in 2014

EACH SHOW 9 AM TO 3 PM SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH THE CONTINENTAL INN FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE, SO TAKE SOME AND SPREAD THE WORD! ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WANT LIST ITEMS. BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWS A SHOW WHEN WARRANTED.

Wages of Spin II (cont. from page 1)

Following the well received Philly premiere, a Q & A session was held, in which Shawn Swords addressed the audience. While expressing that many elements of payola in the industry have been exposed to the public in varying degrees, Swords went on to explain that it has been his mission to explore these facts deeper, resulting in the presentation of a more cohesive account, as portrayed in his Wages Of Spin documentaries.

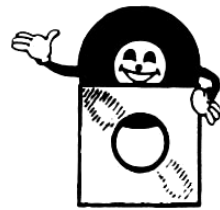
Wages Of Spin II 'Bring Down That Wall', which has been termed in recent reviews as 'a compelling and most riveting look at the radio and record industry,' has been set for a DVD release this summer, and is available at: characterdrivenfilms.com



Steve Kurtz, WVLT-FM alongside promoter Giant Gene Arnold. KRC Vice President Eddie Collins, Mitch Schechter of the Rip Chords and KRC Communications and KEY-NOTES Editor, B. Derek Shaw.

HOW TO REACH US...

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KEY NOTES

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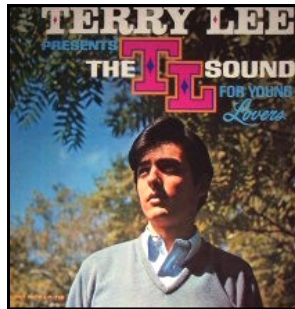
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(Deadline for KEY NOTES#204 is July 13th)

Names in bold type are members of Keystone Record Collectors

Likeable Links - #3: Terry Lee Oldies - Music for Young Lovers - a review by Steve Yohe

"Real Oldies" or "Lost and Found Sounds" - whatever one calls them, they are the alternative to the traditional broadcast radio stations' version of "oldies but goodies." Until the advent of satellite radio and internet radio, unless they had big record or CD collections, oldies fans were stuck with the same tired, limited playlists of a few hundred songs, each compiled by highly paid "consultants" who had no clue what local oldies audiences enjoyed. You know the types of songs: "Louie, Louie" by the Kingsmen, "Shout" by the Isley Brothers, "In the Still of the Night" by the 5 Sat- ins. They were good to hear the first hundred or so times. Then even casual listeners craved more variety. Broadcast radio stations hesitated to play anything that wasn't on the approved list of oldies, and it cost them dearly. AM and FM radio audience size declined drastically.



To hear a variety of oldies, most discerning listeners have been flocking to alternative sources for their music fixes. Besides downloading a wider variety of music, people can subscribe to Sirius/XM Radio or save that money and go online or stream their oldies much more cheaply.

Among the many available sources, several stand out. This issue's choice is "the Home of Pittsburgh's Greatest Oldies," Magic Communications Network's Terry Lee Oldies - Music for Young Lovers. This station plays some of the big 1950's and 1960's rock and roll, doo wop, rhythm and blues, and soul hits. The majority of songs, however, are much more interesting regional favorites and original versions of familiar songs, such as Richard Berry's version of "Louie, Louie." Listen and you will hear "Hey There, Lonely Girl" by Eddie Holman, but you'll also hear his "Don't Stop Now," which is usually ignored by more traditional "oldies" stations.

If you're a true oldies fan, give this station a try online at www.tlsoundco.com or streaming directly to your smart TV or to your regular TV with Roku, Amazon Fire, or some similar device using the SHOUTcast Radio free app.



- Rob Roys - Tell Me Why
Orlons - The Wah-Watusi
Bruce Channel - Hey Baby
Detroit Emeralds - Do Me Right (Westbound W-172) Drop 6
Beachcombers - This Is My Love (Diamond D-168 Promo)
Paragons - Lets Start All Over Again (Lost-Nite LN-125-A)
Ruben and The Jets - Anything

A sample of what you will hear

'DOIN' THE NAPOLEON' - A KRC VISIT BEHIND THE MUSIC, MAYHEM, AND THE EXCITING WORLD OF JERRY SAMUELS

By Eddie Collins



It was August 13, 1966. On Billboard's Hot 100 chart, among the records in the top ten were The Rolling Stones, The Troggs, Lovin Spoonful, and at #3 the fastest selling novelty hit ever, "They're Coming To Take Me Away, Ha-Haaa!". Recorded by Napoleon XIV, the tune was actually the work of songwriter and recording engineer Jerry Samuels. KRC was honored to have Jerry and wife Bobbie visit the Pennsylvania Music Expo in May to discuss his extraordinary career, and of course, the story surrounding his zany hit record.

Jerry's humble beginnings in the music industry actually began at the tender age of fifteen in 1953, penning a b-side for Johnny Ray "To Ev'ry Girl - To Ev'ry Boy". In a few short years he hit pay dirt when his tunes were recorded by LaVern Baker, Adam Wade, Doris Day, Johnny Maestro, and Sammy Davis Jr., who scored in 1964 with Jerry's composition "The Shelter Of Your Arms." Along the way, Jerry also tried his hand at a solo career, with releases on RCA, VIK, and Dual labels, under his own name and various pseudonyms such as Jerry Sims, Treasure Supreme, and others.



In the early 1960's, he teamed up with Nat Chaffe forming Associated Recording Studios in New York. It was here that the creative genius of Jerry Samuels in a three day recording session in 1966, yielded his top ten smash "They're Coming To Take Me Away, Ha-Haaa!" For the session, Jerry utilized a four-track recorder, initially recording drums and tambourines, then overdubbed handclaps, added a hand crank siren, and with his vocal track, creativity struck by cleverly slowing down the tape while recording, thus his voice raising in pitch when played back. The song was offered to Columbia Records first, but given to Warner Brothers, as the label offered a much higher rate in royalties.



A toy gun in wire sculpture done for Fred Beyer at the May 4th Pennsylvania Music Expo. Proceeds went to Best Friends Animal Shelter.

At our meet and greet session, Jerry was met by many fans who reflected on numerous facets of his career, in which Samuels quipped "These people know more about me than I do!" For those who inquired about the history of his hit single, Jerry was eager to hand them a printed story of it's recording process. Highlights of the event included displaying his talents in wire sculpture, all proceeds of sales to benefit Best Friends Animal Rescue.

Jerry gave a most spirited performance at the keyboard, in which he opened singing a rousing gospel version of a Johnny Ray tune, followed by a few from his own songbook including "I Owe A Lot To Iowa Pot," a tune that received much initial airplay in 1973 on the Dr. Demento radio show on KMET, resulting in a 45 rpm release on the J.E.P label, later included on the Rhino CD "Second Coming."



For everyone who came near and far, they witnessed two sides of this gentleman, one as Napoleon XIV, known for his comedic humor and satire, and Jerry Samuels the gifted songwriter, keyboardist, and performer. In Jerry's closing segment, he chose to recite a very poignant poem he wrote entitled 'Blessings and Burdens,' in which he says, "In truth, it is all for the best, For if our blessings are also our burdens, Then all of our burdens are blessed." Visit Jerry Samuels at: www.jerysam.com



The KRC Officer Team was on hand to meet Samuels.

JACK SUPPLEE JOINS THE 300 CLUB

At the May 4th Pennsylvania Music Expo, long-time member, vendor and all around good guy, Jack Supplee, (center in photo) received a commendation for participating in 300 KRC shows! He started with the club as a vendor in June, 1987 and has set up in seven different locations. He also served as our seventh president from 1995-1998.

Congratulations!

