

## TIM CURRY

**H**e's multi-talented, and all of his roles carry an indelible stamp of talent, energy and originality: whether on stage, in movies and television, or on his three A&M albums, the latest of which is called *Simplicity*.

Working with producer-arranger Michael Kamen, Tim Curry has once again proven himself an adept and imaginative interpreter, as well as a composer. He covers classic songs like John Sebastian's "Summer In The City," and displays his own songwriting expertise with four tunes, including the title track, "Simplicity."

As those who've followed Curry's career can attest, originality, imagination and versatility seem to be the bywords of his life. Among the various stage and screen roles he's played are such parts as a dadaist poet and sculptor in the London and Broadway productions of Tom Stoppard's Tony Award-winning play *Travesties*; a radio disc-jockey, a nineteenth-century British gentleman in the BBC-TV film *Three Men In A Boat* (which also starred Monty Python's Michael Palin), and even William Shakespeare, in a six-hour BBC-TV mini-series on the Bard's life. First attracting attention in America with his portrayal of Dr. Frank N. Furter—"a crazed transvestite from outer space"—in the stage and screen versions of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, an underground hit film that is still playing on the weekend midnight circuit in many American cities, Curry has made a point of trying many different and challenging roles.

But now, with a Tony Award nomination for his role as Wolfgang Mozart in the Tony Award-winning play *Amadeus*, his new rock and roll album, and his forthcoming role as a 1930's gangster in the film version of the hit musical *Annie*, Curry feels that the past has finally been put in its place.

Raised along the south coast of England, the son of a Navy Methodist Chaplain, Curry attended public school (a private school in America) from the age of ten, which is where he first discovered his interest in singing and theatre. He attended the University of Birmingham, where he spent the bulk of his time acting, as well as "singing whenever I could. I used to sing with this swing band on Wednesday nights at a local firehall. My landlord was the bandleader, so I used to pay my rent by singing 'All of me . . . why not take all of me . . .'. My landlord would be there conducting in this stained white tuxedo, drunk on his ass, and I was going through a severe Billie Holiday phase, singing about half-an-hour behind beat. He'd come up to me while leading the band, talking out of the side of his mouth, and tell me: 'Sing on the beat, ya bloody \$!\$\*#, they're all tripping over each other's feet!'"

Aside from the aforementioned roles, Curry also had a bit part in the film *The Shout*, and portrayed a disc jockey in the television film *City Sugar*, which was about the disillusionment, corruption and lack of vision in the radio business. "It was funny because at the same time I had decided to finally make a record, so after take-two I'd run to the phone and sort out contract negotiations: 'Tell them I want so many points and not that many options!'"

Deciding that he'd done all he had wanted to do in the theatre for the time being, Curry devoted the next three years to "proving that I was seriously committed to music." And with *Read My Lips* and *Fearless*, and the tours that followed, Curry was more than able to deliver on that commitment.

It's become clear that Curry's mixture of solid music and lighthearted humor has been warmly welcomed by the rock music community. With the release of *Simplicity* and his recent acting triumphs, Curry admits that "I'm truly satisfied with what I'm doing right now. In fact, I'm even feeling a bit smug...."

### TIM CURRY DISCOGRAPHY

1978—*Read My Lips*

1979—*Fearless*

1981—*Simplicity*

