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JOAN ARMATRADING

It's been almost twelve years since the classic "Love And Affection" propelled Joan Armatrading to international chart success. Since then, Joan has entertained over 250,000 people on each of her World Tours, sold over ten million LP's and, in the process, notched up some 25 Gold and Platinum discs. Her enduring talent as Britain's premier singer/songwriter is evidenced on such tracks as "Show Some Emotion", "Willow", "Drop The Pilot", and "Me, Myself, I". This summer this wealth of experience and talent reaches a new milestone with the release of her thirteenth LP "The Shouting Stage".

The album, true to form, was recorded at Joan's home studio and features a sparkling selection of new self-penned compositions, including the forthcoming title-track single. Produced by Joan, "The Shouting Stage" also introduces an illustrious cast of musicians, notably Mark Knopfler and Alan Clark from Dire Straits, as well as Manu Katche and Dave Rhodes from Peter Gabriel's band and Big Country drummer Mark Brzezicki. The release of the LP will be followed by a World Tour, that commences in the UK early in August, before moving on to America and Australia, returning for an October finale in the UK.

"The Shouting Stage" marks the end of a two-year hiatus in Joan's recording career; after the release of the '86 LP "Sleight Of Hand", Joan took some time out from recording and performing, breaking her silence only for a handful of appearances, including The Secret Policeman's 3rd Ball at the end of the year.



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Joan Armatrading was born on December 9th 1950 on the island of St.Kitts in the Carribean, where she lived until the age of seven, when she emigrated to Birmingham, England. She soon developed a taste for music, demonstrating early initiative by trading in two baby carriages for an acoustic guitar. After writing her first song, "When I Was Young" , at 14, Joan sent off a tape to a record company in the hope that they would arrange for other musicians to cover her songs - they were so impressed, however, they suggested Joan perform and record the songs herself.

Joan released her first album to an ecstatic critical reaction, and found herself compared to everyone from Joni Mitchell and Elton John to Nina Simone, Jimi Hendrix and even Thelonius Monk. While soon becoming well-known in her own right, Joan found coping with the spotlight a less speedy process. But gone are the days when critics could only coax "yes" or "no" answers to their queries, and gone are the shy live performances. Joan Armatrading has developed into a charismatic and self-assured singer whose powerful stage persona guarantees breathtaking performances every time.

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