



A&M

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## KRIS KRISTOFFERSON AND RITA COOLIDGE

It could have been a normal day in the life of a rock 'n roll star. Rita Coolidge was preparing to leave for Memphis to rehearse with her band. She was hassled; she had packed her bags; she had gathered the musicians; and she was rushing to catch the plane. Amidst the rush, a friend introduced her to Kris Kristofferson at the ticket counter. Inevitably, they found themselves sitting next to each other on the same plane. Conversations flowed; musical ideas were exchanged, but they were both going different ways. Kris was off to Nashville to record, and she to Memphis. Only the sound of the stewardess announcing their arrival in Memphis broke the conversation. Their meeting had convinced Kris to postpone his plans for Nashville and accompany the lady to Memphis. Maybe it wasn't such a normal day. It was a touch of love at first flight. Needless to say, they have been together ever since.

For the next few months, although Rita eventually went to Nashville with Kris, they juggled their tour schedules so they could be together as much as possible. Rita was joining Kris on stage for a few numbers and he was joining her. In the end it seemed simpler for them to work together all the time. So Rita broke up her band and took Mike Utley and Sammy Creason, who joined Kris' group. By now, a fine musical relationship had taken place, as well as a personal one.

Their collaboration resulted in many successful concert tours. They appeared in their respective roles in MGM's action western PAT GARRETT AND BILLY THE KID filmed in Mexico and directed by Sam Peckinpah. Kris, singer-songwriter and now actor, made his first screen debut two years ago in CISCO PIKE followed by his lead role in BLUME IN LOVE; it was afterwards that he became "Billy" in the Peckinpah movie. Rita had flown with Kris to Mexico, when Peckinpah asked her to portray "Maria" in the film.

Rita was a stunning "Maria," unlike Kris she had never acted before. She had always been strictly a singer working with such artists as: Delaney and Bonnie, Dave Mason, Eric Clapton, Steve Stills, Booker T. and Priscilla, Leon Russell, John Sebastian, Al Kooper, Graham Nash, and, of course, her dynamic contribution to Joe Cocker's Mad Dogs and Englishmen tour can never be forgotten.

As a solo artist, Rita currently has three albums on A&M. Her first called RITA COOLIDGE, from which Van Morrison's "Crazy Love" was released as a single in March '71, and Neil Young's "I Believe In You" was released later that year. Her second album NICE FEELIN' included a single of the same name which was released in January '72. Rita's third album for A&M, THE LADY'S NOT FOR SALE included many of the same musicians with whom Rita often works, Marc Benno on Guitar, Mike Utley on keyboards, Jim Keltner and Sammy Creason on drums, and Priscilla and Booker T. Jones also offered some background vocals. In November '72, "My Crew" and "Fever" were released as a double-sided "A" single which climbed high on the charts.

BIOGRAPHY

Kris had four albums released on Monument Records. His first album, ME AND BOBBY McGEE, was followed by THE SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL AND I, BORDER LORD, and more recently, JESUS WAS A CAPRICORN. As far as future films are concerned, Kris does not believe in predicting. "I quit planning seven years ago when I was in the Army," he says.

Before the Army, Kris had always been a very serious student. As well as receiving a PhD from Pomona College, he also went to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. It was while he was on his way to becoming an English Literature teacher at West Point that he took a second look at himself and his future. He realized he just wanted to write.

Despite a few minor differences in their backgrounds, Rita and Kris have much in common. They recently confirmed their feelings for each other when Rita's father, a minister, married them in Los Angeles. It is only natural that they have integrated their music as well. It was not so long ago they walked into the offices at A&M saying they wanted to make an album together. Nobody was very surprised, least of all Rita's record producer David Anderle. He was very anxious to pursue the idea of a combined Rita and Kris album. Within eight hectic days they had recorded enough material for an album. David describes the whole event as "one of my happiest experiences." So there it was, an album to be called FULL MOON, containing twelve tracks with two songs written by Rita and Kris ("It's all Over" and "I'm Down") and a song by Paul Williams and Roger Nichols ("I Never Had It So Good") and Tom Jans' "Loving Arms." Two of Kris' own compositions, "From the Bottle to the Bottom" and "A Song I'd Like To Sing," are also included.

With Rita's and Kris' bands having merged, the musicians now consist of: Mike Utley (keyboards), Sammy Creason (drums), Stephen Bruton (guitar), Donnie Fritts (keyboards) and Terry Paul (bass). Other well respected musicians like Booker T. Jones and Herb Alpert also perform on the album.

FULL MOON, a title that suggests a gentle, romantic album, has a country-blues feel to it. David Anderle describes the album as an album that is "best heard at home with someone you love!" It's an album about all kinds of love between two people.

At present they are both preparing for a major tour of the U.S. playing several major cities, as well as a special combined appearance at the Troubadour for a week beginning September 25th.

Rita has already started work on a new solo album, and Kris is shortly off to Nashville to record his own album. Their second combined album will be on Kris' label, Monument and will be produced by Kris' producer and the company's president, Fred Foder.