



THE GO-GO'S

Charlotte Caffey - guitar, keyboard and vocals
Belinda Carlisle - lead vocals
Gina Schock - drums
Kathy Valentine - bass, guitar and vocals
Jane Wiedlin - rhythm guitar

Talk Show is the third album from the GO-GO's, the band Rolling Stone cited and the record-buying public confirmed as "the girl group of the 80's." It's been nearly three years since they took the public (and the charts) by storm with Beauty And The Beat and 20 months since their last album, Vacation. With Talk Show, the quintet clinches its place in rock'n'roll's legacy with its most dynamic, tuneful LP to date.

It's hard to believe that a full six years have passed since Jane Wiedlin and Belinda Carlisle first put the GO-GO's together. The project took form as the two were joined by Charlotte Caffey in mid-'78 and Gina Schock a year later. The GO-GO's promptly became a working band, playing regularly in the Los Angeles club circuit.

The group's first break came after they'd opened for Madness at L.A.'s Whiskey A Go Go. The English pop/ska band was impressed enough to invite the GO-GO's to join them in Britain on their 1980 tour. While in London, the GO-GO's released "We Got The Beat," a single for Stiff Records. Though available here only as an import, the song made waves in the U.S., enjoying a stay of nearly six months on the Billboard dance chart. Then, on New Years Eve, 1980, Kathy Valentine was recruited, and the GO-GO's permanent line-up was complete.

The GO-GO's signed with I.R.S. in April, 1981. Two months later, they released their first album, Beauty And The Beat (produced by Richard Gottehrer and Rob Freeman). Buoyed by the singles "Our Lips Are Sealed" and "We Got The Beat," the LP went on to sell more than 2-million copies. In the process, the GO-GO's became the first all-female band who wrote and performed their own material to reach the No. 1 spot on the album charts.

Vacation, (produced by Gottehrer) followed in July, 1982. The title song was released as the first single, and both single and album entered the Top 10. The album certified gold and GO-GO's mania continued unabated. The band toured extensively and media coverage was overwhelming. The GO-GO's were on a heady roll.

In 1983, the GO-GO's did embark on a vacation -- of sorts. Charlotte Caffey injured her left wrist rendering her virtually inactive for several months. Except



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When Charlotte Caffey, Belinda Carlisle, and Jane Wiedlin formed the Go-Go's in 1978, few people, themselves included, would have ever predicted that they would become one of the top pop phenomena of the Eighties. The Go-Go's are the first all-female band who write and play their own material to hit #1 on the Billboard Album Charts. Their debut I.R.S. album, Beauty And The Beat, sold over two million copies; their single "Our Lips Are Sealed" went Top 10, and their follow-up single "We Got The Beat" went gold. But the Go-Go's have become far more than just a multi-million selling band with two Top 10 singles to their credit.

As Newsweek's Jim Miller observes,..."There's never been a rock group quite like them....They refuse to play the victim." The Go-Go's have redefined the role of women in rock, proving that they can be masters of their own destiny.

Yet the Go-Go's' struggle to establish themselves would have broken the spirit of lesser women. The Go-Go's honed their instrumental talents on the L.A. club scene, but for three years were virtually ignored by major record labels, who felt that an all-female line-up would not sell records.

In April 1980, the band quit their day jobs to commit themselves totally to the group they'd been playing with during evenings and weekends for nearly two years. Foregoing a regular paycheck was a risky step - the group's manager, Ginger Canzoneri, even took out a loan on her car and pawned her jewelry to keep the band going. The risk was justified. Shortly afterwards, the band was invited to tour the U.K. with the popular English group The Specials. Recalls Charlotte, "We were living on two pounds a day, eating Cadbury chocolate and bread, and sleeping five to a hotel room."

A single for Stiff Records, "We Got The Beat," started a buzz in L.A. on the band, and they were welcomed home as conquering heroines. Assured they would now get a new record deal, the band played a showcase at the Starwood in L.A. for record execs, but still encountered corporate resistance.

Undaunted, they recruited Kathy Valentine on bass, and even without a record label they now had thousands of fans with whom they could sell out any club in L.A. Attracting the interest of I.R.S. Records, the band signed with the label and recorded Beauty And The Beat, but still their fight was far from over.

On the album's release, radio programmers were resistant to the idea of an all-female band; so the Go-Go's set out across America on a lengthy tour. "We didn't have any airplay at the time," says Charlotte, "But the shows were all packed. We'd leave town, and the sales of the album would go up, and we'd start getting some airplay."

By the end of 1981, Beauty And The Beat was climbing the charts, and was being included in just about every critic's Top 10 for the year, including hitting the Top 10 of the Village Voice's annual critics poll. The band landed the opening slot on the Police tour, and suddenly playing before 20,000 people a night, the Go-Go's made a lot of new fans. "Our Lips Are Sealed" took off on the singles charts, followed by "We Got The Beat." The airplay boosted Beauty And The Beat to the #1 spot on the Billboard charts after an arduous seven month climb.