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FMQB Retro-Active: Ken Sharp Looks To John Lennon's 70th Birthday and Remembers Otis Redding and Keith Moon

July 1, 2010

WE ALL SHINE ON... It's hard to believe, but had he lived, **John Lennon** would have turned 70 in October. In celebration of the revered music icon's 70th birthday, an exciting slate of Lennon releases is planned for release on the artist's birthday (October 9). These include newly remastered versions of Lennon's solo albums, *Plastic Ono Band*, *Imagine*, *Sometime In New York City*, *Mind Games*, *Rock 'N Roll*, *Walls & Bridges*, *Double Fantasy* and *Milk & Honey*. Packaged in digi-sleeves, each CD will include restored album artwork, new liners penned by U.K. Rock scribe **Paul Du Noyer**, and a cache of rare photographs.

1980's *Double Fantasy* will be presented as a special two-CD set, one disc including "stripped down" versions of the *DF* songs, recently overseen by the album's co-producer **Jack Douglas**. Says **Yoko Ono**: "*Double Fantasy Stripped Down* really allows us to focus our attention on John's amazing vocals. Technology has advanced so much that, conversely, I wanted to use new techniques to really frame these amazing songs and John's voice as simply as possible. By stripping down some of the instrumentation the power of the songs shines through with an enhanced clarity. *Double Fantasy Stripped Down* will be complemented by the original album in the two-CD format. It was whilst working on the new version of this album that I was hit hardest emotionally, as this was the last album John released before his passing."



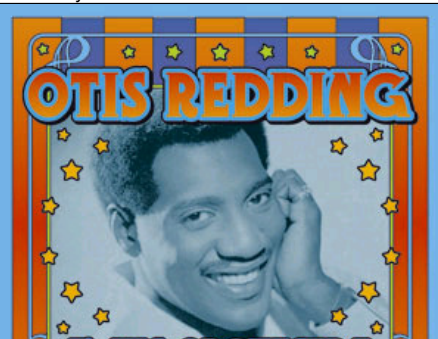
John Lennon

In addition, there will be a greatest hits compilation, *Power To The People: The Hits*, and a four-CD package, *Gimme Some Truth*, spotlighting different themes in John's music: *Roots*, showing John's Rock & Roll influences; *Working Class Hero*, comprised of John's socio-political songs; *Woman* – John's love songs; and *Borrowed Time* – John's songs about life. Capping this exciting batch of long-awaited releases comes the *John Lennon Signature Box*, a deluxe 11-CD collector's box comprising all the remastered albums, a disc featuring rarities and non-album singles and a hardback book crammed with photos, artwork, collages, poetry and text provided by *Rolling Stone's* **Anthony DeCurtis**.

Yoko offers the final word: "In this very special year, which would have seen my husband and life partner John reach the age of 70, I hope that this remastering/reissue program will help bring his incredible music to a whole new audience. By remastering 121 tracks spanning his solo career, I hope also that those who are already familiar with John's work will find renewed inspiration from his incredible gifts as a songwriter, musician and vocalist and from his power as a commentator on the human condition. His lyrics are as relevant today as they were when they were first written and I can think of no more apposite title for this campaign than those simple yet direct words, *Gimme Some Truth*." For more info: www.johnlennon.com

WHISKY SOUL... More than four decades since his tragic death, **Otis Redding** is still championed by music fans as one of the most revered and influential vocalists of all time. *Live on The Sunset Strip*, a new two-CD set (**Stax Records/Concord Music Group**), offers three complete live sets (much of the material previously unavailable) culled from the shining soul star's April 1966 stint at the legendary music club, The Whisky A-Go-Go.

Aby backed by an accomplished 10-piece band, Redding attacks the stage like a man possessed, slowly ratcheting up the energy level song by song until it reaches an electrifying, orgasmic finish. A pivotal influence on the likes of **Rod Stewart**, **Mick Jagger**, **Robert Plant**, **Paul Rodgers** and others, Redding proves his consummate vocal stylings by delivering the sweaty, high intensity of "I Can't Turn You Loose" and "Respect" (a self-penned soul standard popularized by **Aretha Franklin**) to the measured, emotionally heart-rending "These



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Arms Of Mine" and "I've Been Loving You Too Long (To Stop Now)." Redding's wild covers of **The Beatles'** "Hard Days Night," **James Brown's** "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" and an extended run-through on **The Rolling Stones'** "Satisfaction" are remarkable. Bypassing the songs' lyrical roadmap, he spontaneously reconfigures the heart and soul of them, and in the process transforms them into testifying proto-soul/spiritual rave-ups.

Augmented by informative notes penned by renowned music scribe **Ashley Kahn**, the liners include a *Los Angeles Times* rave, "Drawn by his growing popularity, a fervid audience shoe-horned into the club... Redding was assured of an In Group [sic] following Thursday night when from among his spectators emerged **Bob Dylan**, trailed by an entourage of camp followers."

Redding's legendary appearance at the *Monterey Pop Festival* the following year solidified his standing among the Rock community. Listening back to these indispensable recordings captured the year before his breakthrough at that seminal music festival, one is further reminded that Redding's inestimable musical gifts were already in full bloom. Highly recommended.

Track listing:

Disc 1

Show 2, Set 3

1. Security
2. Just One More Day
3. These Arms Of Mine
4. Satisfaction
5. I Can't Turn You Loose
6. Chained And Bound
7. Respect

Show 3, Set 1

8. I'm Depending On You
9. I Can't Turn You Loose
10. Satisfaction
11. Chained And Bound
12. Just One More Day
13. Any Ole Way

Disc 2

Show 3, Set 1

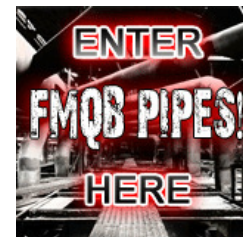
1. I've Been Loving You Too Long (To Stop Now)
2. Satisfaction
3. Destiny
4. Security
5. Good To Me
6. Respect
7. Chained And Bound
8. Mr. Pitiful
9. Satisfaction
10. Ole Man Trouble
11. I Can't Turn You Loose
12. A Hard Day's Night
13. These Arms Of Mine
14. Papa's Got A Brand New Bag
15. Satisfaction

MOON THE LOON... **The Who's** legendary late drummer **Keith Moon** was known as much for his tales of debauchery and craziness as his extraordinary skills on the drums. An exceptional new documentary, *Keith Moon-Final 24: his final hours* (MVD), chronicles the colorful life of "Moon the Loon." Juxtaposing crafty dramatic reenactments with a treasure trove of previously unseen archival footage and rare photographs, the documentary traces Moon's backstory by lending its primary focus on the tragic last 24 hours of his life.

Combining compelling interviews with a contingent of close Moon cohorts, including fiance **Annette** and bodyguard/minder **Dougal Butler**, the program unravels like a gripping police/detective story impacted by the knowledge that the tragic outcome is inevitable. In the late '70s, Moon returned to



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his homeland of England after living for a few years in Southern California. Moon took part in the recording of The Who's brand new album, *Who Are You*, and was slowly gaining a foothold of his Rock & Roll demons. Using Moon's reentry into studio work with The Who, *Keith Moon-Final 24: his final hours* provides an exhaustive portrait of his last day on earth, which found the legendary drummer in attendance at a **Paul McCartney** party celebrating the release of the new film, *The Buddy Holly Story*. Returning home, the documentary delves into Moon's final moments and reveals copious information about his senseless death.

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