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### **Tony Palmer Q&A: The 38 Year Journey To Release His Leonard Cohen "Bird On A Wire" Documentary**

June 3rd, 2010 · [2 Comments](#) · [Leonard Cohen](#)



Tony Palmer

#### **Tony Palmer – His Work And His Style**

Today's post features a Q&A with Tony Palmer focusing on the recovery and impending re-release – for the first time – of “Bird On A Wire,” his documentary of the 1972 Leonard Cohen tour.<sup>1</sup>

Three pieces of information are helpful as a prelude to that Q&A:

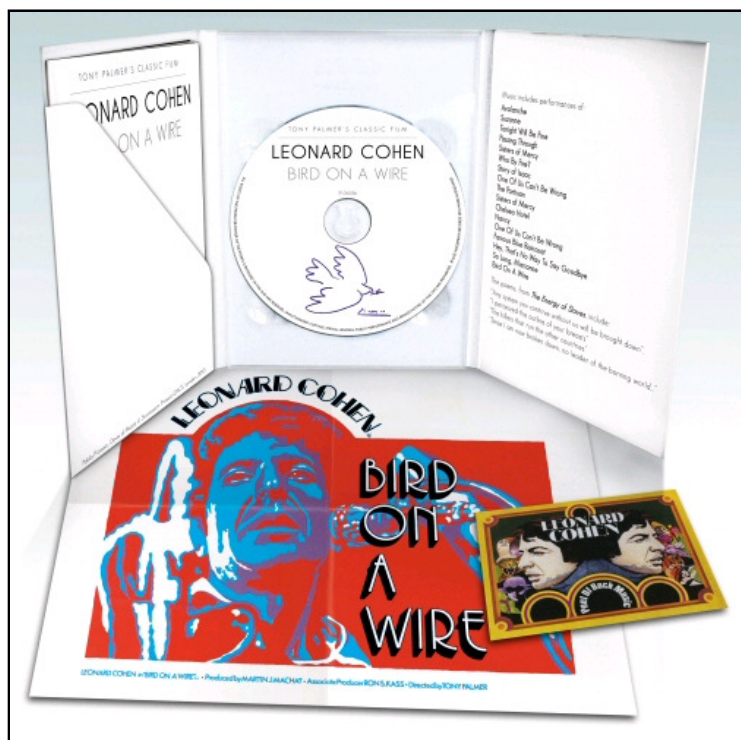
1. In 1972, Tony Palmer filmed performances and offstage scenes from the Leonard Cohen tour. The documentary Palmer constructed from this footage was, for reasons to be discussed later, severely edited, and it was a significantly altered film that premiered in 1974. After years of searching, Tony Palmer re-discovered a cut of the film as he first composed it and, following months of restoration, will soon release a DVD that is true to his original vision.



Screen capture from Tony Palmer's Bird On A Wire

2. Tony Palmer is a prolific, multi-talented, and highly respected artist. The blurb for “All My Loving?,” the John Tibbetts book about him and his films, neatly outlines his career:

... a man who, in a career of more than half a century, has directed and produced more than a hundred documentary and theatrical films, directed stage plays and operas, authored books and columns, hosted radio and television programs, and garnered dozens of awards, including multiple Italia Prizes (television’s most coveted award)



Art from "Bird On A Wire" DVD release

3. A survey of reviews and commentaries on Tony Palmer’s films, books, and theatrical productions, including his own reflections on his work, provides convincing evidence, if not statistical proof, that he is provocative, passionate, determined, controversial, visionary, courageous, contentious, tenacious, and, on occasion, disputatious.<sup>2</sup>

As David Attenborough phrased it,

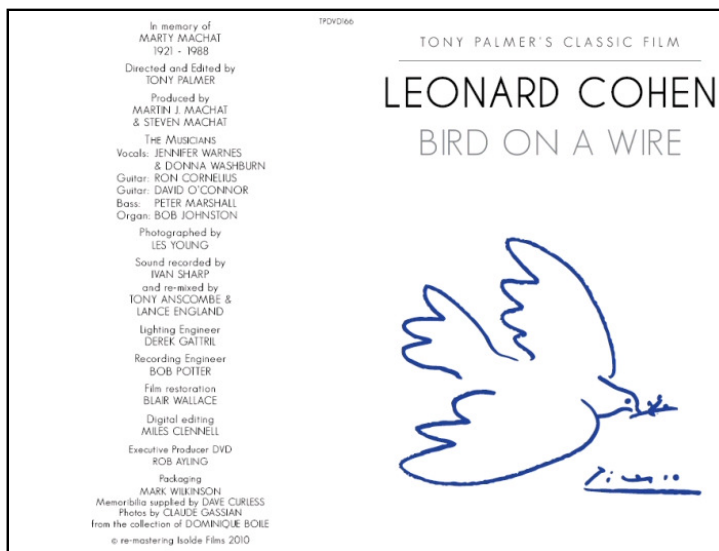
Palmer is thrilling, controversial, occasionally outrageous, but with profound musical insights.

A sampler of pertinent references are available at the footnote.<sup>3</sup>

It will not surprise the careful reader to discover that Tony Palmer has a distinct point of view about the history of his “Bird On A Wire” documentary as set forth by others, a perspective aptly characterized by the first paragraph of the Introduction of his blog, [Leonard Cohen Bird on a Wire DVD](#):

*I'm fed up with reading disinformation about my film of Leonard Cohen, Bird on a Wire, even to the extent of getting its title wrong. The film I*

*made did not cost \$130,000, as quoted in several biographies, nor "several hundred thousand dollars" according to the most recent book by Tim Footman. Footman can't even get the date the film was made correct, or its title !<sup>4</sup>*



## The Tony Palmer Q&A

*This Q&A is the product of a simple process: I emailed the questions you see below to Tony Palmer, who returned the answers you also see below. There has been no further editing other than formatting. Mr Palmer's responses are displayed in red. In some cases, I have enclosed Mr Palmer's comments in braces for convenient reading.*

1. The range of subjects you've examined in your work is beyond impressive You've produced documentaries about rock music, Maria Callas, Peter Sellers, Stravinsky, opera, Liberace, Hugh Hefner, and NASA's official 10th anniversary, written books about King Charles II, pornography and the law, and Julian Bream, and made movies with The Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa. What made you decide that filming Leonard Cohen's 1972 tour was a good idea?

**I was asked.**

Is there a characteristic or a theme common to "Bird On A Wire" and the topics of your other films and book?

**Courage.**

How familiar were you with Leonard Cohen's literary work and music before you began working on the film?

**I knew every word, and every published song.**

2. There are some – well, let's call them ambiguities about the making of "Bird On A Wire." The description of the process according to Ira Nadel, writing in Various Positions (1997), the de facto official Cohen biography, follows:

**This is garbage, and really lazy writing (she never bothered to ask me anything) for the following reasons:**

Bob Johnston suggested making a film of the upcoming tour [**He didn't; the idea was that of Marty Machat.**] and Tony Palmer, who made a movie about Tom Jones, [**I have never even met Tom Jones.**] was hired to direct. Cohen's lawyer Marty Machat produced. Titled Bird on the Wire, it premiered in London at the Rainbow Theatre in 1974 and shows Cohen performing, clowning with his musicians, and trying to pick up women. [**That is a totally silly description of a very complicated film.**] Cohen was initially unhappy with the arty look of the film and wanted a stronger, documentary texture. [**Wrong; he was worried (he told me) that the film was "too confrontational". I suggest that he had a go at assembling the material himself (I would never do that now) to see if he could make it less 'confrontational'.**] He spent nearly six [**it was nine**] months editing the work, shifting its focus away from visual cliches to the deeper realities of his music. [**That's just crap.**] Control was crucial to him, [**No, he always told me that I should feel free to interpret the material as I saw it.**] as it was in the production of his first book of poems and his first album. What Cohen wanted was a film that showed the live context of his music and his rapport with his audiences. Bird on the Wire did that but it also showed Cohen emotionally wasted. He felt exposed in the film and thought that his vulnerability was inappropriate for public viewing. [**That's not for me - or this silly writer - to say. Yes, he is 'exposed', and yes he does appear 'emotionally wasted'. But, when I look at the film now, I'm amazed that he allowed me such access. He never ever denied me access to anything, and that is one of the film's strengths. In fact, I now know that my 'assistant editor' told Cohen he could do a much better job than me, and Cohen believed him. The BBC had originally bought the film as a result of a rough screening of my version, and Machat (who actually paid for the original version himself, not Cohen) would have got 2/3rds of his money back in one go. When the assistant editor's version was shown to th BBC, they threw it out as being "a mess". I've seen it recently for the first time, and apart from anything else, it is structureless and has some of the worst music editing ever committed to film. Machat refused to pay for the 'revisions', and Cohen finished paying for them himself. The original budget was around £35,000, and was completed by me on time and on budget. Version 2 cost an additional five times that amount - at least. No wonder the 'assistant editor' has never been heard of since, except possibly by his mother-in-law.]**

A LeonardCohenForum member posted a message from you that presented a different view of the reasons for the re-editing of the film:

*... it's not true that Leonard didn't like the original. He was worried about the 'riot in Tel Aviv' sequence (which began the original film), as was Marty Machat, his Jewish lawyer and agent, as well as the constant backstage dramas about the rotten sound equipment. Machat was also*

worried that Leonard had said in the same hall in Berlin that Goebbels had coined the phrase some 30 years earlier, that we were now involved in a 'total war'. Yes, there is an element of truth in this, but it is not the whole story.

2A. First, would you clarify the timeline? Nadel's description could be interpreted to mean that the original version was screened at the Rainbow Theatre in 1974, after which Cohen had the film re-edited.

**No, and this is yet another fact she gets wrong. It was Version 2 that was screened at The Rainbow.**

My understanding, however, is that there was never a public showing of the original version of "Bird On A Wire."

**That's correct.**

When was the decision made to revise the film?

**The tour ended mid-April 1972. My version was delivered around the end of May, the same year. And 9 months later.....!!!**

2B. While long-time Cohen fans will recognize your reference to the "'riot in Tel Aviv' sequence," other readers may not. What was in that segment that concerned Cohen and his agent, Marty Machat?

**That it was a riot. But that was not the point of the scene, and you will have to see the newly restored original version (available on DVD from August 1st) to appreciate what was intended and how brilliantly Cohen took control of the situation, which was the point of the sequence. Also, throughout his poems (we filmed four of them which some idiot – the assistant editor again? - cut out), there is an emphasis on the political responsibilities of a poet. Think of The Story of Isaac: I suppose we are to think that this is some other wishy-washy love poem?!!! So his reference to the Goebbels speech (see above), and his definition in the film of loneliness as a political statement, fits perfectly and makes him – as poet and singer/balladeer – far more substantial.**

2C. The note from you went on:

*Marty asked the assistant editor, a jumped-up little squirt called Humphrey Dixon to re-edit these sequence out, and when I found out this was happening behind my back, I withdrew. I should have stayed and fought, but I was too busy then with my series All You Need Is Love.*

How did the re-editing of the film play out ?

**No idea.**

Were you finally notified the re-editing was going on [Yes] or did you discover it by accident? Was there a confrontation or any discussion between you and Machat or you and Cohen about the decision to excise portions of the film?

**No.**

Did you play any part in the completion of the film after the revising began?

**No – it's a mess. I never even saw it at the time, and had I done so, would have requested my name be removed.**



3. Was the desire to offer the public your original vision of the film the sole motivation for your efforts to restore "Bird On A Wire" or were other issues involved?

**I owed it to myself, to Marty Machat, and to Leonard. It's not for me to say whether the film is good or bad, but it's a valuable document of a particular moment in Leonard's life, which I had wished to celebrate then, and do so now.**

4. I've read that you had been searching for the original version of the film for several years and that at one time you believed a copy was held in the British National Film Archive.

**That's correct.**

The description of the discovery published at Voiceprint follows:

*In 1972 the celebrated British film director Tony Palmer made a film with Leonard Cohen entitled Bird On A Wire. Like many films from the era it was thought that the original print had been lost, however whilst researching in a foreign television archive a copy of the original print was found. This print, in numerous film cans placed on two pallets was subsequently shipped to the UK and arrived two weeks before Christmas.*

*It is now a matter of Tony Palmer going through the canisters and assessing the condition of the film and deciding how to restore the print to a standard that is fit for release.*

**That's correct.**

A later edition of Voiceprint expands the description:

*... more than thirty film canisters ... discovered in late 2009.*

**Correct – 294 rolls of film.**

*The canisters contained the original 16 mm print of the film.*

**Wrong. Only the rushes, some test prints, but most importantly all the original dubbing (sound) tracks.**

In your [blog](#), you wrote

*... it was through Machat's son and partner, and an extraordinary series of co-incidences, that we have managed to find all the original material, some of it in very poor condition, but most importantly all the original sound recordings and dubbing tracks of the film.*

What comprised that “extraordinary series of co-incidences?”

**Meeting Machat Jr. quite by chance after 30 years when I was being interviewed by an American TV show about Led Zeppelin; knowing Frank Zappa's manager who was looking for some material relating to 200 Motels in a warehouse and happened to notice some boxes marked up 'Bird on a Wire'.**

How did you finally track the original down and what was it like to finally find it?

**At first disappointing because many of the cans were rusted up and had to be hammered open. But when I found the original soundtracks, I knew it might be worth trying to reconstruct my film.**

4. The 1974 “Bird On A Wire” film is a 90 minute affair; according to Voiceprint, the 2010 version “ now runs to 145 minutes.” If my arithmetic is correct, that's at least 55 minutes of footage that will be appearing for the first time.

**Wrong. The film, which is as close as I can get to the original, is 1 hour 47 minutes**

A. Of that never before shown content, which scenes do you anticipate the audience will find most surprising and which scenes will the audience find most enlightening ?

**No idea.**

B. Have any songs been added to those in the version released in 1974? No idea.

**There are 17 songs and 4 poems, as in the original version.**

C. Will the 2010 release of “Bird On A Wire” be a replica of the original film (before re-editing) or have you made changes to the original?

**No idea, because I no longer have the negative or all my editing notes of the time, only my memory.**

5. In addition to the new film footage, what extras, such as Director's Commentary, will be included in the DVD?

**None. But some goodies are in the boxset – posters, contemporary reports etc.**

6. What has been Leonard Cohen's response to your discovery of the original film and your restoration of it for DVD release?

**No idea.**

Does he now feel differently about the scenes that originally concerned him?

**No idea.**

Also, does he (or his company) still own the rights to the film?

**No.**

7. Bob Johnston related this anecdote in First We Take Berlin by Louis Black (Austin Chronicle, Nov 16, 2007):

*We were filming the tour. One time on the tour Cohen decided to give out flowers to the crowd. We were filming this, but we kept losing the film.*

*One little boy said, “I didn't get no flowers!” I said, “Yes you did; it's behind your back.” He said, “You caught me.” We took our groceries in, came back out, and took off.*

*I said, “Boy, that ought to start it off good.” And he said, “You find that tape?”*

*That's the way it was the whole tour: “Did you find that tape?”*

*Well, I didn't have it. But we still got a movie.*

**Well, Johnston was always good at fiction. Or bullshit, as it's said in the trade.**

You've filmed lots of musical events. How would you describe the experience of filming the 1972 Leonard Cohen tour?

**Fascinating.**

Were tapes indeed frequently lost?

**Never.**

Was the filming especially difficult or frustrating or gratifying or chaotic ... or all of the above?

**That's what good, worthwhile, filming is all about.**

8. The premier showing of the 2010 version of "Bird On A Wire" will take place August 6, 2010 at The Leonard Cohen Event in Krakow, Poland. How did you decide that the first audience for your film – an effort that has been 38 years in the making – would be 300 participants at a gathering for Leonard Cohen fans in Krakow?

**Jarkko has been a tower of strength. We would not have got this far without him. I owe it to him, and I don't give a toss if there are only 3 people in the audience. This screening is for Jarkko.**

9. In your blog, you described a positive result of this experience:

*My admiration for Leonard's music and the group of highly skilled musicians who accompanied him on that European tour, has again been rekindled. Above all, my love for the man: a good man, and a great song writer.*

What is it about Leonard Cohen and his music presented in "Bird On A Wire" that sparked your admiration and love?

**Oh, come on.....LISTEN. Open your bloody ears.**

**Credit Due Department:** The photos of Tony Palmer are from his blog, [Leonard Cohen Bird on a Wire DVD](#). The art from the soon to be released "Bird On A Wire" DVD is used with permission of Tony Palmer.

1. Ongoing readers may recall that I had not planned to post during this week of ostensible vacation, but Mr Palmer's Q&A is too significant to defer. Besides, Tony Palmer set an all time record by responding to my emailed questions *within hours*. One wishes to reinforce such cooperation. [←]
2. It altogether possible Mr Palmer will dispute this description. [←]
3. Examples:

*Tony Palmer's film [The Life of Vaughan Williams] is now complete. Undoubtedly controversial, it will also be very important in raising awareness of Ralph Vaughan Williams. (rvwsociety)*

*[Salzburg] Festival officials are miffed with the [American Friends of the Salzburg Festiva] over that group's decision to present "The Salzburg Festival: A Short History," a new documentary by the British filmmaker Tony Palmer. The festival has disavowed the film, partly because of what festival directors consider Mr. Palmer's overemphasized and sometimes inaccurate account of the festival's intertwined relationship with the Nazis. (Salzburg And Nazis: A History In Dispute by Anthony Tommasini. New York Times: August 15, 2006)*

*Tony Palmer's great and controversial insight into the music and attitudes of the pop world of the time. With exclusive footage from the forefront of music such as Hendrix, The Who, Cream, The Beatles, Donovan, and Frank Zappa. (Tony Palmer All My Loving DVD Promo)*

*On Saturday the League will show two movies: Mr. Palmer's New "Director's cut" of PARSIFAL-The Search For the Grail ... [and] Mr. Palmer's new documentary on the Wagner Family. ... Mr. Palmer promises that this will be a controversial and thought provoking event. (Opera League Of Las Angeles, The Tony Palmer Film Festival)*

*This is Palmer's highly controversial portrait of Brahms – a film that exploded the familiar image of 'stodgy old bearded Brahms' – a man whose first musical experience had been playing an upright piano in the brothels of Hamburg where he had grown up, and who at the end of his life lived a bachelor in Vienna having his every need satisfied by the prostitutes of the city whom he always affectionately described as his 'little singing girls'. (Brahms and the Little Singing Girls)*

*But my intention [in "O Thou Transcendent: The Life of Ralph Vaughan Williams"] is not hagiography. It is simply this: to explode for ever I hope the image of a cuddly old Uncle, endlessly recycling English folk songs, and to awaken the audience to a central figure in our musical heritage who did more for us all than Greensleeves and Lark Ascending, even if it is No.1 in the Classic FM 'Hall of Fame.' ("Vaughan Williams" Tony Palmer, O.U.P. Magazine)*

*Palmer loves to antagonize, and this makes the whole series ["All You Need Is Love"] worth a look, in spite of its many faults. (The greatest story never told by Bob Stanley. The Guardian, 1 May 2008) [←]*

4. It should also prove no surprise to that same careful reader to find that Tony Palmer has a notably congruent response to similar issues in regard to his other films, such as Frank Zappa's 200 Motels:

*I've read so much rubbish about 200 Motels over the years, much of it fiction, much of it originating with Frank Zappa himself, that the release of the newly restored film on DVD gives me an opportunity – my first – to correct one or two of the wilder stories about how the film came about and what really happened during the filming. – from Tony Palmer on Frank Zappa's 200 Motels (originally released 1971; DVD released February 5, 2010) [←]*

**Tags:** [Leonard Cohen](#) [Tony Palmer](#)

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- [Dear Leonard Cohen – Thanks For The Tour. I Hope It Was Good For You, Too.](#)
- [Leonard Cohen Dedicates Concert To Yasmine](#)

**2 Comments so far ↓**

- **Dick** // [Jun 3, 2010 at 2:33 pm](#)

Welcome back Heck

Am in NYC to meet fans and Esther for afancy night out at the Cafe Carlyle, where we will dine first, then enjoy a Judy Collins performance.

This piece on Palmer looks great and I look forward to a slow and careful reading.

[Reply](#)

- **Lizzy[tysh]** // [Jun 11, 2010 at 11:41 pm](#)

You're so right, Allan. #8 was worth the trip and so heartwarming to see Tony with such an open expression of gratitude to Jarkko... and he's so right.

I'll read the rest when I have more time, but couldn't close out for the night without following your lead to #8.

Thank you and thank you, Tony, for this interview. This has got to be one of the most satisfying completions of a project ever for him.

[Reply](#)

### Leave a Comment

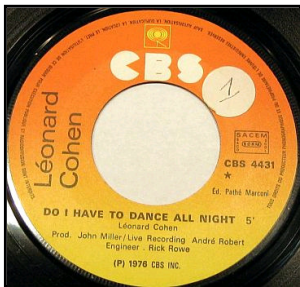
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- **“Do I Have To Dance All Night” Video Joins “Leonard Cohen At 75” With 10,000 Views**



#### [Do I Have To Dance All Night \(1976 version - with Laura Branigan\)](#)

has become the second Heck Of A Guy Leonard Cohen video to pass 10,000 views.

For details about this video and the often overlooked but outstanding song on which it is based, see the section under the heading, *Do I Have To Dance All Night Film Festival* in the far right column of this page.

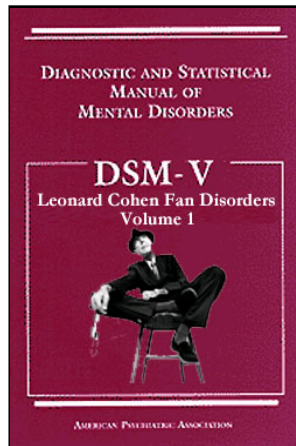


The video montage of favorite scenes featuring the singer-songwriter, poet, and icon offered in celebration of Leonard Cohen's 75th birthday, September 21, 2009 garnered its 10,000th YouTube viewing on May 23, 2010.

#### [Leonard Cohen at 75 Birthday Video](#)

- **Search HeckOfAGuy.com**

## • You May Be A Leonard Cohen Fan If ...



### **The Cohen Fandemic**

Endemic for decades in areas such as Canada, Norway, Poland, and France, Leonard Cohen Fan Syndrome has become a world-wide epidemic in the past 2 years, spread by the Leonard Cohen World Tour and abetted by proselyting carriers despite efforts by authorities to quarantine these individuals at LeonardCohenForum.

### **Diagnostic Criteria**

Based on the observations of DrHGuy, standardized criteria for the pertinent Axis II diagnosis are now available at

#### [Cohenphilic Personality Disorder](#)

### **Danger Signs**

In addition to the formal medical description of this diagnosis, Heck Of A Guy has also compiled a list of the aberrant behaviors which indicate one is at high risk for being a full-fledged fan of Leonard Cohen. These signs and symptoms can be found at

#### [Warning Signs Of Leonard Cohen Fan Syndrome](#)

#### [More Signs That You May Be A Leonard Cohen Fan](#)

#### [Signs You May Be A Leonard Cohen Fan #3](#)

All *You May Be A Leonard Cohen Fan If ...* entries  
can be found at the  
[You May Be A Leonard Cohen Fan If ... Page](#)

### **Also See**

- [Leonard Cohen Fan Affliction Medical Alert Bracelet](#)
- [CPR – Cohenphilic Personality Resuscitation](#)

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## • Cohen Antwerp Concert Dedicated To Yasmine





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## • Best Of Leonard Cohen

**L Cohen In A Parallel, Funnier Universe**



- [Oh My Cohen! They're Calling Us A Cult](#)
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- [Anjani CD Remains Blue - But Is It Still Alert?](#)

## Great Performances

- [Best Of Leonard Cohen World Tour 2008-2009](#)
- [Baby, Baby, Baby - Leonard Cohen & Anjani Sing The Blues In Norway](#)

## Easily Missed Songs

- [Elvis's Rolls Royce](#)
- [Two Very Raw, Unreleased Leonard Cohen Songs "Puppets" And "Book Of Longing"](#)

### CBC Interviews



- [Cohen interviews on CBC](#)

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- [Leonard Cohen's List Of Pharmaceuticals Joke & His Not At All Funny Depression](#)
- [Notes On The 2008 Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame Induction](#)
- [Inductees Enter Wrong Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Hall](#)
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### Other

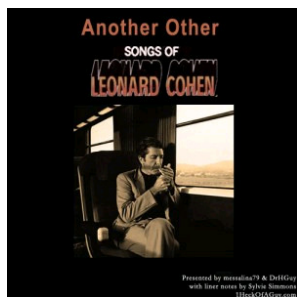
- [Why Is Leonard Cohen Smiling - And Who's Lenny?](#)
- [Leonard Cohen's Jukebox](#)

### Cohen Reference Pages

- [A Leonard Cohen Primer](#)
- [L Cohen Article - Mojo 9/94](#)
- [Leonard Cohen Nicknames](#)
- [Leonard Cohen Lookalikes](#)
- [L Cohen Lyrics - Word Trees](#)
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## • Now – Another Other Leonard Cohen Album

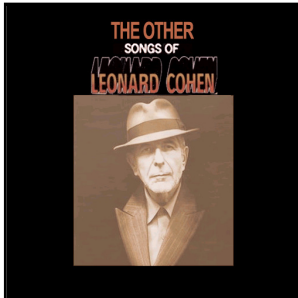


### Another Other Leonard Cohen Album

Now, *Another Other Leonard Cohen Album*, the second collection of unreleased Leonard Cohen songs joins the popular *The Other Leonard Cohen Album* to offer fans of the iconic singer-songwriter a total of 3 CDs of musical treats. *Another Other Leonard Cohen Album* includes the following tracks plus liner notes by Sylvie Simmons.

1. Je Veux Vivre Tout Seual
2. Kevin Barry
3. Die Gedanken Sind Frei
4. Store Room
5. As Time Goes By
6. Don't Go Home with Your Hard-on
7. Blessed is the Memory
8. Silent Night
9. Dead Song
10. Another Saturday Night
11. Ballad of the Absent Mare
12. Guerrero
13. The Butcher
14. Un As Der Rebbe Singt
15. Song to the Machines
16. If It Be Your Will
17. Thirsty for the Kiss
18. A Thousand Kisses Deep
19. I Tried To Leave You
20. Whither Thou Goest
21. Mr Cohen Must Be Going

More information and MP3 downloads are available at [Presenting Another Other Leonard Cohen Album](#)



### The Other Leonard Cohen Album

#### Track List: Vol 1

1. Feels So Good (The Other Blues Song)
2. Book Of Longing
3. The Darkness
4. Puppets
5. Lullaby
6. Do I Have to Dance All Night (1976)
7. Blues By The Jews

#### Track List: Vol 2

1. Red River Valley
2. Never Got To Love You (Duet with Anjani)
3. Can't Help Falling In Love
4. Ride Around
5. The Union Makes Us Strong
6. We Shall Not Be Moved
7. To Love Somebody
8. The Hypnotist (Poem)
9. Chelsea Hotel #1
10. There's No Reason Why You Should Remember Me
11. Streets Of Laredo
12. Do I Have To Dance All Night (1980)

More information and MP3 downloads are available at [Now Available - The Other Leonard Cohen Album](#)

## • Outrageously Happy, Outrageously In Love With Julie



*... I never had a chance. I was - and this is the only word that fits - smitten. She was overwhelmingly intelligent and quick-witted, although it took three more years for me to recognize that she was, in fact, much smarter than me, and then another two years to forgive her for that. And, she was surpassingly good-looking, with an unmistakable aura of sexiness.*

The unlikely story of how Julie and I fell in love and - 2 husbands, 1 wife, and 2 careers later - spent an outrageously wonderful 20 years together is unlike anything else you will find in this blog, and perhaps anywhere else.

The story starts, appropriately, at [This Is How A Love Story Began](#)

## • Leonard Cohen Tour Highlights Videos



Heck Of A Guy offers 3 videos of clips and photos from The Leonard Cohen World Tour:

1. The Original Heck Of A Guy *Dear Leonard Cohen - Thanks For The Tour. I Hope It Was Good For You, Too.* Video Celebration Of The First 14 Months Of The 2008-2009 World Tour can be viewed at [Thanks For The Tour](#)
2. A video, focusing on the Summer 2009 concerts can be seen at [Thanks Again For The Tour - The Encore Video](#)
3. The highlight video celebrating the Fall 2009 USA concert series is online at [Thanks, Leonard Cohen, For Coming To The USA - Video Celebration](#)

## • Ostensibly Funny

### Tactics & Strategies

- [12 Ways To Minimize The Popularity Of Your Blog](#)
- [How To Beat The Rap On Law and Order](#)

### Weddings & Such

- [Protection From \(My\) Marriage For A Small Fee](#)
- [A Heck Of A \[Warm-Up\] Guy](#)
- [Essential Wedding Rules No One Else Will Tell You](#)

- [Essential, Secret Wedding Rules – Part 2](#)
- [Mother Of The Bride Wedding Toast](#)
- [A Wise Man Once Said – Avoid This Wedding Toast](#)
- [Wedding Announcements Made Unique](#)
- [CNN Discloses; Man Composes, Proposes](#)

#### **Mom**

- [My Mother's Incredibly Christian Clock](#)
- [Angelic T&A — Not](#)
- [If Mom Were Muslim](#)
- [Mom, This Is The Blog – Blog, This Is My Mother](#)

#### **Funny As A Broken Hip**

- [Walkernastics – The Walker Dismount](#)
- [There Must Be 50 Ways To Leave Your Walker](#)

### • **Do I Have To Dance All Night Film Festival**



"Do I Have To Dance All Night" was performed many times in concerts but was never released in the US.

As part of my crusade to popularize this song, I've cobbled together 2 videos - one for the semi-funky 1976 version with Laura Branigan and one for the 1980 more gypsy, less disco version - that kinda sorta fit the music.

- [1976 Do I Have To Dance All Night Video](#)
- [1980 Do I Have To Dance All Night Video](#)

Both videos include links to keys to the sources of the clips and the identities of the backup singers and others who are featured.

The complete story of "Do I Have To Dance All Night" is available at [The Best Leonard Cohen Song You've Never Heard \(Probably\)](#)

### • **Anjani – Leonard Cohen Duets & Anjani Montage**



Unreleased music from Anjani's performances in Warsaw, Poland and Joe's Pub, New York.

- [Whither Thou Goest \(Warsaw Concert\)](#)
- [Never Got To Love You \(Warsaw Concert\)](#)
- [Leonard Cohen and Anjani Duets Video \(Joe's Pub, NY\)](#)

The [Anjani Birthday Montage](#) includes selections of favorites, especially songs from the Blue Alert album.

The review of Anjani's Blue Alert album is found at [Blue Alert - A Recommendation That Will Make You Want To Kiss Me](#)

Other important Anjani links:

- [Anjani - DrHGuy FAQ](#)
- [Anjani Thomas Category](#)
- [Anjani Chronicles](#)

## • Leonard Cohen & Joni Mitchell? Yes, They Were




Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen had a fling in the 1960s that, for unspecified reasons, was short-lived, with Cohen instigating the parting.

It was then and is now a complex connection. In 1988, Cohen said, *I'm still very friendly with Joni - I had dinner with her before the tour, and I have the same admiration for her as you do. But I think it was Noel Harrison who came up to me in the LA Troubadour and said "How do you like living with Beethoven?"*

The full story is at [Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell: Just One Of Those Things](#)

**Heck Of A Guy is a member of the Leonard Cohen Web Ring**

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