

Member of:



# LESLEY GORE NEWS

INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB

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**Volume 33, Issue 3**

Jack Natoli, President

## FALL, 1997

Hi! Welcome to our Fall newsletter. As you can see, I have made a few changes in the format of the newsletter. During the past 32+ years, I have been writing newsletters for Lesley in different forms. I decided it was time for a change again. I hope you like our new format. Consider this newsletter a "work in Progress." It may be changing again depending on your comments and suggestions. PLEASE let me know what you think of the new format. I will take all suggestions and give them serious consideration.

The big news is the debut of Lesley's "When Women Run the World" concert on August 31st. For those of you who missed "the event," I must say it was truly exciting! Anne Bellanca and Dawn Habschied will describe the event to you in detail in this issue. It was nice seeing a number of fan club members at the concerts. Lesley's three new songs were wonderful. If "When Women Run the World" is typical of the "Mer-child" score, we are in for a real treat!

The interview in this issue which was printed in East Hampton's "The Independent" catches us up on what Lesley is doing these days.

Haven't heard of any upcoming concerts by Lesley. If I do, I will let you know by special postcard. If you hear of anything, please let me know immediately.

Just when I thought I had seen everything...A few weeks ago, someone sent me a cover page to an article written on Lesley in the 1960's. It was just the cover page and I am reprinting it in this newsletter. I had never seen it before....no date, no magazine name, etc...just the title and author (Tom Hunter). If anyone has a copy of the entire article, please let me know. I'll reprint it all in a future newsletter.

Several members have suggested that I include more "old" material in the newsletters. As you know if you've been a long time member, I have included quite a bit older material. I was thinking of picking one year in each issue and printing significant material from that year. We can call it "Looking Back" or something like that. Comments? I don't want to reprint the same material I have done in past newsletters, so I would be looking for some obscure material that many of you might not have seen before.

On November 26th at 9 PM, ABC will present a special titled "Quincy Jones- a 50 Year Celebration." I assume Lesley will be featured on this special since "It's My Party" was Quincy's first success.

Has anyone taped the Lesley Gore segment of her appearance on "Fox Thing in the Morning?" If so, please let me know. Thank you to Denny Pine for sending me the two episodes of Lesley on the Ed Sullivan Show and for Ramon Gomez for lending me his tape.

Remember Lou Christie's fan club! P.O. Box 748, Chicago, IL 60690. Lou's fan club bulletins often feature Lesley since they often appear together in concert.

Mary Crowther has started a new publication "The Rockn' Oldies News." She will be featuring Lesley as well as other stars in upcoming issues. Her address is 531 Baltimore Pike # 106, Bel Air, MD 21014.

If you're looking for some of Lesley's old or newer recordings, try: Spin More Record Shop, 165 East Main Street, Kent, OH 44240, (330) 678-3495.

Some of you may know fan club member Ronald Miller from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Ronald was a member of the fan club for 21 years and corresponded with me often. I am sorry to report that Ronald passed away in July. My sympathy to his family. Sympathy cards may be sent to his mother Viola Miller, 424 Stiefel Avenue, Ellwood City, PA 16117.

Well, that's about it for now! Hope you enjoy the new format of the newsletter. PLEASE send me your comments and/or suggestions. I'm happy to announce that we are going to revive the cassette taping service very soon. A while back, we also had an "ASK JACK" column in which I answered your questions about Lesley and/or the club. If you would like to see this column back, send me your questions.

Have a great fall and KEEP IN TOUCH!



Jack Natoli, President

Thursday, August 28, 1997 • DAILY NEWS



**Ricky Nelson**

### Rock's All-time Winning Teens

Pop music has played footsie with teen idols from the beginning. Here's a rundown of all-time fave raves by era:

- **1950s** — Ricky Nelson, Elvis Presley, Fabian, Shelley Fabares.
- **1960s** — The Beatles, Paul Revere and The Raiders, The Monkees, Lesley Gore.
- **1970s** — The Partridge Family (with David Cassidy), The Osmonds.
- **1980s** — New Kids on the Block, Tiffany, Debbie Gibson.



**David Cassidy**

### LAUGH IF YOU WANT TO

And in other Hamptons news, Lesley Gore premieres her new concert, "When Women Run The World," tonight at East Hampton's Guild Hall.

Gore has been putting on terrific shows since "It's My Party" hit the radio in the '60s. But this one promises to be special. It features a cameo appearance by Bella Abzug, the former congresswoman, playing Marlene Dietrich. That's worth the price of admission alone.

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE HEAVENLY KIND.....

Summertime for us is Lesley Gore time. It's a time of year to enjoy meeting other fans and of course traveling to several shows. This year was no exception. Anne and I (I'm Dawn) enjoy going to Lesleys concerts whether it be in West Chester, NYC or Atlantic City the summertime always seems to be the time when we're able to get away to see several shows. I'm the driver and Annie is the map reader (when she has it right side up). Our most recent trip was to East Hampton, NY to the John Drew Theatre. We even picked up her biggest fan on the way - Jack Natoli. There he stood on the turnpike and I said - "If you want to go to a great concert - get in". He took me up on it and there we were headed through Manhattan to Long Island.

After several hours of touring the "towns" we were set for a double treat of both Lesleys 7:00pm show and her 10:00pm show. Opening the show were the acappella group of "That Magic Touch", consisting of 5 guys singing some toe tapping 50's tunes while we waited in much anticipation of Lesley. As soon as the fellas scooted off stage - Lesley came out and jumped right into the night filling the theatre with her songs, some oldies but goodies, "It's My Party", "Judys Turn To Cry", "She's a Fool", just to mention a few. She also treated us to some new recordings which were wonderful, including "When Women Run The World", "But, I Could Be In Love", and a new rap song titled "Go Girl".

Several highlights of the night included a special guest appearance by Ms. Bella Abzug doing her rendition of "Falling In Love Again" (ala Marlene Dietrich style)..and with class only Ms. Abzug can emit. What a thrill to see these two remarkable women side by side on stage together. I also have to note, that with all the fun we have watching Lesley perform her upbeat songs, that when she slows things down a bit to sing her ballads they are the songs that touch us the most. The emotions that we encounter are deeply felt in such songs as "Out Here On My Own" and "Just Can't Walk Through Life". Of course closing with "You Don't Own Me" is always quite a show stopper. This time however, Lesley dedicated her closing song to "Princess Diana" (unfortunately we awoke to the sad news of her death before our journey) something that will leave this summer trip with memories one will never forget.

We always leave Lesleys shows with wonderful memories and as always Anne and I thank her for that. It was a great summer - hope to see you in the fall. (and Jack next time - you get the map!)

*Dawn*



BY DAWN HABSCHIED AND ANNE BELLANCA

## Lesley Gore The Life Of Her "Party"

By Debbie Tuma

Lesley Gore walked into the courtyard of her two-story natural wood house on Sunday, where her cocker spaniel, Aggie, was sprawled in the sun.

"She loves it out here in the Hampton as much as I do. We hate going back to the City on this beautiful day, but I have to go to a recording," said Gore, whose powerful voice belies her pettiness.

She ushers a reporter into her private Bridgehampton studio, overlooking the backyard pool, where she writes her songs. A black, upright Yamaha piano lines one wall, a keyboard instrument sits against another wall, and a few chairs and low couches adorn the room.

The piano is special to Gore. "I bought this Yamaha from Marvin Hamilsch's insurance broker in 1972, for about \$1100," she recalled. "That's a great deal, and I love it."

**At Guild Hall**

This Sunday, Lesley Gore will perform two shows at Guild Hall, at 7 and 10 p.m., as part of the institution's annual Labor Day Weekend "oldies" concert series that has become a welcome part of the community. Opening for her will be an a capella oldies group, Magic Touch.

The green-eyed Gore is obviously excited about her upcoming appearance. At 51, her classic strawberry-

ing in theater and music, and touring with her band on vacations and holidays. "I had a sense that if I left college, I'd never return, and at that time I needed the security and protection of Sarah Lawrence as a base and a home," she said.

Although she was born in Brooklyn, her family soon moved to Tenafly, New Jersey, where she grew up taking piano lessons. Along the way, she met Quincy Jones, and was signed to his Mercury label. She recorded "It's My Party" on March 30, 1963, and "a week later, I heard it on the radio. It was remarkable. By June 1, this song had reached the top of the charts all over the country."

**First Time On Sullivan Show**

Gore admits that "sudden fame" caused her to develop social skills later than her peers. "I never knew the feeling of walking into a room where no one knew me," she said. "It was strange to be 'known' before you really felt known."

One particularly harrowing career experience was her first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," at age 17. "I remember standing downstairs, shaking, after the Pillsbury commercial," she said. "I was about to go on, when I got a phone call from someone trying to find my father, because his brother-in-law had died. This was my Uncle Henry, who I loved. I felt horrible, but I knew in that moment I had to go on — I didn't have the chance to assimilate that message until I was finished."

Through her career, her brother, Michael Gore, has been another stabilizing force. "He is an incredible piano player, and we've written many songs together," she said. "Michael produced the album for the movie *Fame* and also



Photo: Peter M. ... in Pink. She adds

with a witness and thoughtfulness

Dad, a clothing manufacturer, nor her mom, a housewife, are musically inclined.

Through the years, Gore has been continuing to write songs for herself and others, including Dusty Springfield, Patti Austen, Bernadette Peters, and Irene Cara. She was nominated for an Academy Award for the hit song, "Out Here On My Own," which she wrote for Fame.

She played herself on the last episode of "The Donna Reed Show," and she played Catwoman's sidekick on "Batman." But music has always been the top priority, and since 1963 she has had over two dozen chart hits and sold over 60 million albums.

Gore's latest project is a collaboration with her good friend, Broadway producer Marty Richards, of Southampton, on an animated film. It is based on "The Merchild" by Robin Morgan. She is also thinking of writing a book on her life.

"I thought of this when I turned 50 last year, and a lot of things just hit me," she said. "It is a powerful experience, turning 50. And looking back on where you've been and where you're going."

But Gore was never one to plan too hard, preferring the spontaneity of the moment. "It's like that in my concerts," she said. "After 35 years of performing, the one thing I've learned is that it's not a fine art, if anything can go wrong, multiply that by 10. The idea is to let the evening take its course, and to have a good time. That's what I'm looking forward to doing this Sunday night."

Tickets for the two shows are priced at \$22 and \$20 (for senior citizens), and can be purchased at Guild Hall box office, at 324-4050.

formulated in the 1950s, and in the 1960s "we bought the dogma, even though we didn't think it was real."

Her songs even back then were more hard-edged. "My songs were mostly about personal humiliation — about the stuff that happens to relationships. People leave, people get hurt, and they cry." Aptly, she wrote such hits as "Judgy's Turn To Cry," "She's a Fool," "Maybe I Know," and the classic smash, "You Don't Own Me."

Gore explained that the music began to expand when the Beatles came in the early 1960's. "Elvis had the potential, but from his presentation, people fabricated an image of him that held him back from being greater than he could have been," she said. "He had the ability to understand music on a visceral level — he had a lot of experimentation to do, which he never did because he was so isolated, and then he died."

Gore added, "At 51, I can say, 'I did that and it was great — now I'll do something else.' Elvis never had that chance."

But looking back, she calls the success of "It's My Party" a "double-edged sword," because along with sudden fame, her ordinary life at Dwight High School in Englewood, New Jersey, was changed forever . . . for better and for worse.

"In my junior year in this small, all-women's high school, the other kids were aware of my fame, but they accepted it," she said. "I stayed in school, and toured on vacations and summers. An education was very important to me."

She said it was harder, starting Sarah Lawrence College, as a celebrity. But here again, she studied hard, majoring in English literature and minor-

way to judge a song unless you put it in front of a live audience."

In keeping with her social consciousness, Gore is calling her show, "When Women Run the World." As an "extra special added attraction," Gore has asked her good friend, Bella Abzug, to do her imitation of Marlene Dietrich during the show.

"If I had to emulate one woman, it would be Bella Abzug," Gore stated. "She's done so much, in her work for women, gays, and minorities as well as fighting hard for the environment."

Gore has been playing rock n' roll concerts around the New York City area all summer with her band, comprised of "young kids, in their 30s, who are great to work with," she said, smiling. Sunday's concert will include Bruce MacPherson on keyboards and as the evening's musical director, Ted Whitmore on bass, Scott Miller on drums, Bruce Gatewood on guitar, and Lorraine Ferro and Althea Rodgers singing back-up.

When Gore burst into fame as a junior in high school, with the help of Quincy Jones, who "discovered" her and signed her to Mercury Records, it was a different world, especially for women. I asked her to compare the music of the early 1960s to that of today.

"When I started singing songs at 16, it was a frivolous job," she replied. "When I walked into a building, and people would genuflect and kiss my rings, I knew that wasn't real. It's been about 15 years since I finally learned that my real talent was being able to communicate — to express my social and other beliefs through music."

**Fabricated Image**

Gore explained that the "Donna Reed, everything's perfect" thinking was

about her life. Gore is far from being the naive high school girl who recorded her first hit song, "It's My Party," in 1963, but she has not lost her child-like exuberance for her music or her fans.

As we walked upstairs into a large, airy living room and all-wood interior, and sat on the sunny outside patio, Gore explained how she was offered this local singing opportunity by Wendy Kaye, who books concerts for the John Drew Theater. "I've known Wendy, whose father, Arnie Kaye, started Mars Talent, a broker agency out of Pearl River, New York," she said. "But I had no idea she was involved with things in East Hampton."

Gore added, "Every time I pass Guild Hall, I notice who's appearing there — and since this is my stomping ground, I always thought it would be great to perform there."

**Giving Back**

Looking down at the expanse of green grass and flowers, Gore said, "The tendency when you get out here from the City is to decompress, but in the last 10 years, myself and other celebrities have found ourselves being asked to do more benefits and charities in the summers. I guess it's our way of giving back to our communities."

Although this will be her first solo show in the Hamptons, Gore said that in the early '80s she sang as part of a group "oldies" concert at Southampton High School. For this Sunday's high-energy concert, she plans to depart from her normal presentation. "Of course, I do plan to sing some of my old songs, but now it's time to do some of the songs I've been writing over the last few years, including one rap song I did for a movie," she said. "There's no

“To look at Leslie Gore’s ‘You Don’t Own Me,’ it’s pretty progressive, forward-thinking stuff.”

Author Gillian Gaar on “Leading Ladies,” a compilation CD of women singers

The release of the CD is set to coincide with National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

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# ‘Leading Ladies’ History of Women in Song

By DON DIORIO

Herald & News

## Music

Compiling a batch of songs to represent the role of women in popular music is a formidable task at best, but as a new collection that does just that shows, the job is’ one worth undertaking.

The 4-CD box set, “Leading Ladies” from Reader’s Digest Music is the fourth “Women on Women” project to emerge, its purpose being to raise awareness about, and support research to combat breast

cancer. The music spans five decades with 83 tracks by as many artists, and covers a great breadth of genres and styles.

“With most compilations, you usually get music from one era, but this covers five decades,” said Gillian Gaar, author of “She’s a Rebel: The History of Women in Rock & Roll” and a spokeswoman for the collection. “When you go

from Marilyn Monroe to the Eurythmics, you’re seeing a lot of ground covered. It’s almost like a soundtrack to my book.”

Though well open to debate as to the merits of the tracks chosen, the producers took the simple tack of going for the standards that had sold the best and which everyone knows.

The most interesting aspect of the collection though, is how it functions as a musical document of the evolution of women in pop. One common thread is that of the independent spirit inherent in many of the performances, even those dating back to the ‘50s and early ‘60s.

“If you look back at things like Leslie Gore’s ‘You Don’t Own Me,’ it’s pretty progressive, forward-thinking stuff,” Gaar said. “Even something like Peggy Lee’s ‘Fever’ can be seen that way.”

The collection also chronicles the way women progressed in their quest to control their own productions and their strides in the field of songwriting.

A dose of nostalgia seems almost mandatory on Labor Day weekend. Maybe that’s why Guild Hall’s classic rock-and-roll concerts have become such a popular tradition on this goodbye-to-summer holiday.

This year, the ‘60s singer Lesley Gore (“It’s My Party”) will give the audience a premiere of her new concert “When Women Run the World.” One of those who will probably be there if or when women finally take the big throne, Bella Abzug, the women’s activist and former Congresswoman, will have a cameo

appearance in the concert as Marlene Dietrich.

“This event will take place for one night only,” a press release for the concert says, “Women will rule the world for the rest of all time.”

### Women’s Songwriter

Ms. Gore recorded her first big hit in 1963, as a junior in high school. She remained at the top of the charts throughout the ‘70s with more than two dozen hits, including “Judy’s Turn to Cry,” “She’s a Fool,” “Maybe I Know,” and the classic “You Don’t Own Me.”

A talented songwriter as well, she has written songs for Dusty Springfield, Patti Austen, Bernadette Peters, and Irene Cara. She was nominated for an Academy Award for the song “Out Here on My Own,” which she wrote for the motion picture “Fame.”

An a cappella oldies group, Magic Touch, will open for Ms. Gore. Shows will be Sunday at 7 and 10 p.m.



IT’S LESLIE GORE’s party at Guild Hall on Sunday and she’ll cry if she wants to.

The East Hampton Star, August 28, 1997

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### Sunday, August 31st

#### Labor Day Classic Rock 'n' Roll: Lesley Gore

Lesley Gore burst on the music scene when she was a junior in high school with the hit song “It’s My Party.” That was 1963. Since then she has had over two dozen chart hits and sold over sixty million albums worldwide. Opening for Ms. Gore is *Magic Touch*.

7:00 and 10:00 p.m. \$22 nonmembers | \$20 members

*Date? Source?*

*Want to have your guy practically eating out of your hand? Take a tip from Lesley Gore...*



**The  
Go-By  
and the  
Come-On!**

by Tom Hunter

If an "X" appears on  
this line, THIS IS YOUR  
LAST NEWSLETTER.  
Renewal: \$7.00 US  
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(973) 616-1233  
Jack Natoli, President

# CLASSIFIED ADS

If you would like to submit a classified ad for the next newsletter, please send it to the club by December 1, 1997. Please keep your ad as brief as possible.

# 1: WANTED: The Bear Family set booklet and It's My Party-the Mercury Anthology double CD booklet. Robyn Chang, 662 Little Wekiva Road, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714.

# 2: WANTED: "Grace of My Heart" video tape and movie script. Katsuhiko Ohishi, P.O. Box B, Fujieda 426 Japan

# 3: WANTED: Lesley Gore's Greatest Hits (1964)-will accept/purchase LP (vinyl), preferably on cassette. Also photos of her Canadian and American Bandstand appearances. Will correspond with anyone who can assist me with my search. Marc Graziadei, 1811 Hutton Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 1M1 or E-mail: sasgraz@magmacom.com