

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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Memories: Listen to Rock for a good cause

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

IT WAS SIX YEARS AGO when radio personality Valerie Hilsen of Bloomfield Hills interviewed actor Rock Hudson backstage at Detroit's Fisher Theatre, but the tape she made then may help victims today of the dreaded disease AIDS.

She originally played the tape on her radio show when Hudson was in town starring in the musical "On the Twentieth Century." "It was the only interview he granted to radio or TV in Detroit," she remembers. She got the interview mainly because she has been for many years "Miss First Nighter at the Fisher," interviewing the stars of each show there.

Hudson, a very private person, gave interviews infrequently. "I never mentioned anything of his personal life," Hilsen said. During the brief, 12-

15 minute interview, he was upbeat and friendly, though admitting to being tired, after the performance.

"YOU COULD tell he was kind and gracious," Hilsen said. The tape made in March 1979 is also special because the presence of the handsome Hollywood star is instantly brought to mind when you hear his recognizable, compelling, deep voice.

So many fans loved him. We'd like to remember him as he was," Hilsen said.

She aired the interview again recently when Hudson was seriously ill with AIDS, and many fans of the Hollywood star expressed interest in having copies of the tape. Hilsen also got requests from radio and TV stations around the country who wanted to buy or borrow the tape.

Hilsen said she didn't do anything then. "I decided it was in bad taste," she declared, recalling her decision

not to let others, particularly in the media, use the tape. But after Hudson's death, she decided to go ahead with a suggestion that had been made by one of her listeners.

"It was a doctor who called and said he was a fan and wanted to buy the tape. He said he and his wife got married because he proposed to her after they saw a Rock Hudson-Doris Day movie," Hilsen said.

The doctor suggested that Hilsen sell the tapes and donate some of the money to AIDS research.

"TWO DIFFERENT hospitals want me to meet with administrators regarding starting a foundation for the curing and research of AIDS," Hilsen said.

"I will donate one-third of the amount I raise," she said. Tapes will be sold for \$10 each, and Hilsen anticipates that any personal profit to her after costs will be "very little."

To order a tape, send \$10 to: AIDS Research, c/o Valerie Hilsen, P.O. Box 516, Bloomfield Hills 48013.

"People are coming up to me in restaurants and they're frightened," she said, of listeners who have wanted to talk to her about AIDS. Hilsen said one woman caller on the show said she got AIDS through a blood transfusion and that now her baby has it.

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome - is transmitted primarily through sexual contact. Homosexuals and intravenous drug abusers have been cited as high risk groups. The disease had also been transmitted through blood transfusions, but a new test is being used to screen blood used in transfusions.

HILSEN SAID her guest on "Valerie's Showcase" on Thursday, Oct. 17, will be Dr. John Jovanovich of Ford

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Rock Hudson, as the actor appeared earlier this year on ABC-TV's "Dynasty." An interview by Valerie Hilsen with Hudson, made back in 1979 at the Fisher Theatre, is available on tape for \$10. One-third of the \$10 will be donated to help battle AIDS.

Playing at Archibald's, Quatro awaits new album

MICHAEL QUATRO and Claudia Hoffman return to Archibald's in downtown Birmingham for Wednesdays, Friday and Saturday night performances through Oct. 26.

Quatro, Detroit-area rock music personality who hasn't recorded an album in four years, played the piano at Archibald's in September.

He was dressed in black tie and unjacketed tennis shoes, and his dark, curly hair gave him the appearance of a slightly naughty boy. In his sets at Archibald's he was accompanied by blond singer Hoffman, who will be on Quatro's new album due out this fall.

The supper club act that Quatro and Hoffman do - Quatro rambles through "Canadian Sunset" and Hoffman sings "Send in the Clowns" - doesn't at all

suggest how important Quatro was in the rock-music world in the late 1960s and early 1970s when he was in the forefront of the classical rock scene along with groups like Yes, and Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

In between sets, when Quatro talked about Hollywood scripts, million dollar deals, Clive Davis and distribution arrangements, it was obvious that this is an entertainer who's been around the music business a few years.

In fact, Quatro, who now lives in Grosse Pointe, was playing classical music in public performances by age 7 and as a regular on the Lawrence Welk show by age 12.

But he's still looking for the elusive platinum album, and he thinks with video support his new album could be the one.

on music
James Windell

"The new album will be called 'Dreams of Lust,' Quatro said, "and should be out in 60 to 90 days." He's not ready to say much more about it, but when it's out there will be a tour

Roman Pitt is a singer whose new album has just been released.

Recorded in Nashville earlier this year, "Wind Off the Water" on the private label Pink Carnation Music is available in some local music stores including Marty's in Birmingham.

A graduate of Oakland University's

Music Department, Pitt started her music career 10 years ago. She recorded an album in California before coming home to raise a family. Now she's ready to perform again.

The new album features several songs Pitt wrote, and in addition has a Bob Dylan tune ("Forever Young"). She refers to her music as New Age music.

"This is all music that's aimed at po-

sitivity," said Pitt, who was in town recently before a return to Fairfield, Iowa, where she's spending the winter. "It doesn't have any murder stories or broken hearts. I guess it's about growth. My music comes from the point of view that things are getting better through personal growth."

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