

PANTS

A Randy Newman Newsletter and Journal - Number 2

Welcome to my PANTS! The only Randy Newman Newsletter I know of.

Issue Number 2. May 2001. Seattle, Washington, USA. Home of grunge, burial place of Jimi Hendrix, and a place that does not have as much rain as you are lead to believe.

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I am calling this thing a newsletter/journal now 'cause so much of what is in here is "old news", after-the-fact stuff.

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RANDY WINS ANOTHER GRAMMY (not Grammie or Grammys, excuse me):

Well, right after the first issue of this rag hit the internet, Randy received another award. He got another Grammy for "When She Loved Me" from Toy Story 2 on February 21, 2001. He did not attend the ceremonies, and the award

was given during the day. The Riders in the Sky received a Grammy for, "Best Musical Album For Children" for their "Woody's Roundup" CD collection which includes the recording of Randy's, "Woody's Roundup" that day as well.

By the way: if you have a DVD player, pick up the 3-DVD "Toy Story - The Ultimate Toy Box" set from Disney, and on the 3rd disc you can hear Randy's nifty demo of, "When She Loved Me". It's a lot to pay for one song, I know, but if you like the movies you can justify it

Randy at the Academy Awards:

When Randy received his 14th nomination for an Oscar, for, "A Fool In Love" from *Meet The Parents*, I burped. Happy as always that he had been nominated again, but feeling that the film he did the song for will not carry the weight it needs to win him an Oscar. Well, he did not win. Bob Dylan dropped by via satellite and took the Oscar from Randy on March 21, 2001, at the Shrine Auditorium, in Los Angeles. I was disappointed that Sussana Hoffs did not sing her part in French, but otherwise, I enjoyed the show.

Randy Newman a la Judaica:

Randy participated in the, "Cinema Judaica II" with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony on March 4th. He conducted his "Suite From Avalon" at 7PM, that day at Gindi Auditorium, at the University of Judaism, 15600 Mulholland Drive, Los Angeles. Tickets were \$25 - \$45. Wish I could have been there...and which leads me to...

NEWMAN - THE MUSICAL FAMILY book

I spoke with USC teacher and film and television music critic/affectionato Jon Burlingame on February 26, and he tells me he is back to work on his Newman book. This is great news! The book will be an extensive look at the work(s) of Alfred, Lionel, Emil, Eric, Irving (Randy's dad), David, Thomas, Maria, Randy, etc. in music since the 1920's. There will be a chapter devoted to Randy and I will help Jon to make sure it's right. Jon's a real nice guy, and I enjoy talking to him. His recent book, "Sound And Vision: 60 Years of Motion Picture Soundtracks" is very good, and I highly recommend it if you are a fan of film music (as you *should be* being Randy Newman fans). Sometimes getting Randy's fans interested in his film work can be like pulling teeth, but I know you all have a favorite Randy-score somewhere in your life.

Look for Jon's *Newman* book next year.

CD:

Nilsson Sings Newman was reissued again, this time from Camden in England, but I can't recommend it as I don't have a copy yet. It includes Harry's cover of Randy's wonderful little song, "Snow" as the Buddah Records version did, but it does not have the extra outtakes that the Buddah version has. It has been doubled-up here with the LP, "Harry" and fellow LC'er Roger Smith did the liner notes, so I really should apologize to him for not purchasing it yet (sorry Roger!). Long Live Harry!

DVD:

Avalon was released in March on DVD! This is great news, as it surely one of Randy's best scores, and a great film too.

Barry Levinson on Randy:

"I had been listening to Randy Newman's album *Land Of Dreams*, and I thought that was a good sound picture for *Avalon*...Randy responded to my script and it went from there. Generally he would compose after the fact. In this case, with the waltz at the very beginning of the movie, we were somewhere into the middle of the shoot and I called him up. I said, 'Randy, I need some waltz music for the scene when they're getting married, something for them to dance to.' I asked him if he could just knock something out on the piano to use as a temporary track, and that became the main theme. ...He put three other numbers on the tape, so when we began to rough-cut the movie, I ended up putting these against the film in other places. In that way the music was fixed early on, which made Randy complain that I'd made things harder for him!"
- From, "Levinson on Levinson" edited by David Thompson, faber and faber books, 1992

DVD tip: Buy the DVD of Disney's *Bug's Life* and listen to the whole film with just the score track playing! It's a treat.

RANDY music on DVD, so far...:

The Natural - Tri Star 04609 [Columbia Tri Star]

Parenthood - Universal 20174

Three Amigos! - HBO Home Video 90007

Avalon - Columbia Tri Star 05844

Awakenings - Columbia Pictures 50569

The Paper - Universal 20011

Maverick - Warner Bros. 13374

James and the Giant Peach - Special Edition 2000 - Walt Disney 20100

Michael - Warner Bros. T6306

Pleasantville - New Line Platinum Series N4728 99 - Features the entire score isolated with narration by Randy!

**A Bug's Life - Walt Disney 16698 & Collector's Edition 2-DVD set 17989
Disney's Toy Story and Toy Story 2 - Disney stock 18668,
21309/21310/F3620. This one includes Randy's demos from both
films, but not the video he did with Lyle Lovett. If you want that
video, you have to get the VHS tape.**

Meet The Parents - 21133 Universal

**[The bolded titles are the only ones that offer something special for
Randy's fans]**

So, what this means is that *Cold Turkey*, *Ragtime*, and *Cats Don't Dance* will complete the run at this point. I can't see *Cold Turkey* coming out on DVD real soon, but I will hazard a guess that *Ragtime* is in the works. *Cats Don't Dance* does not offer a Randy score, but he did write most of the songs, and I like the film. *Performance* is not available on DVD yet for some of Randy's conducting and his great vocal on "Gone Dead Train", and if you wanna dig deeper Randy-film-wise, there is his recording of his song, "Let Me Go" from 1970's, *Pursuit Of Happiness* which is still only available on VHS, and *Tony Rome*, the Sinatra film, only on VHS, that features his co-written song "Something Here Inside Me" which Randy wrote with Billy May, and *Overboard* which features "Something Special", which is on VHS and DVD, and oh yeah, "Cover Me Babe" from 1970's *Cover Me Babe*, with Sondra Locke, which Randy wrote with Fred Karlin, which is not available on VHS or anything right now. These are songs that Randy wrote specifically for a film, as opposed to someone using his songs in the film (which I listed in the last issue of PANTS.)

EBAY FOLLOW-UP:

I will probably get back to the subject of Ebay - buying Randy things there - now and then to let you know the kind of Randy things that come my way (and your way if you want to outbid me...). Most recently I purchased a concert poster from a show Randy did in Texas in 1995, a Japanese CD of "Born Again" (always a favorite) and an used ticket (1995), a Japanese promo cassette of "Bad Love", a photo, more photos, a single, movie posters, it just keeps coming. Aaahh!

I couldn't help but notice how that Air Force One CD keeps coming up for sale for \$40! What-for \$40? Jesus.

TV:

Randy was on *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher (ABC network) on March 9. The last time he was on the show he had a very sore throat and didn't say much. He did however do a good job plugging his newest CD's, "Randy Newman's Faust" and "Toy Story". This time, he did have a lot to say, as did all

four of the guest and the host. It was hard for each of them to get a word in edge-wise, but I guess that is the point of the show. The main subjects were "children and guns at school", and "are American's working too hard?", which is the subject of Robert Reich's new book. I'm not gonna go over the whole show 'cause you can read the whole transcript of the show at:

http://abc.go.com/primetime/politicallyincorrect/pi_home.html

But for me, this was my favorite Randy-moment:

Randy: I know I'm in show business, so life is not difficult, compared to real life. But, I mean, when I did go to work every day, for like a week and a half -- [Laughter] I finished the day and I was tired from running the fax machine and I felt -- I had no responsibility, unless I burned a piece of paper or something -- and I sort of liked it. But I like being rich better.

TV MUSIC:

Voyage of the Bottom of the Sea -

When Randy was working with his Uncle Lionel at 20th Century Fox, way back between 1962-1967, he did some cues for television. You will find Lionel's name associated with many TV shows from this time (and other times), and one of them is Voyage To The Bottom of the Sea. I loved this show at the time, and probably did not miss the show each week. I recently purchased a VHS copy of an episode of the show that Randy worked on called, "Blow Up". It was originally broadcast on December 10, 1967, and it's really not a very good episode of the show, but not as bad as others. Anyway, the name of the cue that Randy wrote is called, "Divers Find Trouble". Well, I watched the episode looking for divers, and found none. It's hard for me to say if the cue was used in the episode as I don't read music (my HUGE handicap as an archivist), and it's interesting to note how Mr. Lionel took liberties with using certain cues over and over again in the series.

I guess the point of all this is that Randy's early experiences with writing for film and television were undoubtedly invaluable to his overall perspective on music and its applications to all sorts of entertainment venues.

Next issue: The Many Loves Of Dobie Gillis

AN "OLD" SONG:

In this issue I thought we could take a look back at, "Pants" from *Born Again*, since I named this newsletter after it. *Born Again* always ends up on the bottom of "list your favorite Randy Newman album" lists, and I think this is a crying shame. Other than the fact that this album suffers from a knee-jerk reaction to sales of the Little Criminals album, and the fast approaching 80's "sound"

(forgive me Michael Bodikker...), it is my belief that this album features some of Randy's best songwriting. But let's talk "Pants":

Pants

Gonna take off my pants
Gonna take off my pants
Gonna take off my pants
Gonna take off my pants
And your mama can't stop me
And your papa can't stop me
And the police can't stop me
No one can stop me

Gonna do it right now
Gonna do it right now
I'm gonna take off my pants
Gonna take off my pants
And our teachers can't stop me
And your priest's can't stop me
And the firemen can't stop me
And the President can't stop me

Will you take off my pants?
Will you take off my pants?

Saturday Night Fever comes to mind, eh? Disco Ran. Randy does Bee Gees. I think this is one of the tracks on the album that really best reflects the time it was released. Record reviews of this album at the time, where not near as critical of this LP as Randy's fans are now. Like "Pretty Boy", it does a good job poking fun at the "Italian factor" that was still running rampant through the entertainment world with films like *The Godfather* and *Saturday Night Fever*. Boy, weren't those macho wops a fun bunch of fellows!

DARLIN' CLEMENTINE:

Back in 1998, I was unsuccessful in getting Van Dyke Parks to tell me anything about the selection of Randy Newman for Shelle Duvall's "Tall Tales and Legends" series production of "Darlin' Clementine". Randy did a fine job on this adaptation, with music by Van Dyke Parks. The score itself is wonderful throughout (as all of VDP's music is) and Randy's voice serves well as narrator, and his version of the title song is quite fun. Below are the lyrics as Randy sings them, and then the whole song (with added lyrics):

"Clementine" by Barker Bradford (1885)

These are the lyrics Randy sings. They have added a clever line which I have indicted with *italics*:

In a cavern, in a canyon,
Excavating for a mine,
Dwelt a miner, forty-niner,
And his daughter Clementine.

Refrain.

Oh my darling, oh my darling,
My darling Clementine,
You are lost for me forever,
Dreadful sorry, Clementine.

Light she was, and like a fairy,
And her shoes were number nine,
Though in life I used to hug her
Now she's dead, I draw the line

These are additional lyrics from the song, some original and others added later:

In the centre of a golden valley,
Dwelt a maiden all divine,
A pretty creature a miner's daughter
And her name was Clementine.

Her noble father was the foreman
Of ev'ry valued mine,
And ev'ry miner and ranchman
Was a brother to Clementine.

The foreman miner, an old forty niner,
In dreams and thoughts sublime,
Lived in comfort with his daughter,
His pretty child Clementine.

When far away, he would often pray
That in his sunny clime

No harm might overtake her,
His favorite nugget, Clementine.

When the day was done and the setting sun
Its rays they ceased to shine,
Homeward came the brawney miner
To caress his Clementine.

None was nearer, none was dearer,
Since the days of forty-nine
When, in youth, he had another
Who was then his Clementine.

She led her ducks down to the river,
The weather it was fine,
Stubbed her toe against a sliver,
Fell into the raging brine.

He heard her calling: father,
Her voice was like a chime,
But alas he was no swimmer,
So he lost his Clementine.

Light she was, and like a fairy,
And her shoes were number nine,
Herring boxes without topses,
Sandals were for Clementine.

Walking lightly as a fairy,
Though her shoes were number nine,
Sometimes tripping, lightly skipping,
Lovely girl, my Clementine.

Drove she ducklings to the water
Ev'ry morning just at nine,
Hit her foot against a splinter,
Fell into the foaming brine.

Ruby lips above the water,
Blowing bubbles soft and fine,
But alas, I was no swimmer,

Neither was my Clementine.

In a churchyard near the canyon,
Where the myrtle doth entwine,
There grow rosies and some posies,
Fertilized by Clementine.

Then, the miner, forty-niner,
Soon began to fret and pine,
Thought he oughter join his daughter,
So he's now with Clementine.

I'm so lonely, lost without her,
Wish I'd had a fishing line,
Which I might have cast about her,
Might have saved my Clementine.

In my dreams she still doth haunt me,
Robed in garments soaked with brine,
Then she rises from the waters,
And I kiss my Clementine.

Listen fellers, heed the warning
Of this tragic tale of mine,
Artificial respiration
Could have saved my Clementine.

How I missed her, how I missed her,
How I missed my Clementine,
Til I kissed her little sister,
And forgot my Clementine.

COVERS - STEVE KLINK:

I got the new Steve Klink CD from Germany. These are jazz renditions of some of Randy best known songs, and even a lesser-known song, "What Have You Done To Me?" from the box set. Contained herein is the first covers I know of, "I Gotta Me Your Man", "Memo To My Son", and "What Have You Done To Me". Mr. Klink has written some very nice liner notes, and I enjoyed this part:

"How is it possible to cover Randy Newman songs instrumentally? That was a question I asked myself when I started this project, but for me the answer was simple: Randy Newman's music is great and is not just about words. And in the absence of words, something even subtler is revealed: form. Randy Newman is a master of form."

I applaud him on this! Personally, I too was attracted to Randy's music before I read his lyrics. I think that Randy's lyrics are among the very best, like finely pruned little novels, but I agree whole-heartedly with Klink's observations.

Steve Klink - Feels Like Home - Minor Music Records, Germany, MM 801092

Lucinda

Have You Seen My Baby?

I'll Be Home

I Gotta Be Your Man

Memo To My Son

What Have You Done To Me

You've Got A Friend In Me

Texas Girl At The Funeral of Her Father

A Wedding In Cherokee County

Short People

Feels Like Home

Dayton, Ohio - 1903

Louisiana 1927

Guilty

This is the fourth album entirely devoted to Randy's songs, the first being "Nilsson Sings Newman", and the second being, "Mathilde Santing Sings Randy Newman" by Mathilde Santing, and the third being, "Schuldig" by Heli Deinbock. I was prepared not to like it, but I like it. So much of the current jazz I hear (say, the past 30 years...) often seems so incredibly silly to me at times, sort of la-di-da. But I enjoy most of the arrangements on the CD, and hearing Randy's tunes without lyrics is an interesting experience. Dienbok changed many of Randy's lyrics for his album, or wrote his own, which I thought took some guts to do (and it just seems such a *German* thing to do...), but Klink and his gang do a nice job giving some of Randy's tunes a different edge.

That's all I am gonna say about it, as I am not qualified to say much about jazz. It's a nice CD.

1. Harry Nilsson - Buddha Records 74465 99703 2 – "Nilsson Sings Newman".
A reissue that features five previously unreleased tracks: Snow, Love Story, Cowboy, I'll Be Home, and Living Without You.
2. Mathilde Santing - Sony (Europe) 473884 2 "Mathilde Santing Sings Randy Newman" 1994
3. Heli Deinboek - "Schuldig - Heli Deinboock singt Randy Newman" GIG Records 74321 344322 [Germany] [1995]
4. Steve Klink - Minor Music Records GMBH (Germany) MM 801092

Other covers....

The Japanese CD, Disney Records/Avex Group - Japan - AVCW-12090 - Toy Story 2, features three bonus tracks in Japanese: track 21. Woody's Roundup, 22. When She Loved Me (beautifully sung by Lisa Ohki) and 23. You've Got A Friend in Me.

Kristopher McDowell has covered, "Simon Smith" on his new CD, *Faces Of Love*. I have not heard it.

Guitarist Davy Graham has been playing "Yellow Man" live in England recently at the 12 Bar Club in London.

Canadian Patricia O'Callaghan has covered "Real Emotional Girl" on her new CD, *Real Emotional Girl*, from Marquis Classics. I have not heard it yet, but it sounds worth checking out.

The New Hollywood String Quartet recently played an instrumental version of, "When She Loved Me" in January at the Zipper Hall, Colburn School of Performing Arts, Los Angeles.

Midge Marsden, a New Zealand blues artist, is working on a Randy Newman tribute with singer Malcolm McNeill...I would like to know more...

In the first issue I neglected to mention that Randy did some fine string arrangements and conducting for Don Henley's "Annabel" from his newest CD, *Inside Job*. It's a nice tune. I am not a Henley fan, so I slipped over it. My apologies to you Henley fans. I will try and be more careful. Golly.

Warner Bros. 47083-2

FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS:

Harrison Carroll's column in the L.A. Herald-Examiner mentions Randy on February 14, 1967 !:

"...Hear great things about a record, "I Think It's Going To Rain Today" written by Emil Newman's nephew, Randy Newman. Several stars, including Judy Collins, already have waxed it..."

Mr. Carroll also mentions some cool stuff about Adam West and Glenn Ford!

THEATRE (B.F.):

Rosenblum - November 5, 1970

Written by Harvey Perr, *Rosenblum* is an adult play similar I suspect to *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*, although I can't say for sure, as I have yet to find and read it. Just how the director decided how Randy's music fit into the stage production, I can't say, and I have been unable to contact anyone from the production. The following Randy recordings were included in the production: Love Story, Laughing Boy, Mama Told Me Not To Come, So Long Dad, Lover's Prayer, Living Without You, Have You Seen My Baby, and maybe Simon Smith and His Amazing Dancing Bear.

Way before Randy started writing his version of Faust (1979...1980...1983...) this first "staged" use of Randy's songs was directed by Gordon Davidson. The World Premiere was at the Mark Taper Forum, in Los Angeles, November 5 through December 20, 1970.

COMING SOON... Gary Norris explains why he does not agree with many things that Griel Marcus has to say in his chapter on Randy in his famous (and interesting) book, "Mystery Train". Gary will break the chapter down, piece by piece, and try to make a point. This is something he has always wanted to do. Why? Well, just to do it. [I can hardly wait to see what I have to say!]

Until July/August.... may all your boats keep floating. Love, Gary