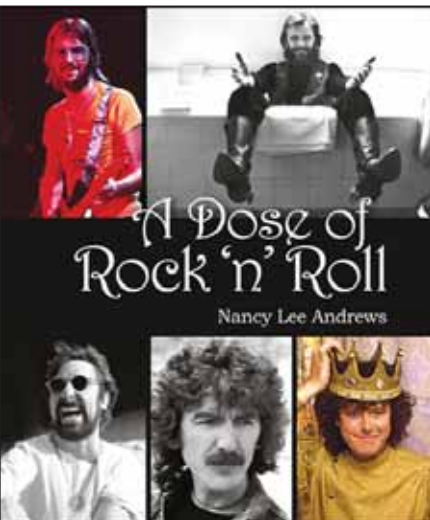


A Dose of Rock n' Roll

By Helen Marketti

"I wanted it to come from love and admiration, to be careful and yet honest. It was very cathartic for me as all kinds of emotions rose to the surface." These are the thoughtful comments from Nancy Lee Andrews when asked how it felt to put her book "A Dose of Rock n' Roll" together.

The book is a reflective collection of remarkable rock and roll images that recount a time, a place and an emotional stirring. Nancy's interest in photography mixed in with a long term relationship with Ringo Starr seemed to be the right combination for capturing life's events just as they were.



Cover of book

Beginning her professional career as a fashion model eventually transitioned into taking photographs instead of posing for them. "I was always a fashion maven while growing up," Nancy remembers. "When I was older I started modeling during the summer for extra money."

Milton Greene who took professional photographs of Nancy during her days as a model became a mentor of the lens so to speak as she expressed a sincere interest by always asking him questions about photography. "From that point on I was hooked," she recalls. "It began as a hobby and then it grew from there."

Nancy and Ringo were together for six years. Their first meeting was at a party to celebrate the birthday of Mal Evans who was a roadie, bodyguard and beloved friend of The Beatles. Nancy attended the party which was hosted by John Lennon and his then special girlfriend, May Pang. There were a group of people sitting at a table playing poker when Nancy found herself sitting next to Ringo as his poker partner. "We played cards. We flirted," Nancy said. "It was a fun evening. I had brought my younger sister with me and eventually it was time for us to leave." Though Nancy had a great time she did not think too much past the moment until she met up with Ringo once more. "I went to the Beverly Wilshire Hotel to get together with May and

John," Nancy recalls. "When I knocked on the door Ringo answered it and he remembered me as his poker buddy. I glanced over to John who was looking at me and then gave me a wink. So John Lennon was our matchmaker."

Nancy's relationship with Ringo spanned its time during the mid seventies where she had stopped modeling but continued on with her photography. Being with Ringo had given her an open opportunity to take photographs at parties, special events and also while on vacations. To the rest of the world these individuals may have been icons and adored by millions but to Nancy and Ringo these were their friends. "It was a creative forum for us and for everyone around us. It was a time to express yourself," Nancy remembers.

Through beautiful photographs and brief but thoughtful text Nancy takes the reader on a pictorial journey that spans special moments that are both personal and professional. Photographs of Ringo with George Harrison are gentle and show their closeness. Nancy recalls a visit with Ringo to George's home in England. "George was usually quiet but still made you feel welcome. We had dinner with he and his wife, Olivia. After words George and Ringo were chatting when George said he wanted to give me something. He took out a bowl of Indian cabochon blood rubies and told me to take as many as I wanted to design something for myself." Nancy drew a sketch of a necklace that was eventually made by the royal jeweler to the Queen in London. While the gift was a beautiful gesture her friendship with George and his family is a treasure itself.

Another set of photographs that illustrate close friendships are that of Ringo with



Ringo with Keith Moon

Keith Moon (The Who). Nancy recollects about Keith, "He was a doll. He always had a movie going on in his head, always on to the next thing. He and Ringo were like brothers."

Ringo had always encouraged Nancy's photography career. She is grateful that she had her camera with her to capture many incredible moments that may have been lost forever to fuzzy memories alone. Nancy reflects on their relationship, "Ringo had become my life. It was a constant moving caravan while still trying to maintain normalcy through it all. We had a place in Monte Carlo, LA and England. We spent a lot of time traveling for his studio work, recording and so on. Going through it at the time was all relative but looking back now it really was an amazing time."

Nancy currently lives in Nashville with her husband, Eddie. She maintains a photography studio where she has done fashion spreads for Twang Magazine in which she assisted in breaking the stereo type of country music.



Nancy as a model

"I wanted to move away from the sequins and fringe and put a Vanity Fair spin on it," Nancy said. In addition to her work for Twang Magazine Nancy does photography shoots for adver-



Nancy and Ringo attending the premiere of The Who's, Tommy.

tising agencies, promotional photography for major labels and CD packages. She has worked with Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Dwight Yoakum and Tanya Tucker which is only a fraction of the list.

In addition to her professional studio work and promoting "A Dose of Rock n' Roll" Nancy is also working on a book about her younger brother, James. "It's called "Carny Boy," Nancy said. "My brother left home at age 13 to join the carnival. Its a coming of age story."

When asked about her thoughts on photography Nancy said, "Photography means the world to me. I like to bring out the person or have the person let me in. I love what I do. I am incredibly happy." That is just what her book has done as people will see where a dose of her subjects have been brought out and a dose of her subjects have let her in stirred with some rock and roll for good measure.

For more information on Nancy Lee Andrews and A Dose of Rock n' Roll please visit: www.nancyleeandrews.com www.adoseofrocknroll.com

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