

TIME won't et ME

By Helen Marketti

After talking with Don King, there is a sense of thoughtful detail as he talks about his brother, the late Tom King of The Outsiders. As he shares a few stories about Tom, the love for music is one of the common threads between them.

In addition, Don is working on his own production company as well as a very large multimedia project.

Don King has studied Egyptology for his entire life. "Growing up, we lived across the street from the Cleveland Art Museum. I spent a lot of time there. The entire Egyptian culture fascinated me," said Don. "I have been to Egypt. I can read, write and speak ancient Egyptian and Arabic."

"On Friday, September 30, I have a huge event that will be taking place. I am doing a slide presentation and photography exhibit about Egypt. There will be music with dancing girls in Egyptian costumes. There will be Egyptian food, poetry readings and people who attend have the option of wearing Egyptian costumes. My presentation will be, "What Do the Pyramids Mean?" It will take place at the Unity Spiritual Center at 7:30 pm. It's located at Clauge and Detroit Road in Westlake."

In addition to working on his photography project, Don is working on getting his production company off the ground. "What I have found is that it's tough to get your name out there as a musician," said Don. "Many bands can't afford videos, business cards or brochures, things like that. As with most things in life, you need the funding to get things going. I hope to activate my production company soon. Right now, it is on the back burner. I have many professional contacts for photogra-

phers, skilled videographers, you name it."

Don continues, "It's really difficult to get air play on a radio station. It's all very mechanical and corporate. You can't even get your foot in the door. Most stations are not



Outsiders at Cleveland recording studio

interested in playing any of the music from local area groups because they already have their own format. I feel I have a lot of expertise in the business because I have been

in it for most of my life. I have nothing but empathy for musicians today who are trying to get somewhere."

"This economy and corporate radio stations are killing the music business. I've been thinking about an on-line TV production company since the internet is so popular. Internet seems to be the way to go." Don is currently working with his nephew Kevin King (Tom's son) to create an internet radio-TV program.

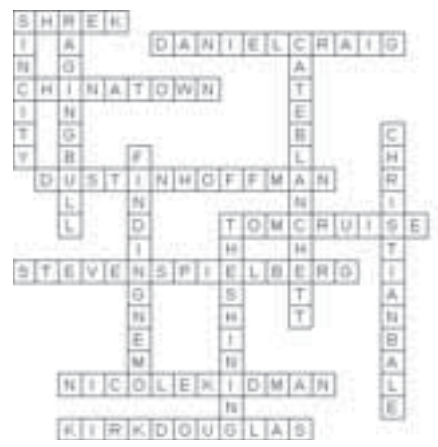
Shifting gears to talk about his brother, the late Tom King of The Outsiders, Don is eager to share his thoughts. "The story of The Outsiders has many emotions that intertwine together," said Don. "Tom didn't play the guitar at first, he liked the saxophone. He liked Rudy who was the sax player for Bill Haley and The Comets. After I learned to play guitar to impress a girl I liked, then I got Tom interested in the guitar, too. I taught him how to play. You can compose better using a guitar than a saxophone. Tom took to the guitar like a fish to water. He wasn't necessarily a killer lead guitarist but he had killer ideas for song writing and music."

"Tom always had music running in his

blood," said Don. "He did things musically that were unique and beautiful. He was a genius yet temperamental. He got things done as he wanted."

"For "Time Won't Let Me", Tom had the riff written before he even wrote the song," remembers Don. "In fact, I remember the recording session for the song. One of the guy's mothers gave the money for the band to be able to record it. We went to Cleveland Recording Studio. At the time, however the band was called, Tom King and The Starfires. Tom wanted to have the brass section in the song because he loved that sound. It took over twelve hours of recording and when everyone listened to the last take, many had tears in their eyes because you knew that this was going to be a hit. One day you're a nobody and the next day you're on the music charts. "Time Won't Let Me" has received more than four million airplays. When the band went out to Los Angeles to the Capitol Records building, it was the wife of one of the record agents who said, "Call them The Outsiders!" and that's how the band was named as the story goes. My brother was more interested in music than anything else."

Don King is on Facebook.
Tom King and The Outsiders are on Facebook.



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