

# NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

By Helen Marketti

## Jeanne Rose

Fashion designer for rock bands during the late 60s shares her love of music and fashion.

Jeanne Rose's fashions have been written about in *Cosmopolitan*, *Women's Wear Daily* and *The Village Voice* to name a few. Her beautiful clothing designs have been in shops, boutiques and worn by very famous musicians from bands such as Jefferson Airplane, Big Brother and The Holding Company and The Rascals, which was only the beginning.

"I consider myself an academic enthusiast. I went to graduate school to study Marine Biology.

After graduation I moved to Big Sur (California)," explains Jeanne. "I was caretaking a beautiful piece of property that was called the Sun Gallery. The have plumbing fifty miles from started making my a treadle sewing have. Someone made for my started being for musicians. I as costumes but my clothes in art shows all had taken more wearing my but I didn't think

Jeanne making clothes for bands and men. "It's easier to design for men because they have simpler shapes," laughs Jeanne. "Jorma Kaukonen from Jefferson Airplane had broad shoulders, narrow hips and plus he was around 5'11" so he wore clothes beautifully. He also had an elegance about him. I liked making clothes out of natural fabrics. I usually made whatever I wanted for the guys. Sometimes they would call me and say, 'I want a new shirt' but I would figure out what I would like to make. My favorite bands to make clothes for were Jefferson Airplane, The Rascals and the Charles Lloyd Band. It was fun working with them because they never told you what to do; you were able to design what you wanted. I also made a lot of clothes for Felix Cavaliere of The Rascals and for bass player Ron McClure of the Charles Lloyd Band. I sometimes traveled with the bands



Jeanne (1976)



Jeanne (left) and Janis Joplin (wearing cape) on right. (1967)

place I lived in did not or electricity and was the nearest town. I daughter's clothes on machine, which I still saw the clothes I had daughter and then I asked to make clothes never considered my work rather clothing. I have several high-end wearable over the country. I wish I photographs of people about it at the time." enjoyed designing and mostly made clothes for

but not too often. You have to remember, I had a young daughter to take care of so I couldn't keep rock and roll hours. You can't stay up until 3:00 am and sleep all day when you have a child. These days, I still keep in touch with Jorma and Ron. I have known them for more than forty-five years!"

Jeanne's designs for women were not as many although she did create a few fashions for Janis Joplin and Grace Slick. She also made curtains for Joan Baez who asked Jeanne to make them for her in 1969.

"In those early days, if bands "found" you, they did not want anyone else to "have" you, so to speak. Jefferson Airplane kept me busy for a couple of years designing fashions. My era for design was from 1965 until around 1971. It was short, sweet and right at the best of times then I dropped out of the scene and got married," recalls Jeanne.

However, during this time Jeanne's shift in careers seemed to come at a perfect time. "My parents came from out of the country and I was a first generation American. We used many easy and simple remedies. I always was involved with working with

herbal remedies even when I was designing clothes," said Jeanne. "I had been interviewed by *The Village Voice* in regards to my rock and roll fashions when the interviewer noticed the bottles of my herbal remedies on the shelf and inquired. I said that they were my secret healing remedies. The *Village Voice* ended up writing half of the article on my rock and roll clothing and the other half about my herbal remedies. A few weeks after the article was printed I received a phone call from a publisher who asked me if I had enough material on herbal remedies to write a book and I always answer those questions with an enthusiastic "Yes!" (*laughs*) The book took off and that is when I started focusing on herbs and scents. I now write books about aromatherapy and teach perfumery classes. I have been doing this since 1969."

Jeanne admits that she made the right decision for herself because she could not keep up with the rock and roll lifestyle, even though her fashion designs were in demand. "The sixties generation is still my favorite. I still enjoy listening to those songs on the radio. For one, you can understand the words. I think lot of the music now has sloppy curses and seems vulgar. In those early days, rock and roll music was actually music."

For more information about Jeanne and her aromatherapy books and classes, please visit: [www.jeannerose.net](http://www.jeannerose.net)



Grace Slick (Jefferson Airplane, 1969)