

Robbie Dupree is Feelin' Lucky

By Helen Marketti

During the 80s, singer Robbie Dupree had hits on the charts that many will remember. His signature hits, *Steal Away*, *Hot Rod Hearts* and *Girls in Cars*, which

by the way *Girls in Cars* was also used as entrance music for two WWF wrestlers at the time. Now after nearly thirty years, his music is still generating interest to those who remember him and to a new generation of fans.

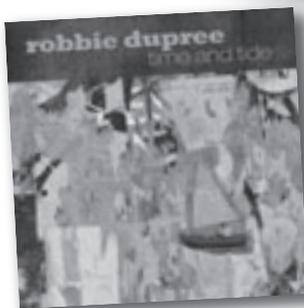
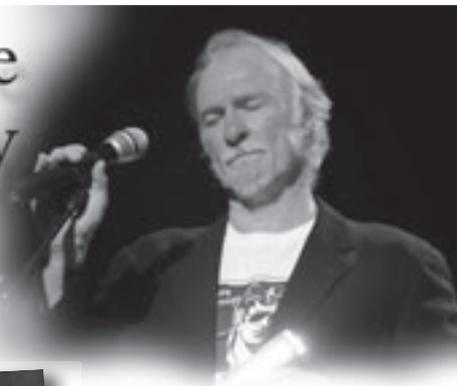
Robbie is grateful for the path he has chosen and has definite thoughts on how he would like to see it continue. His latest CD, *Time and Tide* (Spectra Records) is now circulating through the music circuit and one of its songs, *Lucky* sums up how he is feeling these days.

"Lucky is a thumbnail sketch of my life," said Robbie. "It's a short song to sum up a forty year career."

Robbie explains how he decided on the title *Time and Tide* for his CD. "The actual expression is, 'time and tide waits for no man,' and how appropriate that is. Originally it was the name of a song on the album but it turned out not to be. I felt it was an appropriate title for me at this point in my life. It's hard to come up with a title for an album. I don't try to be clever with my songs but I don't try to be so obvious that it clunks you over the head with every little detail. Sometimes I am writing songs as I see other people, as a spectator and relating my material to what someone else may be going through."

"I would like to do albums more often but there is that fear of duplicating yourself. You need to put some living time in between records. I think there needs to be a creative distance between each of your record releases. It takes time to put an album together. With *Time and Tide*, I felt there were enough topics and living life that was done in between the records. It made more sense to me to do it that way."

Earlier this year, Robbie appeared on the Jimmy Fallon Show, which caused a stir toward jump-starting his public image once again. "I came back from Italy last November and started getting emails from fans and friends who were telling me to get the latest issue of Rolling Stone Magazine at the time that had Bono, Jagger and Springsteen on the cover," recalls Robbie. "They went on to tell me that there was an article about Jimmy Fallon that I had to see so I went out and got the magazine. The article talked about his show and his musical tastes. Jimmy Fallon was asked who he hasn't had on his show yet but would like to and responded with he wanted to get Robbie Dupree to sing *Steal Away*. This was crazy; I couldn't believe it and I didn't



even know Jimmy Fallon personally. I called my agent to get in touch with Jimmy Fallon's show. It took months to get the schedules together but we finally did it and that's how it all happened. Out of all the people he could have chosen or talked about, he picked me. It opened up a lot of doors being on a show like that."

A tour is in the works for the fall of this year, beginning in Japan and then having state side dates. Robbie prefers not to have an opening act for his shows. "I would rather do a long show instead. Sometimes, I will bring in a guest to play with us. I have attended concerts where the opening acts had really nothing to do with the main act and I have never cared for that."

Looking back over a career that has lasted over thirty years, Robbie said, "If people liked my work back then, they will like what I am doing now. This means I am still relevant and that's what I want to do. I don't want to dye my hair and come up with a different version of *Steal Away* thirty years later. I still have to play that song every night but I go by the old saying, 'Dance with the one that brought you.' If it weren't for those hits, *Steal Away* and *Hot Rod Hearts*, I would have been out of this business long ago. You need something like that to happen in your music career to sustain you."

"I think the internet is a great tool. It's like a storefront to the world. You can type in a band's name or certain artist and find out in moments what they are doing now. Before the internet, you wouldn't be able to access that kind of information. I get emails from people all the time who have found out what I have been doing and they are so glad to see I am still involved with music. That is really heartening to me; that's why I do what I do."

He continues, "By the early 80s, my stuff became pop music but eventually I matured and more records came out but the style of my music changed, too. You can't keep writing about girls riding in cars any more especially if you stay in this business long enough. Your role will change - something like movie actors as they change and mature so do the roles they play."

"It's flattering to have been part of that era but after time passes you view it all as music without putting it in a certain category. I view my work back then as part of my musical legacy."

For more information about Robbie Dupree and his latest CD, *Time and Tide*, please visit: www.robbedupree.com www.myspace.com/robbedupree www.spectrarecords.com



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