



.By Helen Marketti



An Interview with Garry Peterson of The Guess Who

The Guess Who had many hits that heated up the radio waves with Shakin' All Over, American Woman, No Time, These Eyes, Undun, No Sugar Tonight/New Mother Nature, Share the Land and more! Garry Peterson is the original drummer for The Guess Who and has stayed with the band during many reincarnations of bandmates. However, one certainty is the longevity of the band's music and legacy in music history.

The Guess Who will be performing at Lorain Palace Theatre on Friday, April 26th at 7:30 pm.

Garry Peterson shares his thoughts on the music of The Guess Who and the turbulent time of the 60s. "It's been a pleasure to know that I was there to help create all of that great music. I joined the band in 1962. Who could have foretold that we would be talking about this now over 60 years later? Our history is definitely well documented. The music of that era usually reflects the time period in which it was written and recorded. The Vietnam War was going on, the hippie movement, flower power plus all of the cultural and pop cultural stuff is all intertwined. We will never see an era like the 60s again. There were those that were there and those that wish they were there. With modern technology, that music can now be saved forever."

Music fans are faithful followers of bands they love. "I guess we are always looking for a perfect world. Art reflects life. Music is art. Every

age has that connection between the people and the music being written," said Garry. "It's similar to records. We put the records out and they belong to the band but there is another group of people who own the music and that is the fans. The fans bring the music into their homes, into their cars and into their lives. When a band has a long history, the fans are part of that legacy. The fans are the ones who bought the records and without the fans, a band does not become popular."

The Guess Who was from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Garry explains how the band got their name. "The name for the band was actually a promotion gimmick for our first record in 1965. The record company purposely did not put the name of the band on the record, it just said, "Guess Who"? And that was mostly because the radio stations at the time were playing music from the British Invasion bands. So, the idea was that maybe listeners would be curious about who we were and where we were from. That gimmick basically branded us as The Guess Who. We've had so many band members come and go over the years, it's an appropriate name!"

The band released a new album in August of 2023 titled, Plein D'Amour. "There are 8 songs on the album and we have a video for each one," said Garry. "We are, of course, promoting this record during the tour but we are also working on another new album."

The current line up of The Guess Who in addition to Garry on drums is Derek Sharp, singer, lead and rhythm guitar. Michael Staertow, lead guitar. Teddy Andreadis, keyboards. Greg Smith, bass. "When people come to our show, we will play the well-known hits of The Guess Who and at least 5 cuts from our new album. Our shows are a mixture of the old and the new."

After 60 years, Garry has been the common denominator as he has staved with The Guess Who in spite of all of the lineup changes over time. "You asked a great question. I am the common denominator or the catalyst. I've spent so much time doing this that I can not imagine doing anything else. I've dedicated my life to this band. I love playing music and entertaining people. When you entertain people, you are the doctor of the soul. The music means so much in people's personal lives. Music marks important events whether it's a marriage, a birth, a death, a graduation, or whatever life situation it is. Every time I go onstage, I carry in my heart my father and all of the great people who have been part of The Guess Who in some way over the last 60 years. I want to say thank you to all of The Guess Who fans. I have been with this band since the beginning. I look forward to seeing everyone and playing our music."

www.theguesswho.com www.helenrosemarketti.com www.lorainpalace.com



Garry Peterson of The Guess Who

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