

Tom Petty grows with *Wildflowers*

By Shereen Kinney

You don't know how it feels to endure the success an artist like Tom Petty has, but you can experience a fine product of his which exemplifies his great talent and mastery of creativity.

Wildflowers, the latest from Petty, could be considered a 15-track signature of the singer's self and musical expertise. From ballads to hard hitting cuts, Tom Petty hides nothing on his latest Warner Brothers release.

"Wildflowers," the first song from the album, is an uplifting piece on freedom that one should find for themselves. Whether the "you" referred to in the song is anyone in particular or not, the lyrics could be applied to any person who needs to step out of their rudimentary life and realize their own attributes. As the song goes, "run away, go find a lover. Run away, let your heart be your guide. You deserve the deepest of cover. You belong in that home by and by."

Track two from this hit by hit album should be familiar to listeners. "You don't know how it feels," gives a powerful portrayal of individuality, uniqueness, and aloneness felt in this world where no one seems to understand you. The catchy beat, harmonious harmonica, and hypnotizing guitar solos give

this song a quality all its own. A definite repeater.

"You Wreck Me," also a released single from *Wildflowers*, is certain to keep the listener tuned in for more of its same fast-paced drums and crescendos and decrescendos. If you can listen to this song without tapping your feet or playing a little on guitar or drums you'd better have your pulse checked.

On a softer note, Petty sprinkles few nice sounding ballads throughout the CD. "Only A Broken Heart," "Crawling Back To You," and "Wake Up Time," are all slower cuts that should not be missed.

There are other songs which fall somewhere between Petty's ballads and in your aces harder tracks. "Don't Fade on Me," is a perfect example of acoustic guitar performance. "To Find A Friend" combines both acoustic and electric guitar for a country-rock sound. The words give the gist of this true to life song. "And the days went by like paper in the wind. Everything changed, then changed again. It's hard to find a friend."

The list goes on and on. *Wildflowers* is quite simply good music that will someday become vintage. I suggest giving *Wildflowers* a "test drive" if you haven't already. If you liked his last album, you'll most definitely love Tom Petty's *Wildflowers*.



Tom Petty's newly released album, *Wildflowers*, is a hit. Photo by Robert Seabee.

Oliver Stone's "Nixon" due out next year

LA (AP)—Director Oliver Stone, who caused a stir in the past for his controversial handling of the assassination of President Kennedy, is responding in kind to the multiple critics taking aim at his upcoming movie "Nixon."

"The sensationalized stories on 'Nixon,' based on very early drafts of the script, totally misrepresent the film we are trying to make," said Stone, whose Academy Award-nominated "JFK" explored a conspiracy theory in the assassination of President Kennedy.

"Today's story, that we have Nixon organizing a hit squad that killed J.F.K., is ridiculous," he said Monday. "If the media will allow us to finish writing the script, then shoot and edit the movie and present it to the public, I believe that we will be able to offer our audience an exciting and sympathetic portrait of the most controversial president in our history."

Anthony Hopkins stars in the title role. Other planned casting includes Joan Allen as Pat Nixon, Paul Sorvino as Henry Kissinger and James Woods as H.R. Haldeman. The film is due to be released by the Walt Disney Co. next year.

Newsweek, Time and Weekly Variety all published stories about early drafts on the "Nixon" script, co-written by Stephen Rivele and Christopher Wilkinson.

Newsweek said the script portrays Nixon as a "pill-popping, Scotch-swilling, epithet-spewing" victim of forces ranging from the CIA to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to his own mother.

Time said the screenplay has Vice President Nixon organizing a covert plan to assassinate Fidel Castro. The rogue assassination team then may have killed John Kennedy, making Nixon somewhat complicit in Kennedy's death.

The script then allegedly has Hoover threatening to reveal Nixon's role in forming the hit squad, and Nixon himself erasing the infamous 18 1/2-minute Watergate tapes to cover up references to the assassination team.

The screenplay is prefaced by a confession that it is based partly on imagined scenes and "incomplete historical findings," according to Time magazine's March 20 issue.

"Absolute, total and utter nonsense," historian Herbert Parmet, who wrote "Richard Nixon and His America," told New York Newsday on Sunday. "I guess they waited until he died to come out with this nonsense."

Don Johnson is making a comeback

LA (AP)—Actor Don Johnson is a survivor on the comeback trail.

"I figure I've earned a little bit (of respect) just by sticking around this long and continuing to stand," Johnson said in an interview promoting his role in HBO's "In Pursuit of Honor," which was to air Saturday night.


"At this point, I attribute my career survival to attrition. I've just hung around until everyone (who wouldn't hire me) left the business," the actor said.

Johnson, who rose to fame in the TV show "Miami Vice," plays one of several Cavalry soldiers who defied Army orders to de-


stroy 4,000 horses as part of its modernization program. In June, he begins work on CBS-TV's "Off Duty."

"I'm in a place now where it's just nice to be working. That's what it's all about," said the 45-year-old Johnson. The actor smiles when he hears the word comeback. He claims he never went away.

"I saw John Travolta the other night, hosting 'Saturday Night Live,' and he was talking about this being his 500th comeback," Johnson said. "If this is a comeback, it must be around my 500th, too."



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