







INA TURNER'S STORY is clearly begging to be turned into a film

... A little girl who works the cotton fields gets discovered singing in a bar and becomes a recording star by accident. She marries the man who found her and together they go on to worldwide fame while she is idolised by the greatest rock star of the age. But as her rise to the top continues her private life falls apart. Her marriage becomes unhappy and even violent; she hits rock bottom, alone and broke. But she struggles back to the top after years of poverty and obscurity. Honest to God, it's a natural ...

She talks about a song she wrote from memories of her early days. "It's a classic now, but when I wrote it I hated that track. It drove me crazy because that guitar was the only thing on it until I did the vocal. Really and truly I just wrote how we lived. I should do some more like that."

So this is the story of how Annie-Mae Bullock, which is the name the baptist preacher gave her, grew up in Tennessee, sometime in the mid-1940s...

"Church house/Gin house . . . Schoolhouse/ Out-house . . . On Highway Number 19 . . . The people keep the city clean."

"There are still three stores in the town and a gin house. There's a church house, but only for the white people and an out-house which is basically for the poor people. In all the local communities the white people own the land and the black people work the crops. It's on Highway 19 – just a single track with a yellow line down the middle"

"Go to fields on weekdays... Go to picnic on Labour Day... Go to town on Saturday ... Go to church every Sunday."

"Every day you went to the fields, whether you were doing the corn or just the regular cultivating or picking cotton. My daddy was the caretaker on the plantation. People worked for him and he answered to the boss. But I actually worked in the fields...

"When I was a little girl I was always dancing at school picnics and Labour Day picnics. Bootsie Whitelaw was a trombone player down in Mississippi and Tennessee and when we had picnics he would always play. I was just a little girl then in third or fourth grade but I was dancing and singing with his band.

"I didn't think about what I was doing because when you're just a little Southern girl you don't know about shows and dances and all of that. You just have talent and you just sing all the time for your parents and all. I've always danced. I never had any training, I just danced. Finally I learned that there were professional dancers, so I started hiring them and learning from them. I've been on stage all my life.

"Anyway, at the weekend you'd go to the store on Saturday to buy the food for the week and every Sunday you'd go to church. And that's exactly how it was."

"Twenty-five on the speed limit . . . Motorcycles not allowed in it . . . Just a one-horse town . . . Better watch what you're putting down . . ."

"The cops were very strict. They came from Riplea and Brownsville. They would do their regular runs and if there was any trouble like motorcycles being noisy you went to jail immediately. It was so small of course word got around at once, you know: 'Oh yes, Tim Hunter got put in jail because of his bike' – everybody knew what was going on."

"Nutbush, oh Nutbush . . . Call it Nutbush City Limits."

"That was Nutbush. I got out of there pretty fast."

Annie-Mae left town with her family when she was nine and moved to Riplea, one of a ring of towns about fifty miles out of Memphis. And as she grew up she kept on singing, taking her piggy-bank into town and collecting dimes and quarters busking for the women in the shops. And all the time she was listening to the radio. "I don't remember the artists I listened to because I wasn't aware of how the radio got there or who was making the sounds. My people weren't musicians, they were farmers — they didn't know about recording and all of that. The songs were just there.

"I guess I was listening to country n'western and R&B, although that was still the blues then. My father's mother was a churchwoman, so that was the Baptist side and my mother's mother was Indian, so her music was a little bit different."

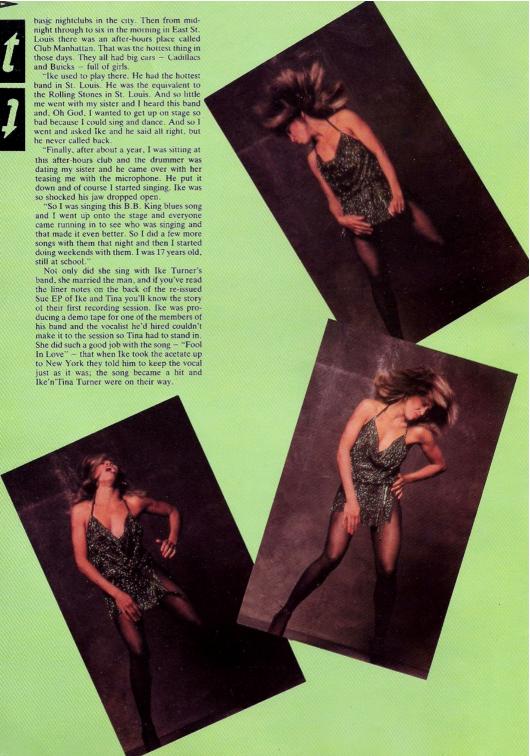
At school she sang in the choir and in class talent shows, where the teachers made her sing ballads and opera. Give Annie any kind of song and she'd sing it for you. "I liked them all, 'cept I liked the low-down dirty ones the best. All those really bluesy, naughty ones. I could see the women poppin' their fingers and dancin' along."

While she was still in her early teens her parents split up and Annie-Mae lett with her mother for St. Louis, Missouri, which is where she found fame, fortune and a new name. But let her tell that story . . .

"My sister was already going to clubs, but I had to dress up older to get in. There were white teenage clubs from seven to nine, and then from nine to midnight there were the

t





More than 20 years later, incidentally, she still knows how to get to work in a recording studio. This is Martin Ware of Heaven 17 on her version of "Let's Stay Together": "She came to us and asked whether we would write a single for her because she'd liked working with us on 'Music Of Quality And Distinction'.

"We said yes and then realised that we wouldn't have time to write anything properly, so we ended up doing a cover of Al Green's song. She was brilliant, astonishing to work with. Totally professional — a different class to anything we're involved with at the moment. Every note she sang was as it should be. We usually have to go through stuff endlessly, correcting it note by note, but she just seems to know exactly what is needed and does it. We got it in the first or second take. We did three or four just for luck, but they were all brilliant."



It's almost crass, it's very nearly kitsch, but somehow it seems to work. And all sorts of spotty white boys sitting in London and gazing wistfully into the mirror listened to her and loved her and almost wished that they could be her, because what is a Jagger or a Stewart if not a would-be Tina Turner?

Tina doesn't put it quite like that, of course. She puts it down to the attraction of opposites. "My idea of British people is that they're very correct and hold in a lot, and a lot of what they're holding back is what we put into our music. They tap into what we do because they have so much that they suppress. Black people have so much pain from being black and going through what we suffered; that's soul, and when we sing it's like a lot of those emotions escaping. Maybe that's the connection. I'm sure it would take a psychologist to analyse it properly."

t 1

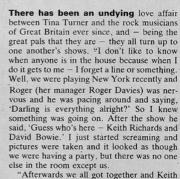




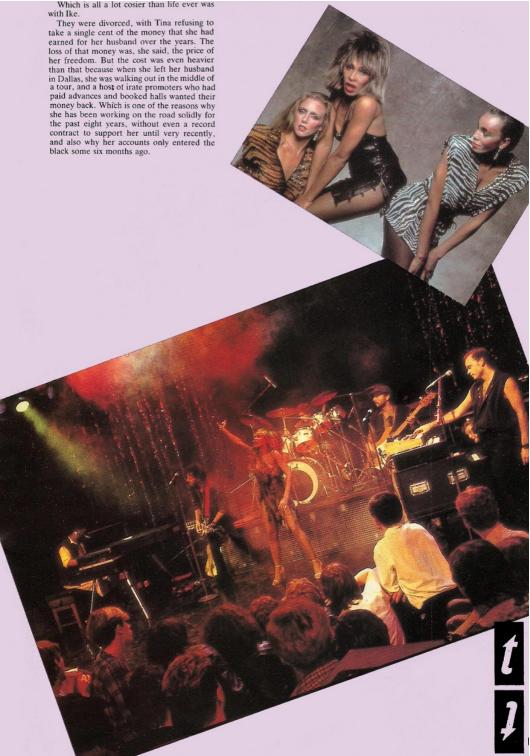
Whatever the connection, the fact is that, following the success of the Phil Spector-produced "River Deep Mountain High" in Europe (but not in America, where Tina has always had a hard time making the white charts), the Rolling Stones hired her and Ike for their 1969 American tour. All of a sudden their audience was white, longhaired and stoned, "What they got," Tina remembers, "Wasn't a River Deep-type performance. It was like — 'What is that?!?!' There were girls flying and you could see the top of our stockings and our garter belts and everybody went 'Whoo — hoo!' They didn't know what it was, but they liked it."

So did Jagger, who took the opportunity for a good, long look at the way that Tina danced. "People put labels on things," says Tina, "But I don't think he copied. I just think he was intrigued by our dancing because at the start of his career he didn't move, he just beat his tambourine, but he probably always wanted to dance. When we were touring he'd ask, 'How do your girls dance?' Now he's doing it and he's doing it his way. It's not a copy. It's like if I see a ballerina, I take from her. I can't do it like her, but I take what I want."

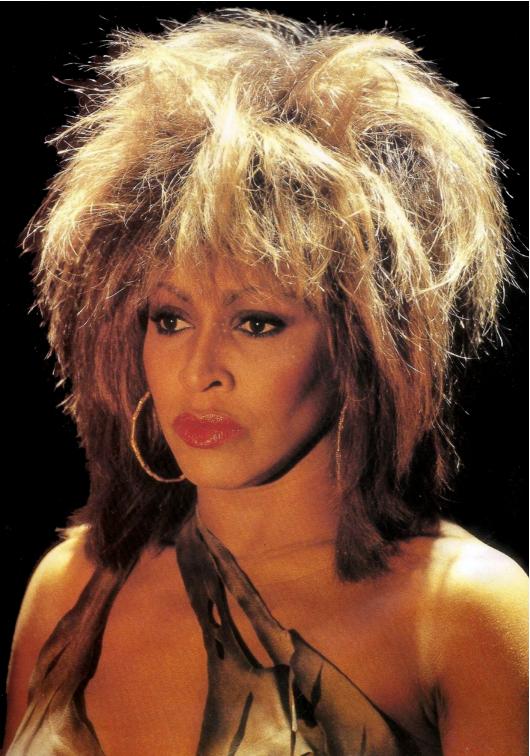




"Afterwards we all got together and Keith played the piano and we pulled out some songs and Ronnie Wood came by and played guitar. Keith kept saying, 'I'll find you a hit—we've got thousands of tracks we've never used. Do you want to come to Paris tomorrow—we'll cut some tracks?' I said, 'Keith, we're in the middle of a tour,' but he just went, 'Come on over anyway—no one will mind'."







Management: Roger Davies, Roger Davies Management Inc., 3575 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Suite 580, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. USA. Telex:- 662520. Personal Manager: Chip Lightman. Sound Equipment — Concert Sound Ltd. Crew: Adrian Fitzpatrick/Rory Madden. Sound Engineer:-Charlie Coulter. Lighting:-Lighting Equipment: - Supermick L Crew: - Glen Power/Roy Davidson. Chris Dale. Wardrobe:-Kathie Lightman. Backline Equipment:-The Music Bank Ltd Crew:-Ross Laing. Business Manager: Len Freedman, Jess S. Morgan & Co. Busses by:- Len Wright Travel Ltd., Drivers:- Micky Dean/Tony Grieve. Kenny Moore - Pianist & Lead Vocals. James Ralston — Frankt & Lead Vocals.
James Ralston — Lead Guitar.
Jack Bruno — Drums.
Bob Feit — Bass Guitar.
Chuck O'Steen — Keyboards & Vocals. Catering by:- Vitamin C. Catering Ltd. Crew:- Moyra Dunn/Trudy Thorogood SINGER/DANCERS: Lejeune Richardson. Ann Behringer. Tour Merchandising:-Adrian Hopkins Merchandising. Additional items available from:-126 Wigmore Street, London W1. RECORD COMPANY: CAPITOL RECORDS/EMI Peter Jamieson. David Hughes. Charles Webster. Jane Evans. Debbie Bennett. Steve McCaughley. Karen Thorpe. CAPITOL INTERNATIONAL: Harriet Brand. Lothar Meinerzhagen. Heinz Henn. Julie Pratt. Jackie Reeves. Programme Design:-Roger Davies Management/ Marshall Arts/Ray Mack. **European Tour Promotion:** Marshall Arts Limited Leeder House, 6 Erskine Road, London NW3. Clive R. Dunn — Tour Co-ordination.
Doris Dixon — Accounting.
Penny Anderson — Accounting.
Gill Trodd — Promotions.
Ray Edwards — Public Relations.
Alan Morris — Concert Co-ordination Joanne Howley — Assistant. Steve Hickey. Chris Norman Overall Co-ordination: Barrie & Jenny Man

