

Rock & Roll



I FEEL LOVE
Summer
onstage in
1978.

1948-2012

Donna Summer

Disco's greatest diva - and defining voice of the era - dies at 63
By Rob Tannenbaum

DONNA SUMMER, WHO topped dance, rock and R&B charts with some of the biggest hits of the Seventies and early Eighties, died of lung cancer on May 17th, 2012, at her home in Naples, Florida. She was 63.

Starting with 1975's "Love to Love You Baby," Summer became the defining voice of the disco era. She won five Grammys, and became a superstar with a string of hits including the proto-techno classic "I Feel Love" and four Number One smashes: "MacArthur Park," "Hot Stuff," "Bad Girls" and "No More Tears (Enough Is

Enough)." Summer was known as the "Queen of Disco," but her music ranged much farther - through rock, New Wave, R&B and gospel. "She was a very astute woman," says soul singer Chaka Khan. "I used to hate dance music, but I was im-

"She championed women and empowered chicks," says Chaka Khan.

pressed by what she sang about, how she championed women and empowered chicks."

Summer was born LaDonna Adrian Gaines, one of seven children in a Boston working-class family with "deep spiritual roots," as she wrote in

her 2003 memoir, *Ordinary Girl*. Her grandfather was a preacher, and Summer's parents were strict: "God forbid we did anything vulgar." Her father spanked her for using red nail polish, which, he told her, only prostitutes wore.

She sang in a gospel choir, trained in musical theater and traveled to Germany to appear in a production of *Hair*. While living in Munich, she married Austrian actor Helmuth Sommer, whose surname she adapted. Working with producer Giorgio Moroder, Summer cut the erotic "Love to Love You Baby," approaching the song "like an actress." She imagined herself as Marilyn Monroe, softly cooing lyrics like "Do it to me again and again." "My acting was done [Cont. on 18]

Stones Gather to Plot 50th Bash

Inside the New York rehearsals for potential 2012 gig
By Patrick Doyle

THE ROLLING STONES are strongly considering at least one live concert later this year to mark their 50th anniversary, Stones insiders tell *ROLLING STONE*. Sources add that the band is still considering a tour in 2013. "It looks like we are going to be doing more stuff," guitarist Ronnie Wood said recently at a U.K. awards show. "I am keeping October and November free - that's what I've been told." Adds Keith Richards, "We're open for anything. It all seems that things are moving forward."

The Stones began exploring possible options for their anniversary at a brief, informal jam session in London last December. Earlier this month, the band members gathered in New York for a full week of rehearsals - their first time playing together at such length since the final night of the marathon *Bigger Bang* tour at London's O2 arena in August 2007. "It was fantastic," Richards says of the New York rehearsals. "We played everything. Charlie Watts and the band were in top form. I realized it had been five years!"

After several days in New York, the Stones continued working across the Hudson River in Weehawken,

