

ENTERTAINMENT

THE SUPREMES... Knockin' 'Em Out With Class

The Supremes are of the few "pure breed" of superstars to have mushroomed from a turbulent music era that earmarks the Beatles phenomena, and the popularization of contemporary pop music in America in the 1960's.

Not expectantly, and peculiarly, three young Black girls from Detroit -- and almost suddenly, became the number one female group in the world.

While most groups became philosophers, rebellious or futuristic, joining the avant-garde, and politically and socially underlining their music, Motown's Supremes maintained their singular image.

Realizing its longevity, along with musical flexibility, the formula for success remains unilted; knock 'em dead with sophistication, class, elegance, unquestionable vocal talent, charisma, and stage presence.

Today, the Supremes are Mary Wilson, Scherrie Payne, and Susaye Green, a trio that more than personifies the awe and wordly recognition initially established by the originals, Diana Ross, Mary Wilson, and the late Florence Ballard.

They have just released their second album (at the current line-up) "Mary, Scherrie, Susaye," reteaming them with the timeless artistry of Eddie and Brian Holland, writers and producers of their last album, "High Energy," and over 17 hits which lace the Supremes stellar career.

After capturing a revitalized and fully energized sound on "High

Energy," the Hollands have presented the Supremes in a refreshing and primarily up-tempo setting -- right in the heat of the disco pulse; which has become a desirable focal point for most R&B and pop artists.

"You're My Driving Wheel," the Supremes' first single to be taken from the album, has all the buttressing bass and pounding rhythm to lure the disco dancers, and features Scherrie Payne's potent vocals.

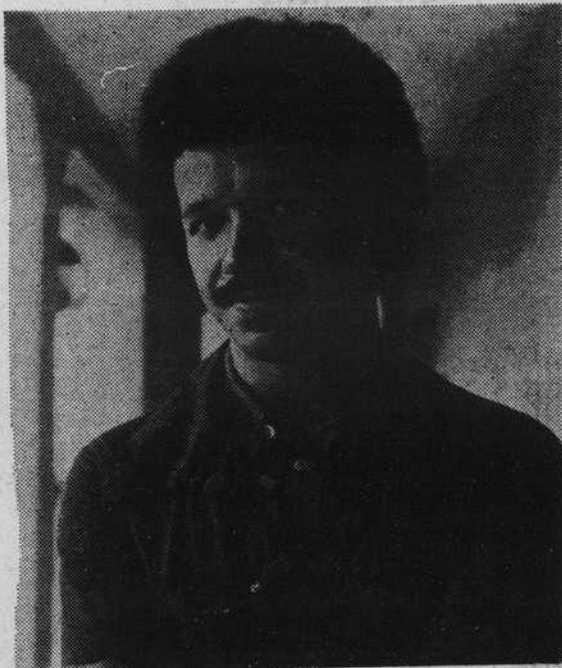
Yet, to the Supremes' Mary Wilson, the disco sound is limiting, "We like to do all sorts of music, ballads, theatrical songs, and funky things as well."

"Some of the tunes on the album are very danceable, but we didn't actually decide to do disco music. We just perform what we like to do, and then let the people decide what they want to call it."

Unique to the Supremes of today, is the absence of the frontal effect (Diana Ross & The Supremes), replaced, in essence, by three solo artists.

Says Susaye Green, "Most female groups (and male) have a lead singer, but we don't. We are three differently talented individuals, and we allow audiences a chance to experience each of us separately, as well as a group."

The Supremes are heading for their 16th year in the entertainment business, and there's a feeling in the air, that Mary, Scherrie and Susaye are more than ready, for the supreme years ahead.



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