

BIOGRAPHY

Caroline Henderson

Every ending is a new beginning

In the late 1950s a young Scandinavian beauty queen was elected Miss Lucia in Stockholm. The young woman was Caroline Henderson's mother. Only a few years later, she offered her nice, traditional upper middleclass family the ultimate of provocations by becoming pregnant with Caroline's father Rudy, a black American jazz musician, who had a way with women. And so, in 1962 Caroline was born in happy ignorance into a world of political instability...

New York

Miss Lucia, now turned mother, whose wealthy home and decent upbringing had not prepared her for the evils of the world, saw no reason for concern when she left her extremely well dressed daughter in the care of two sweet and somewhat older girls at her hotel in New York, while she ran a few errands. However, this was probably the most well dressed three year old, the two girls had ever seen, and when Gunilla returned from her short absence, she found Caroline stripped of not only bracelets and necklaces, but clothes and shoes as well. A hard start in life: mugged and left in nothing but a diaper at the tender age of three!

When Caroline began attending school in Philadelphia toward the end of the '60s, segregation was theoretically part of a sordid past, but the problem of racial affiliation was still a highly practical problem. She was mobbed for her light complexion, and the other children threatened to cut off her hair on account of her white mother, whose skin color evoked memories of oppression and exploitation among Afro-Americans. In this setting, young Caroline learned to use her fists, and she learned to run. She became a fast runner, winning a junior championship in the 80-yard distance – and she learned to fight. That was the only way out for a child caught in the middle of an incomprehensible tempest. It was a relief when her parents enrolled her in a multi-ethnic school.

1970

Caroline moved to Paris' 16th arrondissement with her mother and brother. She attended a French girls school along with the daughters of diplomats and local socialites. It was a new world for eight-year old Caroline. She was surrounded by the sound of many different languages, and although her knowledge of Swedish culture was extremely limited, she was soon referred to as "the Swede". She felt as if she had been released from a war zone and set in age-old Europe, where education and good manners prevailed.

1971

When Caroline and her mother and younger brother returned to Sweden the following year, the transition was not easy. In France and USA her ethnic background made her one of many, whereas Sweden felt lonely, because she and her brother were part of an extremely small brown minority. She spent her days wallowing in music and training sports. For a short while she thought her calling was as a circus princess, but other than that she never wavered from a career in music, song and theatre. She started on her own right after ninth grade, tackling one of the most difficult disciplines of all: jazz. She performed publicly, singing "I've Got Rhythm", "The Man I Love" and "Don't Explain". She sang backing vocals in various groups: "Modern Sound Corporation" and "Rockamöllan", and started her own band, "Taxi", which toured Europe. She did modeling on the side.

1982

At the age of twenty, Caroline decided to hone her skills in USA. The first stop on her trip was a visit in Copenhagen to see her brother and pick up the airline ticket her father had promised her. However, the ticket never showed up, and rather than make the long haul back to Stockholm, she decided to find a job in Copenhagen and finance the trip herself. Someone told her that a theatre was looking for black dancers and extras for an upcoming show. Although she arrived a month after the auditions, Caroline held a touching speech about how well she sang, danced and acted, and about how it came about that she was stranded in Copenhagen.

The director had the extras he needed, but gave her a role anyway.

1989

Several years later Caroline Henderson was still in Denmark. She was divorced from the father of her two children, and her suitcase was still packed. She recognized the strange sensation of déjà vu, repeating the story of her own parents. Instead, she took on the role as half of the vocal duo fronting a new band, Ray Dee Ohh.

Following countless tours and record sales in the hundreds of thousands, Caroline left the band for a solo career. In 1995 her first solo release “Cinematatic” brought bouquets of roses from the reviewers. The pop vocalist had shaved her head, found her own footing, and sang away any doubts about her talent with the hit “Made In Europe”. At that year’s Danish Music Awards she took all the awards available, making the long walk up to the stage no less than seven times.

“Metamorphing” followed in 1998, and in 2000 Caroline changed direction once again, launching her alter ego, Dolores, who appears on the disco offering, “Dolores J – The Butterfly.

NAOS 2002

Caroline’s personal life was turbulent, and resulted in an intense musical universe. In many ways, NAOS was the end of a part of her life, a departure from the feeling of always being on the move with a packed suitcase within reach at all times.

2003

Caroline Henderson’s third son, Loui, was born, and Caroline began her affiliation with the jazz label Stunt Records. In November 2003 “Don’t Explain” was released. A back-to-basics album in a minimalistic production, it warmed the hearts of critics at home and abroad, and again the vocalist was rewarded with rave reviews. Henderson continued working in theatre and movie productions, but she has never appeared on a quiz show.

2004

Half a life separates the 17-year old Caroline who walked on stage in Stockholm, and the mature artist who released “Made In Europe” in November. The album featured The Danish Radio Orchestra on several tracks with arrangements by the legendary American Butch Lacy, a long-term Danish resident. “Made In Denmark” was released to a spectacular reception.

All I know for sure is

We’re all made of the same flesh and blood

Just happened to be Made In Europe

(Cinematatic, 1996)

2005

“Made In Europe” is released in Sweden, Norway, Poland, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, USA and Canada. In July Japanese Columbia releases the album in Japan, which results in two trips to Japan that year with concerts and promotion work.

The year yields steady concert work, adding up to a total of more than 50 concerts. A few of the highlights were at the legendary jazz club Café Central in Madrid, and opening the Copenhagen Jazz Festival for the second consecutive year on the outdoor stage in Copenhagen’s Tivoli Gardens. There was also a successful tour of Poland and a set of concerts with Odense’s Symphony Orchestra in November.

February-May Caroline played the leading role as the wicked step-mother in “Snow White” at Folketeatret in Copenhagen.

In October Caroline enjoyed working with directors Wikke & Rasmussen on a small, but extremely entertaining role as “Snow White” - a car mechanic - in their new movie “Der var engang en dreng” (Once Upon a Time There was a Boy) to be released October 13, 2006.

In November Caroline’s father, jazz musician Rudy Henderson died in New York.

In December Caroline brought together her steady band and began recording her new album “Love or Nothin’” in the woods of Skåne.

2006

Something unexpected and exciting happened when the Spanish director Manuel Lombardero contacted Caroline offering her the role as Gloria Cole in his next movie “Todos Amamos a Gloria Cole” (We All Love Gloria Cole). Following a successful casting and the initial shock when discovering that Gloria Cole was to be filmed in Spanish, a language Caroline did not speak, she accepted the part. After a few months of language school, the filming was done in Barcelona in April. The expected release in most of Southern Europe and South America is this autumn. The movie was invited to be shown at the Copenhagen Film Festival in August 2006.

In the movie Gloria Cole is a singer, hence the soundtrack from “Todos Amamos a Gloria Cole” is expected to be released simultaneously with the movie in Spain. For more information please see www.todosamosagloriacole.com

“LOVE OR NOTHIN’” was released in April in Japan on Columbia Records.

In May, Caroline and her band completed another tour of Poland including four sold-out concerts in Warsaw and Poznan.

“LOVE OR NOTHIN’” will be released in Denmark September 5 on STUNT Records.

*Falling in love again
Never wanted to
What am I to do
I can't help it
This is what I can say
The only thing I know
I have nothing more
Love or nothing*

(Marlene Dietrich from the movie Blue Angel, 1930)

Freiheit / Stunt Records 2006

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