

Entertainment Wonder Woman



Elliott Lefko

Wisdom can come in many different packages. When Wayne County belts out the above lines in a smoky nightclub in the early hours of the morning there is something going down that is hard to turn away from. Dressed in mini-skirt and long blonde wig County shouts her pronouncements loud and clear. A complete transsexual, County is an erupting volcano of courage and verve. Like the very best of rock and roll she takes you to the farthest edge and pushes you off.

Born in the deep south—Dallas, Georgia—Wayne's early musical influences were gospel, country and western, and rock and roll.

"The churches were as crazy as rock 'n' roll shows," she recalls. "My grandmother's house was just around the corner from a Holy Roller church, and we'd sit out on the porch listening to them shout and hallelujah and praise the lord, and every once in a while—Crash—a Bible would come smashing through the window. People'd really get nuts."

County's background has included working for David Bowie's Mainman organization, writing a rock musical, **World: The Castration of Man**, and working on Andy Warhol's first play, **Pork**.

The next stage of her career was broadcast coast to coast in the hit single **Walk On The Wild Side**.

For the last few years County has been touring and recording with a band called The Electric Chairs. The band, as seen by its recent Toronto appearance at

the Edge last year, is the most energetic, hard-hitting band this side of the 1969 Stones.

A few years ago the mere mention of the name Wayne County was enough to send people running for the doors. Yet with the advancement of new wave, County has finally begun to find a home. A Toronto based label, Attic Records, has picked up County's North American distributorship. Two albums, **Man Enough to be a Woman** and **Things Your Mother Never Told You** are now available in record stores and are a good indication of what County is presently up to. She is also exploring possible film roles.

After watching County's cute stage mannerisms I ventured comparison to Debbie Harry of Blondie. County looked startled. "She is so la, la, la. I remember when Blondie first began playing there were three people in the audience. They would fall apart on stage. Sloppy wasn't the word. They stood and wondered what was going on. The audience didn't know if they would make it to the end of the song."

County's strength runs deep. Her blood is hot. In one song, **Storm The Gates Of Heaven**, County gives the finger to death. And of her signature song **Fuck Off** she declares, "They'll be wheeling me out in a wheelchair when I'm eighty and I'll be singing If you don't wanna fuck me baby, baby fuck off. They ain't never getting rid of me, you know what I mean?"

Wayne County and the Electric Chairs will be appearing at The Edge (Church and Gerrard) this Friday and Saturday.

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