

# ChronLife

IT'S NOT JUST NEWS, IT'S



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**Cyndi Lauper** takes a Detour to Newcastle City Hall

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# What's On

1985



CYNDI LAUPER IS AT NEWCASTLE CITY HALL ON SATURDAY BEFORE HER GLASTONBURY PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY. SHE ANSWERS SOME QUESTIONS POSED TO HER BY WHAT'S ON EDITOR GORDON BARR

*It's 21 years since you played Newcastle, Cyndi. I remember the City Hall gig well and you took time out to tell us that earlier that day you had heard news that the woman who encouraged you to sing had passed away. Your connection with the audience is always second to none, and your chats are very much a part of the show. Do you take every gig just as it comes and go with the flow?*

Really? That long! Well, then this concert is way overdue. How did that happen? Time goes way too fast. I think it's very important to connect with the audience. I mean we came together right on this night to connect. So I try and give them what they want. Sometimes they want me to talk and sometimes they don't. So I totally let them guide me. But it's important that it feels like "we" are having a good show and not "me". I mean, people spend their hard-earned money to come to my show. I try and give 100% to say thank you for that. Let's have a party!

*What can we expect at the Newcastle gig? A good mix of old and new?*

Absolutely, I always do the songs that fans want to hear. It would be very silly not to sing Girls Just Want To have Fun or True Colors or Time After Time, you know? So I do my hits and I do some songs from the new CD and I do a few old songs that people have not heard in a while. It's a very good mix of it all, I think, but there's definitely a lot of old. I think it's important to give fans what they want and I still love all of these songs.

*Having seen you live on numerous occasions, I always love how you put added twists into the 'classics'. I saw you in Glasgow on the Memphis Blues tour and your merging of Time After Time with Wild Mountain Thyme was genius. I imagine, as a musician, it's those things that keep everything fresh for you?*

I just love music you know. So live, we just try and follow our hearts and usually that makes for a really good show.

*Is there a set list or do you enjoy mixing it up? When I listen to Detour, it brings back memories of Blue Angel. How about I Had A Love for Newcastle?? One of your earliest but still one of my all-time favourites.*

Mostly we stick to a similar set list, but the band and I have worked out a bunch of extra songs that we change up the set list with. But there is a common set list every night, just a few twists and turns in there so again we can follow the mood of crowd.

*Three weeks after your Newcastle show, we have our Pride weekend here. As an advocate for equal rights (your work is inspiring) do you have a message for the Newcastle LGBT community?*



1995

Love yourself. Be Who you Wanna Be. Do not let anyone make you feel bad about being YOU. You are loved!

*Congratulations on Detour. Cracking set of songs. How difficult was it choosing which covers to do?*

It was, because there are so many great country classics. I did a lot of research and listened to thousands of songs. A lot of people sent me songs to consider. My manager Lisa, my friends, the label team - I just loved listening to music, so it was not much of a hardship, but choosing was very hard. I just went for long walks and played music and got home and blasted music. It was a lot of fun. I knew I wanted to choose songs from era of 40s to late 60s, which was considered the golden era of country music in the US.

Also when Seymour and I were kicking around ideas for this project, and we kept going back to songs from this era. We realised that it was the same time frame as the songs I chose from my previous covers record, Memphis Blues.

All songs from that CD were from the same time. The US was very segregated when it came to radio and clubs at this time, so while the consumers weren't that aware of what was going on in

those music scenes, the artist sure were. So there is a lot of commonality between the blues and country from this era.

Blues artists were influenced lyrically by country songs when telling their stories, and country acts learned about soul through the blues artists they interacted with and met along the way. So this CD is kind of like a companion piece to Memphis Blues. On Detour I looked for songs that told great stories and songs that I thought I could sing well. That was really how I decided for songs for both CDs.

“  
Love yourself. Be Who you Wanna Be. Do not let anyone make you feel bad about being YOU. You are loved!

Cyndi Lauper

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# Girl just wants you to have fun

**As always, there's a Cyndi twist to the songs. Your End of the World is heart-wrenching! And Misty Blue sends shivers down the spine from the opening vocals. How do you get yourself 'into' the songs, if that makes sense?**

I try to put myself firmly of the place of the person telling that story. It's how I've always approached singing other people's stories/songs. I try and put myself emotionally there, not just when I record but when I perform too.

**Hat Full of Stars to me is just an incredible set of songs, and while each song means something different to everyone, this was very autobiographical. Sally's Pigeons nearly always has me close to tears. Is that a difficult song to sing, considering the subject matter?**

It is. But I think it's important to be truthful when you write songs, whether it's your truth or someone else truth you are trying to talk about. But honestly is how you connect with people

**Leading on from that, how did you find writing A Memoir? I have read it several times and it is written in such a way you can almost 'hear' you. Was that important to you - to get the Cyndi personality through on the pages? Did it exorcise any demons?**

It was very cathartic which I think you will find anyone that has ever written a autobiography says. You have to address

your bad times but you get to revisit and re-celebrate the good times and that's pretty cool.

**Looking back on your body of work, is there any particular era/moment you are personally most proud of?**

I'm a work in progress. I have a lot more to do and say! I'm very proud of my career. I'm proud that I followed my heart when it came to music and art.

**Following on from that, is it difficult to decide what to include and what not to in your set? Sisters of Avalon, Bring Ya To The Brink, Memphis Blues, Body Acoustic, Shine - so much to choose from. One day I hope to hear you sing Above The Clouds and Water's Edge live!!**

Yea it's hard, I tell you! Never enough time. I'd like to do three-hour shows so I can get it all in!

**I've noticed you have been doing When You Were Mine on the American leg of the tour. We lost a genius in Prince. How did it affect you?**

Yes I decided to add the song to the set to say thank you to Prince. Thank you for your music, thank you for your humour and kindness and that I miss you.

**Finally, what's next for Cyndi?**

I'm working on music for new Broadway show (Working Girl) and after that will be working on a new studio album of new songs.

Right now I'm enjoying being on the road again and celebrating this detour!



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