

People & Places

Music

Wilson on 1st solo

'Eddie's acoustic broke my heart'

By John Carucci

When Nancy Wilson befriended Eddie Van Halen, she learned the famed musician never played acoustic guitar. So she gifted him one.

Wilson said Van Halen called her the next morning to say he stayed up all night and penned a song with it.

"It just broke my heart," Wilson said.

After the guitar virtuoso succumbed to cancer last year, Wilson thought it was fitting to honor him on her new album. "4 Edward," inspired by that first song he played for her on acoustic guitar, is the closing track on Wilson's first solo album "You and Me," released last month.

As for the album, the Heart guitarist and co-founder had not considered doing a solo record in the past but being stuck at home during the pandemic changed things.

"It was kind of a forced opportunity to actually do the solo record," she said.

While most of the songs on the album were written by Wilson, she recorded a few covers, including Simon and Garfunkel's "The Boxer" and Bruce Springsteen's "The Rising." The album also has collaborators like former Van Halen singer Sammy Hagar, Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins and Guns N' Roses bassist Duff McKagan.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the Rock and Roll Hall of Famer spoke about her solo album, her day job in Heart and her friendship with Van Halen. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Something special happened when you toured with Van Halen, right?

Wilson: I gave him his first acoustic (guitar). He said, "You play great acoustic," and I go, "Why don't you play acoustic guitar?" He's like, "I don't have one." Well, so here it is. You do now. And I always love to tell the story because later, at the crack of dawn, he called my hotel room on the actual analog hotel phone in the day and said, "Listen, listen, listen. I wrote the song all night." And he played me this beautiful piece of music on this guitar, this acoustic. It just broke my heart. It was so beautiful.

AP: How did "4 Edward" come about?

Wilson: After he left us just recently, I was like, "Oh, I'm making an album. I'm going to write an acoustic instrumental for Eddie." It's a minute-and-a-half that ends the record. But it's my take on what his thing sounded kind of like with a bit of classical to start, a little bit of rock in the middle, and like a beautiful sort of sweet classical ending for him.

AP: What made this the right time for your first solo album?

Wilson: It's been a long time since I was off the road. I've been on the road since my early 20s. And so, you know, being on the road with Heart has been the main job for decades in my life. And having had the shutdown happen, for me was actually such a blessing in disguise.

AP: What's the biggest challenge when doing a solo record?

Wilson: One of the Hardest things about writing songs for me is to feel like you don't suck. The review board in your head that's going to say, "Oh, no, no, no, no, no, that's not good enough," you know. So, just kind of grappling with the bravery of trying to write new songs outside of the context of the Heart framework was really, you know, a lesson in survival and a lesson in character study of my own original self, if that makes any sense.

AP: What's the status of your day job, you know, in Heart?

Wilson: There's an offer from Live Nation for a Heart tour, which would be 2022 most likely, probably not until the spring. So that offer is still on the table and I hope it stays there before everybody else, like, sweeps it up before we can get it. ...I would love to get back onstage with my sister because we're a really good band together and we have some good songs that people love. (AP)



Wilson



Jennifer Hudson arrives at the BET Awards. (AP)



Kirk Franklin arrives at the BET Awards.



Marsai Martin arrives at the BET Awards.



Andra Day arrives at the BET Awards. (AP)



Singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen exits the stage door after the 'Springsteen On Broadway' re-opening night performance at the St. James Theatre on Saturday, June 26, 2021, in New York. (AP) Details on Page 12

Variety

LOS ANGELES: John Langley, who was the creator of the long-running TV series "Cops," has died during a road race in Mexico, a family spokeswoman said.

Langley died in Baja, Mexico, of an apparent heart attack Saturday during the Coast to Coast Ensenada-San Felipe 250 off-road race, family spokeswoman Pam Golum said. He was 78.

"Cops" was among the first reality series on the air when it debuted in 1989, and it would become an institution through 32 seasons. Langley and production partner Malcolm Barbour



Quavo, (from left), Takeoff and Offset, of Migos, perform at the BET Awards on Sunday, June 27, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. (AP)



Queen Latifah accepts the lifetime achievement award at the BET Awards.



Burna Boy, of Nigeria, accepts the best international act award as his mother Bose Ogulu looks on from left. (AP)



An image of the late rapper DMX appears on screen as rappers perform a tribute in his honor.



Jazmine Sullivan accepts the album of the year award for 'Heaux Tales' as her mother Pam Sullivan looks on at right. (AP)



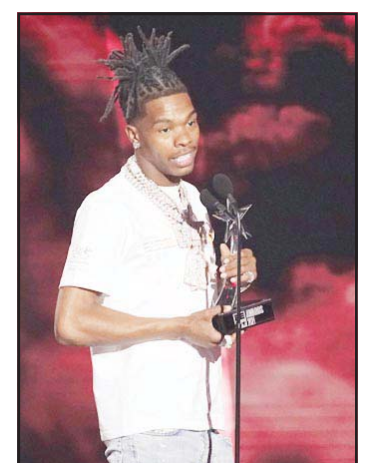
Bruno Mars, (left), and Anderson Paak, of Silk Sonic, accept the best group award at the BET Awards.



H.E.R. accepts the best female R&B pop artist award at the BET Awards.



Ashanti, (left), and DJ Cassidy present the viewer's choice award at the BET Awards.



Lil Baby accepts the best male hip hop artist award at the BET Awards.

Music

Foo Fighters, Lizzo, Ludacris to play New Orleans Jazz Fest

Guitarist quits Mumford & Sons to 'speak' on politics

LONDON, June 28, (AP) — Winston Marshall, a founding member of folk-rock group Mumford & Sons, announced Thursday that is leaving the band so that he can "speak freely" about political issues.

Marshall took a break from the band in March after sparking a social media storm by tweeting admiration for "Unmasked," a book by right-wing writer-activist Andy Ngo that attacked far-left militant groups collectively known as antifa.

Marshall was accused online of endorsing the far right, but said Thursday that "nothing could be further from the truth. I condemn unequivocally all political extremism, be it of the Right or Left."

Marshall, who plays guitar and banjo with the group, said his bandmates had "invited me to continue with them," but he had decided to leave so that he could "speak freely without them suffering the consequences."

Marshall said that "as long as I am a member of the band, speaking my mind on the evils of politi-

cal extremism could bring them trouble. My loyalty and love for them cannot permit that."

Marshall said he plans to undertake new creative projects, "as well as speaking and writing on a variety of issues."

Earlier this year Marshall co-founded Hong Kong Link Up, a charity that works to integrate Hong Kongers settling in Britain because of increasing political repression in the semi-autonomous Chinese city state. "We wish you all the best for the future, Win, and we love you man," the three other band members — Marcus Mumford, Ben Lovett and Ted Dwane — wrote on Instagram in response to the announcement.

Also:

NEW ORLEANS: Foo Fighters, Lizzo, Demi Lovato, Ludacris, The Isley Brothers, Melissa Etheridge and Trombone Shorty are among the acts slated to take the stage at the New Orleans

Jazz & Heritage Festival, which returns this fall after a one-year hiatus brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, organizers said Thursday.

The 2021 festival is scheduled to run Oct. 8-10 and Oct. 15-17.

"We were determined to put on this festival in October," said Quint Davis, chief executive of Festival Productions Inc., which produces the event. "There were challenges in doing that but we don't mind challenges."

The festival usually runs the last weekend of April and the first weekend of May, but Davis said he doesn't think the change in the calendar will stop longtime festivalgoers from returning.

"I think people have come to realize how much the festival means to them," he said. "And I think people are bursting to come, not only from New Orleans and Louisiana but from outside. We're hearing that hotels are booking up and flights into the city are booking up too."

had shopped the idea for years, and found a home for it on the fledgling Fox network.

The show was famous for following police, from deputies in the Deep South to officers from big city police departments, on long, boring nights in patrol cars or in fevered foot chases.

Its quirks, including its often shirtless suspects and its reggae theme song "Bad Boys," were frequent fodder for standup comics and were often refer-



Langley



Gere

enced in films, TV shows and songs.

It ran on Fox until 2013, when Viacom-owned Spike TV, later rebranded as The Paramount Network, picked it up.

It came under criticism for what was considered a slanted, pro-police perspective, and was permanently pulled from the air by Paramount last year during worldwide protests over the killing of George Floyd.

Some versions of the show still air

internationally in syndication.

Langley was born in Oklahoma City and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and served in the US Army in the early 1960s.

Langley was also a producer on the 2009 film "Brooklyn's Finest," directed by Antoine Fuqua and starring Richard Gere and Don Cheadle, and on the non-fiction series "Jail," "Vegas Strip" and "Anatomy of a Crime." (AP)