

About Tammy Wynette...

She has been called a legend, a heroine, but the names she loved most are what she was first: Tammy Wynette, wife and mother.

Born Virginia Wynette Pugh on May 5, 1942, on a cotton farm in Itawamba County, Mississippi, she spent her youth picking cotton, working as a beautician, a waitress, and a shoe-factory employee before her rise to stardom.



By age seven, Tammy was working the cotton fields along with other relatives on the family farm. Her father's legacy – a piano, a guitar and the dream that his daughter would make music her life – became her only escape from the dull, arduous routine of farm life. She endured long, backbreaking hours in the cotton fields by daydreaming of singing before thousands of people. Years later, Tammy would still keep a crystal bowl full of cotton in her home to remind her of these meager beginnings.

As a teenage bride she found times even harder than she'd known at home. She had two children within three years and her husband, an itinerant construction worker, was unemployed more often than not. They were finally forced to move into an abandoned log house with no indoor plumbing.

Fed up with poverty and worn out from the drudgery of her life, Tammy enrolled in beauty school in nearby Tupelo, funding her schooling with money given to her by her mother. (Never believing her own hype, Tammy kept her beautician's license up to date regularly noting "she could always go back to hairdressing.")

After becoming a beautician, Tammy moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where she gave birth to a third daughter, a 1 lb. 8 oz. premature baby who suffered a near-fatal bout with spinal meningitis before she was four months old. Her shaky marriage crumbled, and while getting a divorce she worked 10 hour days as a hairdresser, after getting up at 4 a.m. each day to sing on the local "Country Boy Eddie" TV show.

Beginning in 1965 she began making regular trips to Nashville meeting producers and trying to attain a recording contract. In 1966, after months of rejections and on the brink of giving up, she made the daring decision to move to Nashville anyway. She had no job, no place to live, and three small children totally dependent on her.

She eventually auditioned for Epic records producer Billy Sherrill who signed her and changed her stage name to Tammy. Her first single, "Apartment #9," was released within weeks, hitting the charts almost as soon as it hit the record racks. Her next 11 albums went to number one and within four short years, Tammy had won two Grammys and three CMA "Female Vocalist of the Year" awards.

From a naïve farm girl totally unfamiliar with the music business to one of the most recognizable voices in country music, she went on to sell more than 30 million records, grossing more than

More About Tammy Wynette...

\$100 million. Her recording of "Stand By Your Man" is still the biggest selling single in the history of country music. Her releases have made the number one position on the charts some 20 times and she was the first female Country artist to sell a million albums.

No other female country singer conveyed the emotion of heartbreak like Tammy Wynette. She endeared herself to millions by singing about topics of everyday life – divorce, loneliness, parenting, passion. Her tearful singing style was the voice of every heartbreak a woman has ever known. Perhaps it's that Tammy herself lived through such tumultuous times that she could convey the emotion of such weighty topics.

Like her career, Tammy's personal life filled the papers. In 1968 she married her idol, George Jones, creating a union that captured the imaginations of country music fans like no other couple before them. For the next seven years they lived, sang, wrote, recorded and performed in a romantic, stormy and much-publicized relationship that ultimately brought Tammy more headlines than happiness. Jones' drinking sprees were almost as legendary as his music, and it was this problem that eventually destroyed the marriage. They had one child, Tamala Georgette, born in 1970.

On July 6, 1978, she finally found lasting happiness when she married her longtime friend, George Richey. The well-known songwriter had co-written several of Tammy's chart toppers and produced hits for Tammy and many other artists.

Throughout the next two decades Tammy suffered a variety of health problems and underwent several operations. Still, she managed to rise to the top of the international charts once again when she teamed with British pop act KLF to create the dance hit "Justified and Ancient." She continued her streak when she joined forces with Dolly Parton and Loretta Lynn on their landmark album, "Honky Tonk Angels."

Eventually her poor health caught up to her. Tammy passed away in her sleep at her home in Nashville, Tennessee on Monday, April 6, 1998. Three days later fans and members of the music industry honored her with a world-wide televised memorial service broadcast from Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. Later that year, Wynette was elected into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

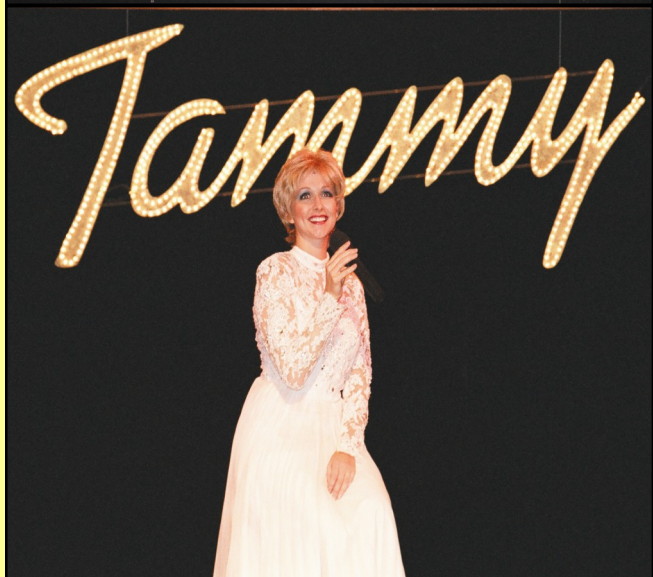
The Music of STAND BY YOUR MAN

ACT ONE

- 1 Stand By Your Man Show Opening
- 2 Why Baby Why
- 3 I Saw The Light
- 4 My Man Understands
- 5 Hush Little Babies
- 6 Beauty School Transition U/S
- 7 Between 29 and Danger
- 8 Hospital Transition U/S
- 9 The Race Is On
- 10 Tammy's Audition
- 11 Bedtime Story
- 12 Apartment No. 9
- 13 Good Girl's Gonna Go Bad
- 14 Love Bug
- 15 My Elusive Dreams
- 16 Winnipeg Backstage
- 17 D-I-V-O-R-C-E
- 18 We're Not The Jetset
- 19 Opry Commercial
- 20 Near You
- 21 We're Gonna Hold On
- 22 Tammy's Breakdown
- 23 I Still Believe In Fairytales

ACT TWO

- 24 Entr'acte, Another Chance
- 25 Till I Can Make It On My Own
- 26 Did You Ever
- 27 Golden Ring
- 28 You And Me
- 29 If Drinkin' Don't Kill Me
- 30 Till I Get It Right
- 31 God's Gonna Getcha For That
- 32 Justified And Ancient
- 33 Singing My Song
- 34 How Great Thou Art
- 35 Stand By Your Man
- 36 Bows



THE CRITICS SING THE PRAISES OF STAND BY YOUR MAN!

“Humor perfectly peppers the tragedy and triumph. But ultimately the show’s heart and honesty are what bring it to life.”....”Miraculously, it squeezes a host of songs into the story without cluttering the proceedings”....”Finally a musical biography to stand by.”

- The Fort Worth Star–Telegraph

“The best thing I have seen and heard in years. I mean the best! From the first minute to the last this was a pure joy.”
-That’s Country.com

“Stand By Your Man shows other musical biographies how it should work.”

- The Fort Worth Star– Telegraph

“The best country to hit Jacksonville this year is on the stage at FCCJ’s Wilson Center until October 10th. The bio-musical of Tammy Wynette’s life and music was a real crowd-pleaser at the Tuesday night opener.

- Dick Kerekes, Entertaining U

“Wynette became a legend for a reason: She has a whole lot of voice and a whole lot to say. Stand By Your Man perfectly captures her essence and make for an unforgettable night of music. The audience delivered one of the strongest standing ovations I’ve ever heard at the theatre.”

- Beth Jones, Roanoke Times

Wynette tribute takes the stand — and delivers



Wednesday, January 29, 2003

By Mark Lowery
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FORT WORTH—One of the last songs in *Stand By Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story* is the country queen's weeper "Til I Get it Right," her response to her mother's nagging question about falling in love time and time again.

That's one refrain the show's creators won't have to echo. They've already gotten it right.

Directed by Gabriel Barre, *Stand By Your Man* is a surprisingly smart and engaging concoction. It works because unlike other stage tributes to country music legends it isn't overly worshipful of its subject and doesn't take itself too seriously.

Miraculously, it squeezes a host of songs into the story without cluttering the proceedings.

Written by Mark St.

THEATRE: *Stand By Your Man* shows those other musical biographies how it should work.

Stand By Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story 8 pm today through Friday, 2 and 8 pm Saturday, 2 and 7:30 pm Sunday.

Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Tickets:\$47—\$65

Call: (817) 332-2272 or (817) 212-4280

Germain, the show originated at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium and graces Fort Worth with its first out-of-town performance Its Bass Performance Hall engagement, which began Tuesday night, is testing the ground for a potential national tour.

Nicolette Hart plays Wynette with grace, style and solid comprehension of her character's motives and passions. Her vocals aren't a letter perfect

match, but her tone and phrasing are right on the money.

Jim Lauderdale plays George Jones, Wynette's idol and third husband. His aping of Jones' closed-lip vocal style, physical swagger and mannerisms is uncanny. You couldn't tell the his and Jones' voice if you were listening on headphones.

Susan Mansur as Wynette's mother, called MeeMaw, is another highlight. An accomplished band performs the live music onstage and its members ably play various characters in Wynettes life.

Humor perfectly peppers the tragedy and triumph. But ultimately, the show's heart and honesty—and an outstanding cast—are what bring it to life.

Finally a musical biography to stand by.

Stand By Your Man

FCCJ's Wilson Center—October 10

Review by Dick Kerekes, Entertaining U

The best country music to hit Jacksonville this year is on the stage at FCCJ's Wilson Center until October 10th. The bio-musical of Tammy Wynette's life and music was a real crowd-pleaser at the Tuesday night opener.

Some tributes to musical stars just turn into mainly musical reviews, but in this version by Mark St. Germain, you get not only the great music, but the whole banana of Tammy's tumultuous life. Yes, it's all there—the five marriages, the abusive husbands, the drug use, a kidnapping and poor health. But there is a lot of humor and the show is mostly upbeat and fast-paced. Tammy's life history reads like many other female country music stars?...Starting from poverty but blessed with a beautiful voice, she recorded more than 50 albums and sold 30 million records from 1967—1988. Twenty topped the charts.

You are going to love Kristin Stewart as Tammy because not only does she look very much like Ms. Wynette, but has the vocal chords to complete the picture. I absolutely loved Wynette's signature song, "Stand By Your Man." "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" has always been one of my all-time favorite country songs.

Larry Tobias is terrific as George

Jones, the country singer who swept Tammy off her feet, married her and then gave her nine years of hell with his drinking. They performed some great duets including "Were Gonna Hold On" and "Golden Ring." Tobias was this crowd's main man and they shouted out "Go George!"

There are 14 in the cast, including musicians who do various roles (there are a lot of husbands to play.) Tobias D'Amore does a nifty bit as Burt Reynolds, the one guy who did not marry Tammy but was somewhere between husbands.

The main set is a bandstand, but various set pieces roll on and off. Ms. Stewart must have a wig shop backstage. She wears so many, but they are all lovely and complement the many dresses she shows of with her great figure.

This show is a must-see for country music fans who remember "the Heartache Queen" for her many, many songs that are still part of our loves. Take the kids and give them the opportunity to learn about a true musical legend whose life could be a very long country song. The only real peaceful moment in Ms. Wynette's life may have been her death at age 55., when she quietly passed away from a blood clot while taking a nap.

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FROM

STAND BY YOUR MAN

THE TAMMY WYNETTE STORY

