



MICKY DOLENZ

Still Monkeying Around

After selling more than sixty-five million records worldwide as the star of "The Monkees" television show, Micky Dolenz has continued to make his mark in other areas of entertainment through his varied career as an actor, director, producer and performer.

He's even taken on musical theatre as a star in the Broadway production of *Aida*. "It's funny because the actual length of time I spent on 'The Monkees' was very brief. I was on the road with *Aida* and in the Broadway show for nearly two years," says Dolenz. "One day I actually figured out that I worked on *Aida* longer than I worked on 'The Monkees!'" he laughs.

The Monkees achieved their greatest success as recording artists. Their first four albums (*The Monkees*, *More of the Monkees*, *Headquarters*, and *Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn & Jones, Ltd.*) reached No. 1 on the charts, and they had three number one consecutive hit singles: "Clarksville," "I'm a Believer," and "Daydream Believer." The group's first five albums also went gold. But outside of the band, Dolenz wears many hats, including author. His self-penned children's book debuts in England next year. However, Dolenz most enjoys getting back to the music that boosted his career in the mid-sixties.

"I really liked 'Pleasant Valley Sunday' and 'I'm a Believer,'" he says while reviewing his set before a recent performance at North Fork Theatre at Westbury. "The great thing about 'Pleasant Valley Sunday' was that it was a great all around rock tune. great lyrics and melody.



“There were a lot of obscure albums that most people probably haven’t heard of. I wrote a song called ‘Randy Scouse Git,’ which was a hit in England. That was important to me because it was sort of a little diary of the time that I spent with The Beatles when I was over there. I was a huge Beatles fan. And then I met a girl who was going to be my first wife. So the song was a little bit about her.”

A multitude of older acts have hit the Broadway stage recently, including Abba in *Mamma Mia!*, Elvis in *All Shook Up*, and John Lennon in *Lennon*. The Beach Boys’ music was the basis for *Good Vibrations*, and the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons is told in *Jersey Boys*. Dolenz says he has also toyed with the idea.

“A number of people have asked me that. I’ve discussed it with a number of people, but there’s really nothing I can tell you. Let me put it this way, there’s no definite plan to do that, but I have definitely thought about it, and you never know. A lot of them don’t work. So you never know. But I do love working in New York.”

—Iris Wiener

