



Translation from "Red Star" May 15, 1991 "Does Stingray change her profession?"

It was less than 1/2 a year since famous American rock star, Joanna Stingray was our guest and she's back again. This time, on our old friends basis, she called us and said, "I've returned from Los Angeles I was there visiting my relatives. But it's not only my rest in the States but other interesting news and plans. When I meet you, I'll tell you  
Our interview started from her compliments. As it happened, one of the best gifts she brought to her friends and relatives from Russia was a december issue of "Red Star". As you remember, it was when Joanna was first at our club "Good Guy", and she told us alot of interesting things. Joanna's friends especially liked the photo printed in our paper of Joanna standing in Red Square next to a cadet. It was by the way, the winner of our contest "Grenadeur - 90", a cadet from Kazan Superior Tank Commander's School, Victor Tonzenkov. They decide that his looks, looked great when it was close to the photo of fragile Joanna

Q: So now after so many pleasant details, we can't wait to hear about a new surprise What is it, Joanna?

A: I don't like sitting around. Is that good or not, I don't know but it's one of my character traits. And during my trip, I met with alot of my friends and some of them were famous American musicians I told them about contemporary Russian rock and asked them about their own current problems I thought, our discussions could be of great interest to Soviet music fans Actually, we know so little about each other.

Q: So what did you decide to do?

A: I decided to become a T.V journalist for a short while I conducted interviews with 15 "stars" like Graham Nash, Julian Lennon, Little Steven and others. The interviews were recorded on video tape and for the next 2 months, extracts from these interviews will be shown on "VID" on Friday nights.

Q: But aren't you afraid that American musicians' problems could be too far from our life, that our TV viewers wouldn't understand?

A: I don't agree with you, although it's, unfortunately, a very common opinion. If we talk only about material things such as equipment, instruments and so on, then of course Americans don't need to think how to get them. So in this respect, we are happier but the rest - problems of art, are equal for all You's think that Julian Lennon, son of John Lennon, the road to stardom would be very easy, right? Not exactly. He has to fight for a place in the sun on his own And the fame of his father doesn't help, it's rather the opposite Julian, as all others, is often very limited in freedom of choice. His work is dependent on many very subjective factors So I think those naive people who think that western musicians take things for granted are very wrong

Q: Is this information about the American music world the only purpose of your journalistic tries or you probably think of something else?

A: In these interviews, I tried to demonstate my life's creedance, to express something that I've cared about for a long time When you become a "star", a musician often happens to become encaved inside the world of music He or she, is "drowned", sort of, in the deafening thunder of applause. Of course to delight several thousand people for several hours is a great accomplishment, I don't argue, but these few hours, are only a moment in the life of the fans. When they leave the concert, they go on with their usual day to day life, and the ordinary life contains more depressing moments than nice and pleasant I think the "stars" need to try and change the world around the fans who listen to them with such adoration, not just for 1 hour

Q: In one word what you're suggesting is for "stars" to become also preachers and politicians?

A: politics should be for politicians & religion for preachers But to help is another matter. Especially to tranquilize the over-excited minds of young listeners, and this, you'd probably agree, sometimes is necessary, and for their idols it's possible

Q: In your interviews, you wanted to tell how your, like-minded persons, achieve this in the USA?

A Yes, and in such a way to attract new knights to our rows I tell how rock stars participate in anti-nuclear and ecological movements, how they help young kids "to find themselves and start their lives with something good", and for social justice between people. Most of all, I'd like to unite the efforts with Soviet rock musicians.

Q Maybe your interviews with the "stars" is a small bridge to that?

A I'll be very glad if my work will help it

We'd like to join Joanna's wish During our not simple, torn with contradictions, tired of pain and injustice, time, you feel so much deficiency of compassion and kindness, human generosity, that it seems every effort, even not very significant but sincere, will make the world around us a little warmer.

AT photo Joanna Stingray, Julian Lennon, and his producer

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