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## ***“I Was There When It Happened” (I Saw The Birth of Rock and Roll’***

# **ROCK-A-BILLY RENAISSANCE MAN**

This Detroit cult hero played his part in the history of rock and roll and recorded for Sam Phillips Memphis Tenn. Sun Records in the 50's and Motown Records in the 60's and continues to record and perform today.

This entertainer was there when Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, and Roy Orbison were re-writing American History

*- David Sokol, Editor: New Country Magazine*

The only singer, so far as we know, ever signed to both Sun and Motown Records, the two most historic independent, legendary record companies in the world.

What is most remarkable is that Johnny Powers is no second-generation revivalist: He was wrapping his rich, early voice around similarly unfettered melodies back in 1954 - 15 years before Sha Na Na trivialized the genre and 25 years before it was billed by the Stray Cats.

*- Kevin Ransom & Dan Cooper - New Country Magazine*

Johnny Powers boasts a career that encompasses every facet of the music industry. The ever-youthful Powers continues to tour the United States and Europe today, performing new and classic recordings, with a voice recently described by the *L.A. Times music critic, Mr. Robert Hilburn*, as “big as Lake Superior.”

“With all the rebel sideburn cool of early Elvis and Gene Vincent, his recordings make Powers historical obscurity unfathomable.” - *Entertainment Weekly*

Powers confesses that his first love is performing the music in front of live audiences. Each visit he says results in a growing legion of international fans. One of his favorite memories is playing a country music festival in France, which was hosted by a TV star, Patrick Duffy. The enthusiastic audience response resulted in Powers receiving an invitation to the event’s VIP tent, where high-ranking French politicians and celebrities entertained him.

Powers’ reputation as one of Michigan’s preeminent progenitors of rock ‘n’ roll was secured by a May 1999 article in the *Detroit News*, in which he was included with Bob Seger, Berry Gordy, Jr., and the MC5 in a “Michigan at the Millennium” list of the state’s musical heroes.

Powers is perhaps best known as the music legend who recorded a rock ‘n’ roll classic seminal hit, “Long Blond Hair,” a song that continues to thrill rockabilly aficionados witnessing Powers’ live performances, listening to reissues of the original recording, or tapping their feet while enjoying the song’s appearance on the soundtrack to the *ShowTime Cable Network’s* film, *Reform School Girls*.

The song’s infectious popularity is evidenced by the anecdote Powers relates in which he was approached after a Detroit gig. “I just finished a show with Aaron Tipin, and a fan told me he finally got a chance to hear me do ”Long Blond Hair.” It was one of his all-time favorite songs.” The fan turned out to be Ed Salamon, Westwood One’s radio network president of programming at that time.

Johnny Powers performance of a song “Say It” is in the film production of *Mosquito* also on DVD which airs on *SiFi* and Cable Networks and it continues to air on U.S. and International Television Networks today.