

'Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice' to be screened at Indigo Theater

Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 3:58 pm

By Ronald Maltais Meadow City Acadmy of Music

"Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice" will be screened at the Indigo Theater on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 14, 15 and 16 at 5:15 p.m. as the latest installment of the Shades of Indigo Series in partnership with Meadow City Academy of Music. All tickets are \$10 and available only at the door.

Born into a prosperous family of mixed Mexican and German heritage in the Sonoran Desert in Tucson, Arizona in 1946, Linda Ronstadt left home for Los Angeles at the end of 1964 to follow her dreams of being a singer.

And from her official debut in 1967 to her final live concert in the fall of 2009, she became one of the most respected, loved, and appreciated figures in American music history.

And although her already-lengthy career was curtailed by a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease in 2013, she had already achieved far more than she ever dreamed possible, while still being modest and forever plagued with self-doubts about just how great a singer she truly was. Her life is wonderfully documented throughout this heartfelt film.

"The Sound of My Voice" reveals myriad musical influences inside her family, and her love of the radio also sparked Ronstadt's desire to be a singer. She narrates a fair amount of the film in her own low-key, modest fashion as to what she encountered in her first few years in the music business, including her appreciation of The Doors as a band, how she formed a band for a 1971 tour, resulting in the birth of the Eagles; and her significant breakthrough at the mid-point of the 1970s with "You're No Good."

Numerous clips of interviews that Ronstadt gave over the decades include conversations with long-time producers John Boylan and Peter Asher; singer-songwriters J.D. Souther, Karla Bonoff, and Jackson Browne; record mogul David Geffen; Joe Smith, president of Elektra/Asylum records during Linda's peak years of the 70s and 80s; and music critics/friends Cameron Crowe (Jerry Maguire and Almost Famous) and the L.A. Times' Robert Hillburn.

A sizeable amount of concert footage is included. Everyone recognized the impact that Ronstadt made on the music business.

After conquering the once male-dominated arenas of rock and pop, she branched out to explore other equally valid styles: opera (The Pirates Of Penzance); American pop standards (What's New?); the Mexican mariachi/ranchera music of her father's heritage (Canciones de mi Padre), all of which perplexed her handlers and producers who were concerned that such diversions might derail her career, yet all were risks that she was willing to take at a time of safety-first in the record industry.

She also felt that playing in big arenas and stadiums, though highly lucrative engagements, were not necessarily conducive to good music making, either for her or her fans.