

Michel Polnareff - Michel Polnareff (1973)

Written by bluelover

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*A1 Holidays A2 Comme Juliette et Romeo A3 Qui a tue grand maman A4 Allo Georgina
A5 Nos mots d'amour A6 Tous les bateaux, tous les diseaux B1 Gloria B2 La poupee qui fait
non B3 Ame Caline B4 Jour apres jour B5 L'amour avec toi B6 Ca n'arrive qu'aux autres
C1 Le bal des laze C2 Tout, tout pour ma cherie C3 Trumpet C4 Love me please love me C5
Jenny Jenny C6 Great balls of fire D1 Je cherche un job D2 Pourquoi faut-Il se dire adieu
D3 Ring-a-ding D4 J'ai du chagrin Marie D5 L'affreux Jojo D6 On tra tous au Paradis (Gift
pack series)*

3 July 1944, Nérac, Lot-et-Garonne, France. Raised in Paris, Michel's father, Leib Polnareff, was a professional musician (as Léo Poll), his mother a dancer. He learned piano from the age of five and attended the Paris Conservatoire. Despite his playing and composing skills, Polnareff worked in commerce until the mid-60s when he switched careers. He played guitar and sang, won a rock talent contest, and eventually began a successful recording career with 1966's 'La Poupée Qui Fait Non'. More record successes followed in France and other European countries and although his behaviour was sometimes erratic he built a following and attracted media attention, the latter doubtless owing in part to his glitzy stage persona. In 1968 he wrote the music for a stage production of Rabelais and in 1969 scored the film L'Indiscret.

Media speculation about his sexuality prompted Polnareff to compose and record 'Je Suis Un Homme' in 1970, in which year he was attacked while on stage in Périgueux. Further problems followed, of which depression was central, and after hospitalization he played more concerts and composed the score for the films Ça N'Arrive Qu'aux Autres and La Folie Des Grandeurs (both 1972). Polnareff was fined heavily for the posters for his new show, Polnarévolution (1972), which the authorities deemed to be indecent. A year later, Polnareff had money troubles when he discovered that his business adviser had not only embezzled millions of francs, but the singer was left owing millions more in back taxes. By the end of 1973, Polnareff had dealt with this problem by leaving the country.

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Settled in Los Angeles, Polnareff resumed recording and had a Billboard Top 50 success with 'If You Only Believe (Jesus For Tonite)'. His large following in Japan continued to expand and he also visited Europe, playing concerts in countries bordering France, which allowed his fans access to his concerts. He continued to write for films, including Lipstick (1976). Through the 80s, Polnareff made records, performed concerts and also wrote for films. He reached an accommodation over his tax problems and was able to return to France, living there reclusively. In 1995, following eye surgery for cataract removal, which meant that his trademark sunglasses were no longer necessary, he returned to Los Angeles where he resumed performing live and on record. ---oldies.com

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