

JONI MITCHELL BACKSTAGE PASS

Michael A. O'Neill



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B A C K S T A G E P A S S

Joni Mitchell is Canadian singer-songwriter and one of the most influential musicians of all time. Drawing from folk, pop, rock, and jazz, Mitchell's songs reflect social and environmental ideals as well as her feelings about romance, confusion, disillusionment, and joy.

One of the most important female recording artist of the last 50 years Joni Mitchell began singing in small nightclubs in her hometown of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and throughout western Canada, before busking in the streets and nightclubs of Toronto, Ontario. In 1965, she moved to the United States and began touring.

Settling in Southern California, Mitchell, with popular songs like "Big Yellow Taxi" and "Woodstock", helped define an era and a generation.

Mitchell's fifth album, *For the Roses*, was released in 1972. She then switched labels and began exploring more jazz-influenced melodic ideas, by way of lush pop textures, on 1974's *Court and Spark*, which featured the radio hits "Help Me" and "Free Man in Paris" and became her best-selling album.

Mitchell is the sole producer credited on most of her albums, including all her work in the 1970s. A blunt critic of the music industry, she quit touring and released her 17th, and reportedly last, album of original songs in 2007.

With roots in visual art, Mitchell has designed most of her own album covers. She describes herself as a "painter derailed by circumstance". This is her story.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michael A. O'Neill is a writer and actor who trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. For many years he wrote scripts for historical documentaries, which he also produced and narrated; these have been shown worldwide on a variety of TV channels such as the Discovery Channel and the History Channel. He has written many best selling books including a biography of Frank Sinatra.

KEY SELLING POINTS:

- Her 1971 album *Blue* is often cited as one of the best albums of all time; it was rated the 30th best album ever made in *Rolling Stone's* list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time", the highest entry by a female artist.
- In 2000, *The New York Times* chose *Blue* as one of the 25 albums that represented "turning points and pinnacles in 20th-century popular music".
 - She has won nine Grammy Awards.
 - *Rolling Stone* called her "one of the greatest songwriters ever".

