



Biography

KOCKY

"As a studio bass player, I got a reputation for being cocky," recalls Kocky producer/group leader Eddie Watkins. "A lot of people called me that and I thought - that's a great name for a group."

Led by the husband-wife team of Eddie and B.J. Watkins Kocky is a quartet of gifted performers who share a smooth, invigorating musical direction. The group's sophisticated R&B/dance sound stretches from captivating disco workouts to jazzy funk numbers to sultry ballads - and gives them every reason to be Kocky.

"There's nothing gadgety about Kocky," explains Watkins. "We take great pride in our very smooth background sound,

letting our songs reach out and touch the listener. Recording 'Kocky' (the group's self-titled debut album on Windsong Records, manufactured and distributed by RCA Records), we kept everything down to earth. Simplicity was the key to the project."

The key elements in Kocky are Eddie and B. J. Watkins, bass/vocals and lead vocals respectively, guitarist Greg Moore and Greg Field on drums and all percussion. As individuals, they have contributed to some of the biggest hits of the '70s. Together, they are on their way to some of the biggest hits of the '80s.

The real beginning of Kocky was six years ago in Detroit, where Eddie, B.J. and Greg Moore put together a band called Legacy. But long before Legacy, they were grooming themselves for the success that is bound to be Kocky's.

Eddie began earning his cocky reputation by becoming one of Motown's top studio players while still in high school in Detroit. He began playing piano at the age of 11, but when he saw his first bass at 13 it was love at first sight. His Uncle, Motown producer/arranger Paul Riser, got Eddie his first break and his first session produced Marvin Gaye's smash "What's Going On." Soon he was playing for the Temptations, the Spinners and other major artists.

Meanwhile, B. J. was winding her way to Detroit. She began singing professionally in Los Angeles as a teenager and became a member of the Delicates. When the Delicates traveled to Texas, they met Motown's Bobby Taylor, who took them to the Motor City. They were soon signed by the legendary Norman Whitfield, who renamed them Undisputed Truth after some minor lineup changes.

Undisputed Truth quickly had a million seller on Gordy, "Smiling Faces." A short time later, Eddie Watkins, now out of high school, joined the group as bassist and bandleader. The group went out on the road and Eddie and B.J. began the courtship which soon led them to the altar.

As Undisputed Truth faded, Eddie and B.J. began putting together the act that six years later evolved into Kocky. But it wasn't until 1977 when they moved to Los Angeles that things started to happen.

Eddie was much in demand as a studio bass player for the likes of Herbie Hancock, Diana Ross, Peter Frampton, Helen Reddy and many others, when he accidentally bumped into Greg Moore, his close friend and former collaborator with Legacy.

Moore helped Eddie decide to put another group together and this time the timing was right. Eddie met Windsong A&R Vice President Denny Diante while doing a Maxine Nightingale session and approached him with some material. With Diante's

encouragement, Eddie and B. J. went back in the studio with Moore and Greg Field and cut the songs on "Kocky," Michael Colombier's acclaimed arrangements provided the perfect finishing touch for Kocky's cool, calm and collected sound.

Kocky also has a secret weapon, the "freak bass." Invented by Eddie and constructed by Valdez, the freak bass plays regular bass notes and two octaves higher simultaneously. It's even got lights that flash when it's hit.

All of the group's material is written from within. Songs on "Kocky" are all marked by the smooth, sophisticated precision that brings their music home to a wide audience. B.J.'s sensational voice, youthful and zesty yet rich and sensual, is featured on most cuts, and Eddie displays his crooning talents on two songs. With an exhilarating stage show, including comedy and impersonations, Kocky is ready and has no doubt where the group is headed.

"We can't be contained 'cause we have it here," predicts Eddie, pointing to his heart. "We will make it big. It's not just being cocky. We're confident - and nothing can suppress that."

So Kocky is a little bit cocky. With talent like theirs, who can blame them?