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Harry Wayne "KC" Casey

RECORDING ARTIST, LEADER OF KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND

"I'm a little bit outgoing."

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The interview

Harry Wayne KC Casey is a pop music legend and is one of the most important people to have influenced modern dance music. Winner of multiple Grammy and American Music Awards, KC is best known as the founder and leader of "KC and the Sunshine Band" which has been recording and performing since 1973. His "feel good, get on the floor and dance" music is a popular staple at almost every major sporting event in the world, and his songs have been included in over 200 major motion picture soundtracks so far. To date, he has sold over 100 million albums worldwide. KC is based near Miami in the City of Hialeah, Florida. (Interview conducted by D.K. Harris for Dailysingle)

DS: What are the most memorable years of your life and what happened to make them so memorable?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Wow! I guess it's been living the "American Dream"...having this dream of wanting to be an entertainer and then having that dream come true, and all of those things that came along with it like the Grammy Awards, American Music Awards and Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. My life has just been a great chance to get out there and share my music with the world!

> I've never spent much time sitting down and thinking about myself much.

DS: How would you best describe yourself?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Not sure exactly. Ha ha. Well, I am an Aquarius (very true to the sign) so I'm a little bit outgoing, perhaps shy at first, but after I warm up to you, it's all cool. I'm the kind of person that pretty much will go along with the flow, and I'm not necessarily a big follower per se, but can be good at being a "chameleon" to work/fit in with any situation. I would also say that I've got a good sense of humor. It's funny because I've never spent much time sitting down and thinking about myself much.

DS: What are the must-haves in your daily wardrobe?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: In the 70's, outside of the wonderful stage costumes, it was always jeans and a t-shirt, and I'm still pretty much that now. Being based in the Miami area, I wear a lot of shorts, which is just better for our climate here. So - New Balance tennis shoes, shorts and a t-shirt are pretty much the gig these days. I'm a pretty casual guy overall. The only time I ever really wore polyester was on the stage. Our stage costumes back then were designed by a super- talented guy named Harvey Krantz who is still active and designed and designs a lot of stuff for major country and rock stars. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to maintain a collection of the old stage costumes as, over time, they would just deteriorate from all the use and sweating; the snaps and buttons would rust, the mirrors would fog up over time with the constant dry cleaning, etc. .Those outfits took a lot of abuse. ;)

DS: Who do people tell you you look like?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Funny, I don't get that very much. I guess the only thing I could say is that since quitting smoking a few years ago and gaining some weight, I have gotten "Hey, are you Meatloaf?" So, he's about the only person I've been compared to that I can remember.

Photo credit: A Streiber

DS: How did you end-up being a Recording Artist, Leader of KC & The Sunshine Band?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: It was a combination of doing many things starting with working my way up from retail, selling records at T.K. Records. At a certain point, I discovered huge amounts of stockpiled, unsold "45" albums in the warehouse and figured out the company could make money selling them in my "KC's oldies" section. Every once in a while I'd be called in to do keyboards on a recording. Worked late nights doing stuff in the studio at the back of the warehouse....so on and so forth. Just doing a combination of things that over time amounted to success. My first hit was "Rock Your Baby" written for George McCrae.

DS: Can you tell us more about your job?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Now, it's my performances and publishing company. There's a lot to do. There's the job of keeping track of anyone trying to sample or use your music and not pay you for it, and then there's the approval of commercials, especially when sometimes they will want to do lyric changes, so there are a lot of day to day things to handle from just so many people wanting to use the songs for different projects. Doing a lot of interviews such as today.

The video

KC & The Sunshine Band - I'm your boogie man HD

DS: Let's talk more about you and your tastes. Any hobbies? What do you like to do in your free time? Any thing you like and recommend?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: My hobby has always been music. I am overall just an average person. I do like gardening, love to chill out, read, spend time with friends, travel (believe it or not). I like to kind of go to the places that I may have zipped through before but now can visit in more depth with the local people. I just went to Iguazu Falls down along the Argentina/Brazil border. It's unbelievable, and hard to describe! Waterfalls everywhere.

DS: What is a typical week for Harry Wayne KC Casey?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Besides the business tasks I spoke about earlier, there's the very active tour schedule, and doing a lot of interviews such as today. So these things are sort of what my life is like now. If you were to have asked me 30 or more years ago it would have been "working in the studio 24/7, recording, recording." Recently, I have been doing more recording so part of my days and nights (nights pretty much) have been working in the studio.

DS: Some quick questions: What is the first thing you do in the morning?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Right now, I'm on a certain routine: Up by 7am, make breakfast, then I've got about 20 or 30 minutes where I might check my e-mail before I pop into my gym clothes and am off to the gym.

DS: What is your favorite restaurant in Hialeah?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: There's a Thai restaurant near...down here in Miami Lakes that I like to frequent. There are a ton of restaurants in South Beach/Miami. There are some great steak houses nearby.

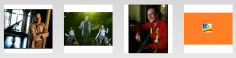
DS: What is your favorite song today? Of all time?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Holy $#%&!That's a tough one. I love this song called "Blue Hawaii." I also like "Somewhere" and "Over the Rainbow." I'm a huge Motown fan.

DS: What is your favorite "drug"?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Performing on stage is a HUGE high. There's nothing like that. The adrenalin high off of that is just amazing. One thing that is always been a big kick for me is to be able to share my success with my friends and family and just to be able to take them places to do things that they might not have been able to do normally, and to just enjoy that experience with them.

The photo shoot



DS: What is in store for you? Any key projects for the next months? Anything you want to share? Can our readers help you with anything?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: I am working on a new album. There is also a show in Miami called "The Donkey Show", and I am one of the hosts of the event which started back in August. I interact with the audience throughout the entire show. It's very exciting, and I am involved with every Sunday night performance. As far as the album, I am hoping to be completed with it during October sometime. It's a very important album to me, very contemporary, and I think it's the best thing I've ever done. I think folks are going to be really surprised by this; it's taken me 40 years to mature. ;) I think it's some of the best writing I've ever done. I was given tracks by some European DJ's, and I'm contributing melodies and lyrics. There are also some tracks from current band members as well that I am adding to also.

DS: Anything you want to add to close this Interview?

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Really enjoyed it. Thanks!

DS: Thank you Harry Wayne KC Casey

Harry Wayne KC Casey: Thanks to all the readers and fans for supporting me and the Sunshine Band over so many years!

The Question

Don't you think it's time we all got together and banned automatic rifles?

Participate and answer Harry Wayne KC Casey's question on The Wall below.

His Contact Info

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