
395 Pussycat

Mississippi

Label & Cat No.: **Sonet SON 2077**

Producer: **Eddy Hilberts**

Writer: **Werner Theunissen**

Date reached No. 1: **11 October 1976**

Weeks at No. 1: **4**

POLISH MINER EMIGRATED TO Holland and set up home in Limburg. His daughters, Toni, Betty and Marianne Kowalczyk, worked as telephone operators but wanted to be singers, working first as The Zingende Zusjes (The Singing Sisters). They added a female drummer and became The BG's From Holland (that's Beat Girls). Toni married Lou Willé, who played with his brothers in Ricky Rendell & The Centurions, and he established a new band, Sweet Reaction. They completed the seven-piece line-up with Theo Wetzels, Theo Coumans and John Theunissen, who all came from the heavy metal band, Scum, undoubtedly a name that was ahead of its time.

Early in 1975 the producer Eddy Hilberts changed their name to Pussycat and asked them to record a country-rock song, 'Mississippi', written by the girls' guitar tutor, Werner Theunissen, who was no relation to John Theunissen. It became an international hit, selling five million copies.

The follow-up, 'Smile', although successful elsewhere, only made the UK Top 30. The group had many continental hits including 'Georgie', 'My Broken Souvenirs', 'If You Ever Come To Amsterdam', 'Wet Day In September' and 'Doin' La Bamba'. Economics forced the sisters into using backing tapes in 1980 and they split up in 1985. Toni made a solo album, *Privilege*, and in 1989, *New Words To An Old Love Song*, was one of the top albums in The Netherlands. Toni, now divorced, recently released a single, 'Girls In Their Fifties', and, as the song said, the cat came back as the three sisters have reformed Pussycat with new backing musicians.
