



Atlantic crossing

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Jones, Tom (

1940-),

singer

Bennett, Tony (

1926-2023),

singer

Concert films

Jazz

Popular music

Material Projectable

Surprisingly, in 1965, while The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, Van Morrison's Them, and Donovan all occupied the top spots, the warm and powerful voice of a Welsh bricklayer, Tom Jones, enters the charts with "It's Not Unusual," a title composed by Gordon Mills, the man who discovered him and later became his manager. And it is true that Tom Jones imposes a personal style and tone with this song. What does this first success indicate? That there is always a place, in all the countries of the world, for singers with a "beautiful voice" who know how to interpret popular tunes. This first hit will be followed by the theme song for the film What's New Pussycat and Tom Jones will definitively establish himself as one of the major voices in the world of pop. The Atlantic Crossing program presents Tom Jones as a virile popular singer, who shamelessly showcases his sex appeal with pop and funk accents during 1970s TV shows where he is surrounded by pretty girls. In a very instructive total opposition, it illustrates Tony Bennett's more classy talent, that of the crooner who knows how to control his voice as well as underline the quality of the texts. As far as Tony Bennett, the question is always the same: is he a pop singer or a jazz singer? Let's say he is a singer who seduces jazz musicians, and let's never forget his records with Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman and Bill Evans. On the stages of the Las Vegas casinos, he is accompanied by a pianist with a delicious touch, proof that he knew how to surround himself with the best. Philippe Lesage

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