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"Count the band in and kick into overdrive"

ON THE ROAD WITH BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

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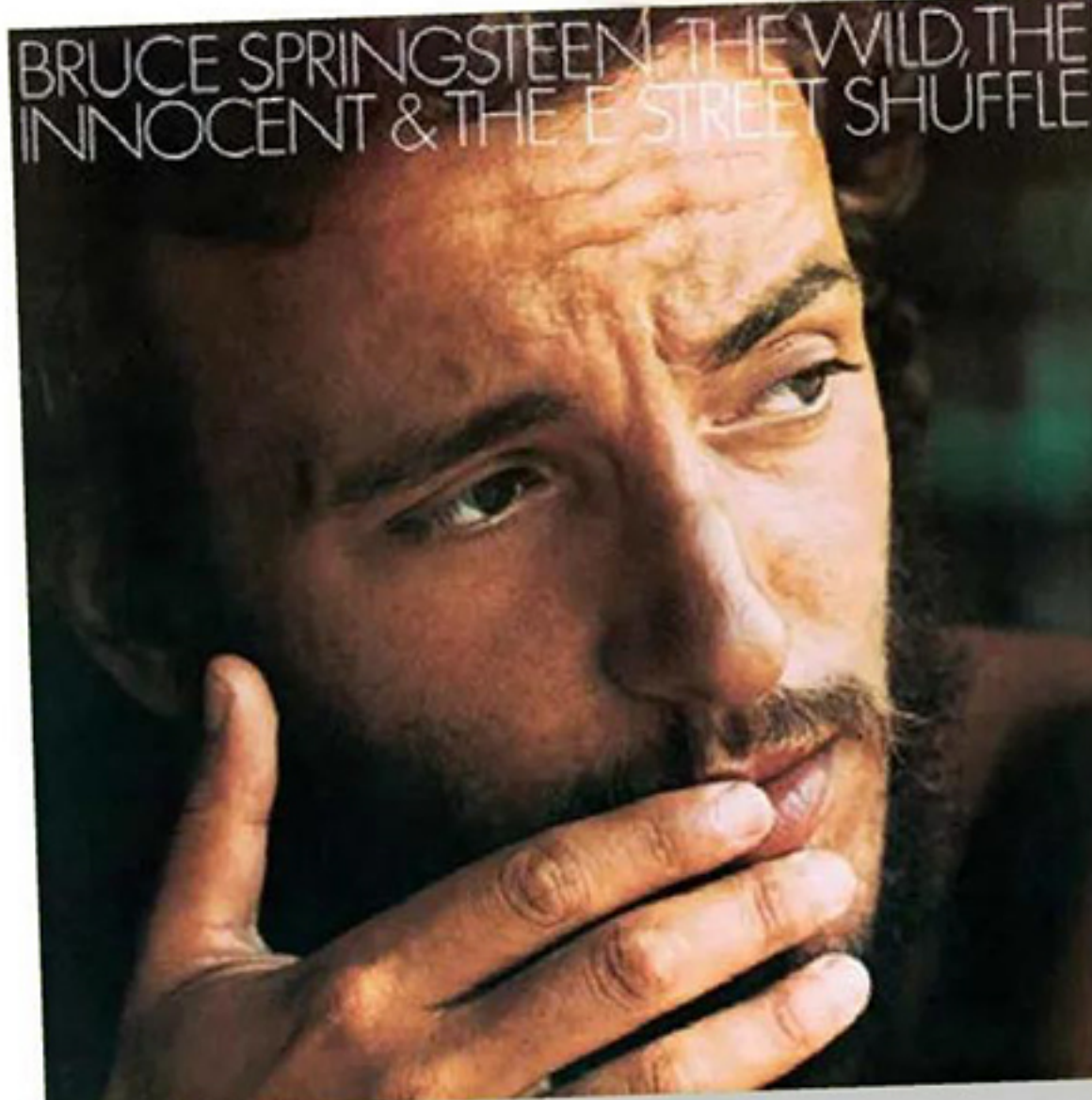
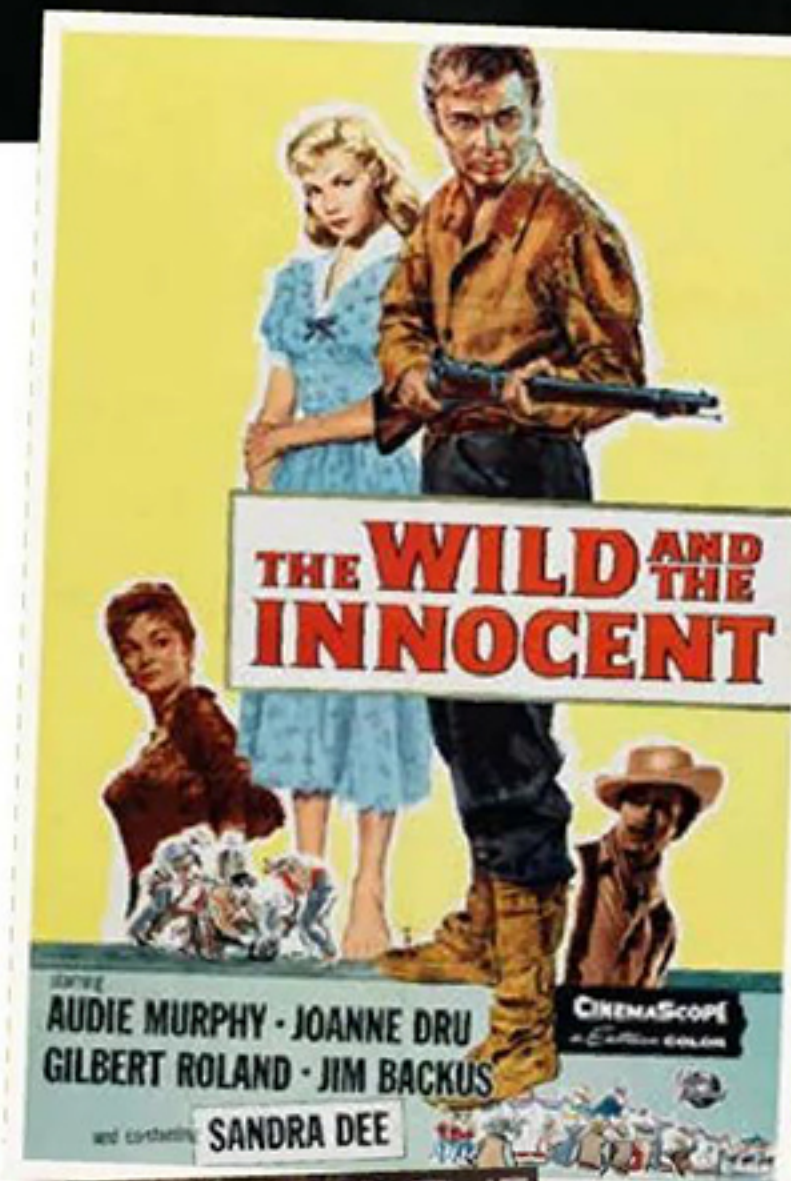
116 pages

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THE BEATLES
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ON DRUGS

Start of a "big family": Bruce with the nascent E Street Band, Long Branch, New Jersey, 1972

Here was the birth of the E Street Band, commemorated in the title of the new album, part borrowed from a 1959 Audie Murphy western called *The Wild And The Innocent*, about mountain trappers who find trouble in



the big city. But he was on thin ice at Columbia. Both of his allies, Davis and Hammond, had left the label, while a particularly bad performance at that year's CBS Records Company Convention had alienated the new executives. "The O'Jays had come out and did 'Love Train', then Edgar Winter came on and did 'Frankenstein'," says Spitz.

We called it the Bruce Springsteen Express. I never once thought he wasn't going to break wide open." As the year drew to a close, Springsteen was already thinking ahead to his third album. In October, he'd woken from a dream somewhere on tour in Tennessee and jotted a phrase down in his notebook: born to run. 📖

"The place was rocking. Then Bruce comes up with an acoustic guitar and a tuba player to do 'Wild Billy's Circus Story'. It sucked all the air out of the auditorium. People got up and walked out."

The Wild, The Innocent & The E Street Shuffle didn't improve his standing when it was released in November. Again the reviews were positive, the sales not so much. Springsteen and his team, however, were undaunted. "We weren't frustrated by the album sales," says Spitz, "because we saw the ball was already rolling. It was coming down the hill, and it was travelling faster and faster.

TONIGHT: BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN!

Ed Gallucci recalls being the first photographer to shoot the Boss back in 1972

"ONE day I got a call from my editor, Peter Knobler at *Crawdaddy*, asking me if I wanted to shoot this young kid who writes these amazing lyrics. I didn't know who he was talking about, but Peter said he's going to be the next Bob Dylan. The next Bob Dylan? There is no next Bob Dylan. There's just Dylan. I was a huge Dylan fan, obviously, so I was curious. I went down to this club on Bleecker Street, and the sign out front read, 'Tonight: Bruce Springsteen!' I thought I was going to be shooting a nice Jewish kid from New Jersey. The lighting in there was terrible, but I did manage to get some good shots of Springsteen. "So I went down to New Jersey where he and the band were rehearsing. First, we go to Bruce's apartment in Bradley Beach. It's a tiny, one-bedroom apartment - a walk-up in the back of this old house. Bruce is there with his dog and his girlfriend, Diane Lozito. He was maybe three years younger than me, so I felt like he was just a kid. But he was very nice, very accommodating. "When I shoot, I try to fade into the background. I don't want to get in the way. I just want to get some good shots. Bruce is cool. He's ignoring me, talking to Peter. And he starts playing some songs. I wish I had thought to pay closer attention, because I can't

remember what he played. I shot him for about two hours that day. "A few days later I went back to New Jersey. He was rehearsing in this really cool old house in Long Branch. It had this huge wraparound porch, and they had set up in this room that had big windows. The light was great! I did a portrait of Springsteen with two band members on either side of him, which they used in *Bruce Springsteen: A Photographic Journey* at the Grammy Museum. I had other photos from those shoots in the *Western Stars* film and in the documentary *Clive Davis: The Soundtrack Of Our Lives*. "Nobody was shooting him but me back then. The only people who even knew who he was were from Asbury Park. At that time, you got \$15 for every photograph you published. I spent three days shooting this guy and made \$150 altogether. But I didn't even send him any pictures. When I shot Muhammad Ali, I sent him pictures. When I shot Woody Allen, I sent him pictures. But it just didn't dawn on me to send Bruce any pictures, maybe because I didn't really get to listen to his music when I wasn't taking pictures of him. "Who knows, maybe I could have been his go-to photographer. But it did pay off later on in life. I ended up donating 40 photographs from those sessions to the Springsteen Archive at Monmouth University."

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