

# **Elvis And The Colonel**

**Tobias Bleicker** 

#### **Elvis And The Colonel:**

The Colonel Alanna Nash, 2013-05-16 Almost the only indisputable fact about Colonel Tom Parker is that he was the manager of the greatest performer in popular music Elvis Presley His real name wasn t Tom Parker indeed he wasn t an American at all but a Dutch immigrant called Andreas van Kujik And he certainly wasn t a proper military colonel he purchased his title from a man in Louisiana But while the Colonel has long been acknowledged as something of a charlatan this book is the first to reveal the extraordinary extent of the secrets he concealed and the consequences for the career and ultimately the life of the star he managed As Alanna Nash prodigious research has discovered the Colonel left Holland most probably because at the age of twenty he bludgeoned a woman to death Entering the US illegally he then enlisted in the army as Tom Parker But with supreme irony for someone later styling himself as Colonel Parker's military career ended in desertion and discharge after a psychiatrist had certified him as a psychopath He then became a fairground barker working sideshows with a zeal for small scale huckstering and the casual scam that never left him And by the height of Elvis s success Parker had become a pathological gambler who at the same time as he was taking amazingly a full 50% of Presley's earnings frittered away all his wealth in the casinos of Las Vegas As Nash shows therefore the often baffling trajectory of Elvis Presley s career makes perfect sense once the secret imperatives of the Colonel s life are known Parker never booked Presley for a tour of Europe because of the dark secret that ensured he himself could never return there Even at his most famous Elvis was still being booked to play out of the way towns in North Carolina because the former fairground barker who shamelessly negotiated as such even with top record company and film executives knew them from his days on the circus circuit And Elvis was trapped playing years of arduous seasons in Las Vegas two shows nightly seven days a week until boredom and despair brought on the excessive drug use that killed him because for Parker he was an open chit whose huge earnings prevented his manager's losses at the gambling tables being called in Alanna Nash knew Parker towards the end of his life and has now uncovered the whole story improbable shocking and never less than compelling of how this larger than life man made and then unmade popular music s first and greatest superstar **The Colonel** Alanna Nash, 2008-09-09 In The Colonel Alanna Nash the author of Golden Girl The Story of Jessica Savitch explores in depth the amazing story of Colonel Tom Parker the man behind the legend and the myth of Elvis Presley The result is a book that reads like the most riveting of real life detective stories one that will completely change your view of Presley's life success and death While scores of books have been written about Elvis Presley this is the first meticulously researched biography of Tom Parker written by someone who knew him personally And for anyone truly interested in the performer many consider the greatest and most influential of the twentieth century it is impossible to understand how Elvis came to be such a phenomenon without examining the life and mind of Parker the man who virtually controlled Elvis s every move Alanna Nash has been covering the story of Elvis Presley and Colonel Tom Parker since the day of Presley's funeral in Memphis Tennessee She was the first journalist allowed to view

Presley s body a compelling and surprising sight But the profile of Parker attending the funeral in a Hawaiian shirt and a baseball cap was even stranger and led her to investigate the man behind the myth It has been known for twenty years that Thomas Andrew Parker was in fact born in Holland as Andreas Cornelis van Kuijk But Nash has dug much deeper and in a masterpiece of reporting unearthed never before seen documents including Parker's army records and psychiatric evaluations and the original police report of an unsolved murder case in Holland that lies at the heart of the Parker mystery In the process of weighing the evidence she answers the biggest riddle in the history of the music industry as it becomes clear that every move Parker made in the handling of Elvis Presley from why he never allowed Elvis to perform in Europe to why he didn t halt Elvis s drug use to why he put him in so many mediocre movies and even the Colonel s direction of Presley s army career was designed to protect Parker s own secrets Filled with startling new material her book challenges even the most familiar precepts of the Presley saga everything we presumed about Parker's handling of the world's most famous entertainer must now be reevaluated in the light of information Nash reveals about Parker who cared little for Presley beyond what the singer could do to bolster the Colonel's precarious position as an illegal alien Elvis Presley as one of Parker s unwitting victims paid a major price for the Colonel s past and his overwhelming need to be more important than his client As a result Presley was never allowed to reach his potential and died in drug induced frustration over his stunted and mismanaged career In this astonishing impeccably written and vastly entertaining book Nash proves that the only figure in American popular culture as fascinating as Elvis Presley is Colonel Tom Parker the man who shaped Elvis who in turn helped The Colonel and the King Peter Guralnick, 2025-08-05 From the award winning biographer of Elvis Presley a shape us groundbreaking dual portrait of the relationship between the iconic artist and his legendary manager drawing on a wealth of the Colonel's never before seen correspondence to reveal that this oft reviled figure was in fact a confidant friend and architect of his client's success In early 1955 Colonel Tom Parker manager of the number one country music star of the day heard that an unknown teenager from Memphis had just drawn a crowd of more than eight hundred people to a Texas schoolhouse and headed south to investigate Within days Parker was sending out telegrams and letters to promoters and booking agents We have a new boy that is absolutely going to be one of the biggest things in the business in a very short time His name is ELVIS PRESLEY Later that year after signing with RCA the young man sent a telegram of his own Dear Colonel Words can never tell you how my folks and I appreciate what you did for me I love you like a father The close personal bond between Elvis and the Colonel has never been fully portrayed before It was a relationship founded on mutual admiration and support From the outset the Colonel defended Elvis fiercely and indefatigably against RCA executives Elvis s own booking agents and movie moguls But in their final years together the story grew darker as the Colonel found himself unable to protect Elvis from himself or control growing problems of his own Featuring troves of previously unpublished correspondence revelatory for both its insights and emotional depth The Colonel and the King provides a unique perspective

on not one but two American originals A tale of the birth of the modern day superstar an invention almost entirely of Parker s making by Peter Guralnick the most acclaimed music writer of his generation it presents these two misunderstood icons as they ve never been seen before with all of their brilliance humor and flaws on full display Elvis and the Colonel Greg McDonald, Marshall Terrill, 2023-11-28 A fresh biography of legendary entertainment manager Colonel Tom Parker with a contrarian and corrective point of view Colonel Tom Parker often reviled in his time led the strategy from the earliest days of Elvis s career Together they built the most legendary partnership in show business For the first time Colonel Parker s story is told by an insider Greg McDonald who worked under Parker for years Never before heard stories of Parker's collaboration with Elvis reveal the man behind the legend and the strategies that made Elvis a commercial groundbreaker Ingrained lore has it that Parker took advantage of poor country boy Elvis to sign the singer who became The King But Elvis and the Colonel shows that Elvis was not foolish when it came to business arrangements This book is full of stories of innovations Parker made with his star client including ingenious merchandising eg selling both I love Elvis and I hate Elvis buttons licensing and branding from suits to toys ashtrays to guitars establishing The King as an artist in residence in Las Vegas creating televised concert events like Elvis Christmas special Many of the practices Parker established are still deployed today by most major agencies Parker's experience as a carny and an immigrant shaped his management style when he was at his peak showing how he adapted big top practices to the big time The heart of Elvis and the Colonel is the long strong warm and complex relationship between two iconic men Elvis and the Colonel Brian Springfield, 2008-01-01 It's Christmas Eve 1959 The Colonel is busy in his Las Vegas office awaiting Elvis s return from Germany He will be out of the Army soon and is ready to take America back by storm The Colonel has other plans The next 17 years will be a cocktail of mostly bad movies endless touring and beautiful women If the Colonel had been given the power of foresight and was able to see the past his and Elvis through the prism of the future would he change course The Colonel is visited this night by his one time business partner Hank Snow Hank warns him about three ghosts that will be visiting him sound familiar The first ghost arrives in a pink cadillac and is dressed in a gold lamee suit The second is dressed in tight black leather with a passion for food and guns The third is smothered in polyester and seguins and trailed by a couple of laughing sycophants Do the events of August 16th 1977 happen as we remember or does Elvis play Portland Maine that evening **Colonel Tom Parker** James L. Dickerson, 2003-01-21 Based on unprecedented research and interviews this authoritative biography of Colonel Tom Parker 1909 1997 includes new revelations and insights into rock music s most renowned and notorious manager **Colonel Tom Parker** James L. Dickerson, 2022-06-20 Based on unprecedented original research and interviews with insiders this authoritative investigative biography of Colonel Tom Parker 1909 1997 Elvis Presley's lifelong manager includes new revelations and insights into the music industry s most notorious and mysterious manager Investigative journalist and music writer James L Dickerson looks at topics such as Parker's illegal entry into the United States his work as a carny with Royal

American Shows and his management of country singer Eddy Arnold his partnership with Hank Snow and how he manipulated Elvis Presley and his family to seize control of the singer s career destroying career in the process The book which covers Parker's life and career from birth to his death examines Parker's greed his indebtedness to behind the scenes players in Las Vegas his gambling addiction and his fear of deportation played a role in ruining Elvis s career Because Colonel Parker was always there with Elvis gazing ominously over his shoulder the book presents behind the scenes glimpses of the entertainer's career that you will read nowhere else thanks in part to the author's personal and professional relationship with Elvis s first guitarist Scotty Moore with whom the author wrote two revealing books Elvis and the Colonel Dirk Vellenga, Mick Farren, 1988 My Years with Elvis & the Colonel Colonel May Mann, 1977 Charles Stone, 2009 Elvis and the Colonel Mick Farren, Dirk Vellenga, 1989-07 Who was the man behind Elvis He claimed to be a West Virginia native called Colonel Tom Parker who in fact was an illegal immigrant from Holland Here is the shocking true story of the man who created exploited and some say destroyed Elvis Presley 16 pages of photos many never **Elvis and the Colonel** May Mann, 1975 **ELVIS and the Colonel** Darrin Memmer, 2017-03-15 before published ELVIS nah just the most contemporaneously rich fair minded engaging collection of material about The Colonel assembled in one place It is thanks to the University of Memphis Preservation and Special Collections Mississippi Valley Collection Department that this book honoring Marie Francis Parker was feasible So for the 1st time in your life you have an opportunity to soak up a tsunami of never before published quotes by notable figures including Mac Davis bodyguard Sam Thompson Billy Goldenberg John Hartmann Hal Blaine Bones Howe John Wilkinson Grelun Landon co star Yvonne Craig Steve Binder Minnie Pearl Sam Katzman Ron Jacobs Red West Jerry Schilling Joe Pasternak Henri Lewin Freddy Beinstock songwriter Jerry Leiber Joe Guercio orchestra member tour conductor Marty Harrell Jo Walker Hubert Long Johnny Rivers Pete Johnson Bill Bixby and of course The Chief Potentate Two of many many Highlights 1 Uncovered The I do drugs quote attributed to Elvis via Colonel is erroneous Col Tom Parker's actual words to the criminal investigators Quoting EP I DON T I DON T do drugs I DON T I don t tell you what to do with your personal life I don t interfere with it I don t want you to get involved with my personal life Colonel no disrespect 1a So sadly for 25 years superfans like Mr Geoffrey McDonnell have been led astray 2 The most comprehensive presentation of the Guardian ad Litem's Amended Report Blanchard E Tual vs Colonel Thomas A Parker the March 1973 RCA Masters Buy Out to appear in a biography OSCAR DAVIS He is a very demanding man but a very hard worker Colonel Parker can read you like a book as you stand and talk with him He is very astute A tremendous businessman If I had to select anyone in this amusement field and I ve been through it from 1912 on up I would select him to make deals I don t think anyone has bested him on a deal DJ FONTANA The guy was a very smart man In fact I d call him to me he is a genius Because he doesn't miss a trick He does everything right He was always around somewhere You d never know where he was gonna be The Colonel was always there He kept the whole thing rollin MARION

KEISKER Oh listen Colonel Tom was a Come Lately on this deal You better believe I mean this is what infuriates me when I hear him say that he discovered him But this was my first totally negative reaction to Colonel Tom and some practices that I thought were well strange and unethical Saying one thing and doing something else you know Taking advantage of the situation Colonel Tom had been working on the family for at least a year In the most polished and Machiavellian way You couldn t believe it MINNIE PEARL Colonel Parker is the most fearless business personality of anybody in the world Nothing fazes him He is dauntless An inscrutable man GRELUN LANDON Fast as a whip Colonel took the rap for being the heavy for the whole Svengali trip that went with the title of manager Elvis had the power in that relationship JOHN HARTMANN What Elvis has thanks to the Colonel is the most media power he could possibly have RON JACOBS The Colonel is the manager The others are punks He s an extension of P T Barnum and W C Fields who studies people and completely psyches them out Also from Darrin Lee on Amazon com ELVIS KATHY Together at the Houston Summit 76 The Human Spirit Triumphs Over Sickness NIXON and ELVIS and ELVIS TCB At The Houston Summit 76 Faith Spirit Discipline **Mv Bov Elvis** Sean O'Neal,2001-04-01 Delves into the murky truth about Col Parker and his handling of Elvis A consummate carnival huckster Parker never gave anything away for free and took pride in conning the public Born in Holland as Andreas Cornelis van Kuijk he snuck into the U S aboard a cargo ship and reinvented himself After backstabbing and back room dealings to get Presley s managerial contract Parker plotted to push Elvis to the forefront of the music scene Details all of Parker's dirty dealings and greedy negotiations such as the contract signed at Elvis s funeral which granted Parker and his associates approximately 75% of the income from Elvis merchandising Photos Colonel Tom A. Parker - Chief Potentate Darrin Memmer, 2016-11-12 Colonel Tom A Parker Chief Potentate Elvis s Manager On The Record features ground breaking content from the Colonel s For The Record interview with 2 astute take no prisoners criminal investigators Mr E L Hutchinson Jr and Mr David N McGriff from the Shelby County District Attorney General's Office Rest assured that this is no whitewash or rose colored approach to biography rather the most contemporaneously rich fair minded engaging collection of material about Colonel Parker to be assembled in one place So for the 1st time in your life you have an opportunity to soak up a tsunami of never before published quotes by players such as Mac Davis Sam Thompson Billy Goldenberg John Hartmann Hal Blaine Bones Howe John Wilkinson Grelun Landon Yvonne Craig Steve Binder Minnie Pearl Sam Katzman Oscar Davis Ron Jacobs Red West J Schilling Joe Pasternak Henri Lewin Freddy Beinstock J Leiber Marty Harrell Jo Walker Hubert Long Johnny Rivers Pete Johnson Bill Bixby and of course The Chief Potentate General de Gaulle and The Colonel as told by SINGER presents ELVIS producer director Steve Binder The Colonel tells this fantastic story He used to get calls from all over about Elvis performing for troops And he gets a long distance phone call from General de Gaulle who has an interpreter on the line Then de Gaulle s interpreter says The general would like Elvis to perform for the French army The Colonel says you got it But there is only one thing He said I have to charge General de Gaulle the exact same amount of money to perform for the French

army as I would charge President Eisenhower to have Elvis perform for the American army De Gaulle's interpreter tells de Gaulle and then says the general would like to know how much And the Colonel says three hundred and fifty thousand dollars 350 000 The Colonel hears de Gaulle say in English That's A LOT of fickin money Highlights 1 Uncovered The I do drugs quote attributed to Elvis via Colonel is erroneous Col Parker's actual words to the criminal investigators Quoting EP I don't I don t do drugs I don t I don t tell you what to do with your personal life I don t interfere with it I don t want you to get involved with my personal life Colonel no disrespect 1a So sadly for 25 years superfans like Geoffrey McDonnell have been led astray 2 The most comprehensive presentation of The Guardian ad Litem's Amended Report Blanchard E Tual vs Colonel Thomas A Parker The RCA Masters Buy Out to appear in a biography 3 Sam Thompson Colonel was cursing some of these doctors and considering selling EP s contract 4 Fifteen pages of fascinating SINGER presents ELVIS reflections vast majority unpublished by Steve Binder Bones Howe and Billy Goldenberg 5 A Little Doggie In Danger The engaging account originally appeared in Elvis Monthly and is courtesy of Mr Todd Slaughter and The OEPFC of Great Britain URL www elvispresleyfanclub co uk 6 Grelun Landon no apologist The Colonel didn t know about the pills during the MGM days This is pertinent to EIN's excellent spotlight article entitled The Dark Side Of Colonel Parker 7 The Wrecking Crew's Hal Blaine Elvis asked me to go to Las Vegas for his first big opening I turned down 10 000 for the month 8 The FECC ELVIS Forum has its Jack Valentine script mystery solved The University of Memphis's Preservation and Special Collections Mississippi Valley Collection which include the trailblazing research interviews conducted by Jerry Hopkins Charles C Thompson II and James P Cole made this book honoring the lovely Marie Francis Parker possible I miss Elvis every day There s not a day when I don t think about him Colonel Tom A Parker Looking to Get Lost Peter Guralnick, 2020-10-27 By the bestselling author of Sam Phillips The Man Who Invented Rock n Roll and Last Train the Memphis The Rise of Elvis Presley this dazzling new book of profiles is a culmination of Peter Guralnick s remarkable work which from the start has encompassed the full sweep of blues gospel country and rock n roll It covers old ground from new perspectives offering deeply felt masterful and strikingly personal portraits of creative artists both musicians and writers at the height of their powers You put the book down feeling that its sweep is vast that you have read of giants who walked among us rock critic Lester Bangs wrote of Guralnick's earlier work in words that could just as easily be applied to this new one And yet for all of the encomiums that Guralnick's books have earned for their remarkable insights and depth of feeling Looking to Get Lost is his most personal book yet For readers who have grown up on Guralnick's unique vision of the vast sweep of the American musical landscape who have imbibed his loving and lively portraits and biographies of such titanic figures as Elvis Presley Sam Cooke and Sam Phillips there are multiple surprises and delights here carrying on and extending all the themes fascinations and passions of his groundbreaking earlier work One of NPR s Best Books of 2020 One of Kirkus Review Rolling Stone s Top Music Books of 2020 One of No Depression's Best Books of 2020 Me and a Guy Named Elvis Jerry Schilling, Chuck Crisafulli, 2007-07-19

On a lazy Sunday in 1954 twelve year old Jerry Schilling wandered into a Memphis touch football game only to discover that his team was quarterbacked by a nineteen year old Elvis Presley the local teenager whose first record That's All Right had just debuted on Memphis radio Jerry and Elvis became fast friends even as Elvis turned into the world's biggest star In 1964 Elvis invited Jerry to work for him as part of his Memphis Mafia and Jerry soon found himself living with Elvis full time in a Bel Air mansion and later in his own room at Graceland Over the next thirteen years Jerry would work for Elvis in various capacities from bodyguard to photo double to co executive producer on a karate film But more than anything else he was Elvis s close friend and confidant Elvis trusted Jerry with protecting his life when he received death threats he asked Jerry to drive him and Priscilla to the hospital the day Lisa Marie was born and to accompany him during the famous lost weekend when he traveled to meet President Nixon at the White House Me and a Guy Named Elvis looks at Presley from a friend s perspective offering readers the man rather than the icon including insights into the creative frustrations that lead to Elvis s abuse of prescription medicine and his tragic death Jerry offers never before told stories about life inside Elvis s inner circle and an emotional recounting of the great times hard times and unique times he and Elvis shared These vivid memories will be priceless to Elvis s millions of fans and the compelling story will fascinate an even wider audience Juanico, 2012-08 She was a good girl from Biloxi Mississippi he was a rockabilly singer on the verge of stardom They fell in love in the summer of 1956 and found a timeless moment of innocence and simple pleasure In this acclaimed intimate portrait of the American legend Juanico gives us the Elvis she knew and loved the Memphis boy with aw shucks charm impeccable manners and an easy and irresistible sensuality Their lives merged quickly and completely Elvis s mother Gladys felt June was her son s last hope against the excesses of life on the road and the corruption of fame But Elvis was on a train that no one could stop Self possessed June chose her own path she left Elvis determined never to look back But in this completely disarming fascinating memoir she does look back and proves she has remembered everything every conversation every story and every caress Elvis In the Twilight of Memory gives us an intimate and unforgettable portrait of the man who Elvis and the Memphis Mafia Alanna Nash, 2012-02-01 A monumental oral biography filled with raucous would be King joy aching loss and terrible poignancy Elvis the Memphis Mafia is the first book to capture the King the man and the phenomenon in his full complexity Through revealing interviews with three of Elvis s closest friends who were also his protectors and rescuers Nash achieves the first true mapping of Elvis s psyche Billy Smith Elvis s first cousin and the person he reputedly loved most after his own mother Marty Lacker best man at his wedding and foreman of the Memphis Mafia the King's handpicked group of gatekeepers and confidants and Lamar Fike the touring crew member who accompanied him into the Army were with Elvis from his teens to his final days and provide unique access to the greatest of all rock and roll legends The revelations cut through every aspect of Elvis s life from the childhood seeds of his drug dependency through his fear for his mother's life and his plan to change his identity to his bizarre self mutilation. No one who reads this symphonic

blending of three proud ribald sad and ultimately wistful voices can fail to be profoundly moved Elvis in Vegas Richard Zoglin, 2019-07-23 The story of how Las Vegas saved Elvis and Elvis saved Las Vegas in the greatest musical comeback of all time The conventional wisdom is that Las Vegas is what destroyed Elvis Presley launching him on a downward spiral of drugs boredom erratic stage behavior and eventually his fatal overdose But in Elvis in Vegas Richard Zoglin takes an alternate view arguing that Vegas is where the King of Rock and Roll resurrected his career reinvented himself as a performer and created the most exciting show in Vegas history Elvis s 1969 opening night in Vegas was his first time back on a live stage in more than eight years His career had gone sour bad movies and mediocre pop songs that no longer made the charts He d been dismissed by most critics as over the hill But in Vegas he played the biggest showroom in the biggest hotel in the city drawing more people for his four week engagement than any other show in Vegas history His performance got rave reviews Suspicious Minds gave him his first number one hit in seven years and Elvis became Vegas s biggest star Over the next seven years he performed more than 600 shows there and sold out every one Las Vegas was changed too The intimate night club style shows of the Rat Pack who made Vegas the nation's premier live entertainment center in the 1950s and 60s catered largely to well heeled older gamblers Elvis brought a new kind of experience an over the top rock concert like extravaganza He set a new bar for Vegas performers with the biggest salary the biggest musical production and the biggest promotion campaign the city had ever seen In doing so he opened the door to a new generation of pop rock performers and brought a new audience to Vegas a mass audience from Middle America that Vegas depends on for its success to this day A classic comeback tale set against the backdrop of Las Vegas s golden age Richard Zoglin's Elvis in Vegas is a feel good story for the ages

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