

Katy Moffatt - Bio

Katy Moffatt was born on November 19th, 1950 in Fort Worth, Texas. Her only sibling, Hugh, was already an active two year old. Aged five and for the ensuing six years, Katy's paternal grandmother gave the youngster daily piano lessons. In addition having fallen in love with show music, Katy's parents regularly took her to see the latest Broadway musicals at the local "Theatre In The Round." Growing up, Top 40 radio was also a powerful influence on Katy's musical make-up, *"When the Beatles first came to America in 1964, that was it for me. I got a guitar."* By the age of sixteen Katy was performing a mix of Leonard Cohen songs and blues music in local coffeehouses.

Graduating from high school, in the Fall of 1968, Katy enrolled in a New Orleans college. Three months later, homesick, she headed home. Katy began composing songs around this time. She went on to enroll at St. Joan's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. During her time there, she worked with blues pianist Gary Moody, joined the college jug band, and appeared in the Tom Loughlin movie **"Billy Jack"** [1971]. Moffatt and Moody later headed for Corpus Christi where they formed a blues band. *"We rehearsed all the time, but never worked."* Katy returned to Fort Worth once again, worked for a radio station that promptly closed, then decided to head for Houston where Hugh was studying.

Passing through Austin, she auditioned for Segal Fry at the legendary Chequered Flag. As the club's opening act, Katy was soon rubbing shoulders with Jerry Jeff Walker, Willis Alan Ramsey, Michael (Martin) Murphey and Rusty Wier. Many of those performers were based in the South Western states, so Katy passed on Houston, and headed for Colorado. In Denver she eventually visited the Denver Folklore Centre where David Faretta introduced her to Mary Flower. With Randy Handley, they formed Flower, Handley and Moffatt and toured Colorado listening clubs. When the trio split up, Mary and Katy worked together and in 1973 they appeared on the sampler **"Colorado Folk."** When Mary decided to work as a solo act, Katy landed a regular opening spot at Ebbetts Field, Denver's main rock n' roll club. *"The fellow who owned that club became my manager. Within six months, we had a deal with CBS Records and I began my solo recording career."*

Katy cut two albums for CBS. **"Katy Moffatt"** [1976] was cut in Nashville with legendary producer Billy Sherrill, while **"Kissin' In The California Sun"** [1978] was a compilation of sessions that had been overseen in Macon, Georgia by John Sandlin and in California by Glen Spreen. Neither album sold in significant quantities and Katy joined Michael Murphey's "3K Band" as a backing vocalist for the 1979 Epic album **"Peaks, Valleys, Honky Tonks & Alleys"** and later contributed to the soundtrack of, as well as appearing in, the 1981 movie **"Hard Country."** In the early eighties Katy cut three singles for the new Dallas based label, Permian, and having placed them on the Country Singles Chart scored a 1985 Academy of Country Music nomination as Best New Female Vocalist.

Katy Moffatt's third album release **"Walkin' On The Moon"** [1988] was recorded in Europe and released by the Swiss Red Moon label. Rounder/Philo later issued the disc in the States. Forming a friendship with fellow 1986 Kerrville New Folk judge Tom Russell, the pair had begun collaborating as songwriters. Six of the tracks on **"Walkin' On The Moon"** were penned by Katy, three with Tom, while the album was produced by Russell's longtime guitarist, Andrew Hardin. Steve Berlin and Mark Linett produced Katy's **"Child Bride"** [1989] and Heartland Records issued it in the UK, while Rounder/Philo covered North America.

In 1992 Rounder/Philo issued the eleven-track duet album by Katy and Hugh Moffatt, **"Dance Me Outside."** Hugh supplied four tunes, and Katy three, including the album title track co-written with Tom Russell. Recorded during Katy's March 1991 tour of Switzerland, her second Red Moon release was titled **"Indoor Fireworks"** [1992], and featured the all-star band The Great Unknown, composed of Austin, Texas based players. In January 1992 Moffatt cut the first of three albums she was to co-produce with Tom Russell. The first was initially titled **"The Greatest Show On Earth,"** but when The Ringling Bros. threatened court action, the title was changed to **"Evangeline Hotel."** The album featured eight songs co-written by Tom and Katy, plus a couple of originals each by Russell and Moffatt.

"Hearts Gone Wild" [1994] was the second Moffatt/Russell co-production and featured more songs they had co-written. The third and, to date, final Moffatt/Russell co-production was **"Midnight Radio"** [1996], and eight of the twelve tracks were co-written by Tom and Katy. Also a 1996 recording Rounder/Philo issued Katy's acoustic duo album with Kate Brislin, **"Sleepless Nights."** Initially intended as a New Zealand only release,

to coincide with her tour there, **“Angel Town”** [1998] was the second album to be co-produced by Katy and Andrew Hardin.

Moffatt’s 1999 Hightone recording **“Loose Diamond”** was produced by her Grammy winning buddy Dave Alvin, and was a solid roots country album, on which the session players mostly came for Alvin’s road band. A fifteen-song collection **“Cowboy Girl”** [2001] was co-produced by Canadian musician David Wilkie, and Scott O’Malley - owner of the Western Jubilee Recording Company. Leased and released initially by the Shanachie label, **“Cowboy Girl”** resurfaced on Dualtone Records in early 2005. Moffatt’s latest solo release **“Up Close And Personal”** [2005] on the Fuel 2000 label, was recorded at an Albuquerque, New Mexico house concert in October 2002.

In 2005, Katy and Rosie Flores recorded a Wendy Waldman produced duo album at the latter’s Longhouse studio. The recording has yet to be released. Having toured the Netherlands on a number of occasions, in 2007 the Strictly Country label released a fifteen song, Katy Moffatt ‘live in Holland’ album titled **“Playin’ Fool.”** On the recording Katy performs ‘solo,’ and with her brother Hugh, as well as Tom Russell, Andrew Hardin, Julian Dawson and Rosie Flores. Twenty years ago, then a decade later, Andy Hardin produced a Katy Moffatt studio album. Maintaining that ten-year cycle, Hardin helmed Katy’s late 2008 release **“Fewer Things.”** Released for the nascent Columbus, Ohio based label Zeppelin Recordings, this eleven song collection, recorded in Austin at Cedar Creek studio, included five songs that Katy co-wrote – variously with Wendy Waldman, Billy Cowsill, Tom Russell and the late Carl Brouse [d. 2002].

Discography :

with Mary Flower : **“Colorado Folk”** three tracks on this compilation album [1973] :

with Hugh Moffatt : **“Dance Me Outside”** [1992] :

with Kate Brislin : **“Sleepless Nights”** [1996] :

Solo : **“Katy Moffatt”** reissued during 2002 in the UK on a ‘2 for 1’ CD with **“Kissin”** [1976] ; **“Kissin’ In The California Sun”** reissued during 2002 in the UK on a ‘2 for 1’ CD with **“Katy Moffatt”** [1978] ; **“Walking On The Moon”** [1988] ; **“Child Bride”** [1989] ; **“Indoor Fireworks”** [1992] ; **“The Greatest Show On Earth”** later renamed **“Evangeline Hotel”** [1993] ; **“Hearts Gone Wild”** [1994] ; **“Midnight Radio”** [1996] ; **“Angel Town”** [1998] ; **“Loose Diamond”** [1999] ; **“Cowboy Girl”** [2001] ; **“Up Close And Personal”** [2005] ; **“Playin’ Fool”** [200] ; **“Fewer Things”** [2008] :

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 02/92, 03/92, 04/92, 10/05 & 10/08.

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