

SCHNEIDERVILLE

Two of Australia's most sublime artists, mother and daughter Mary and Melinda Schneider, team up at TRECC for the Tamworth debut their new stage show, 'SCHNEIDERVILLE' at the 2010 Tamworth Country Music Festival.

We asked them about their latest news and what brought them together for this original new show:

***What are your first memories of hearing each other sing?**

Mary: My first memories of hearing Melinda sing was when she was a little girl of 2 or 3 years. I always sang her to sleep at night and she would join in and sing the harmonies of songs like "Mary had little Lamb" It came so naturally to her. I couldn't believe it!

Melinda: Falling asleep under mum's fur coat backstage of course! I loved it...her voice was so soothing and I felt completely at peace in the dressing room as a kid....she'd be singing all these dramatic Shirley Bassey ballads and I would be drifting into dreamland.

***How did you first come to work together?**

Mary: I was singing at a club in Newcastle. She was 3 and she ran on stage from backstage where my husband was minding her. She sang the harmony to a song with me. The audience loved her.

Melinda: I have some vague memories of my first time on stage....at around three....I remember feeling very comfortable in front of the crowd and people laughing and feeling good.

*** What did you learn about each other from being on the road together?**

Mary: I must admit I didn't go 'on the road' with her because during her school years, I wanted her to have a secure home life and not miss school so I never stayed away from her once and only did one night stands so I could come straight home even if it was 4 in the morning. I had my beautiful Mum living with us and she minded her when necessary. I drove her to school every day and picked her up till she was 16.

Melinda: Oh no mum....did you have to tell everyone that! Mum did drive me to school....I used to con her so badly...I would take my time getting ready so I wouldn't have to catch the bus....mum was a bit of a pushover...lol. But back to the question...I learned that mum was a real professional, she had to get through some pretty tough situations on stage, whether it be with a band who couldn't read her music or a drunk heckler from the crowd causing her problems....mum is a survivor and can handle any situation. Watching her taught me how to do that on stage too.

***Are you inspired by each other?**

Mary: Yes, I am inspired by her a lot. She is such a good singer and writes beautiful songs. I am so proud of her. I always wished for her to be musical before she was born and she has really fulfilled that wish for me.

Melinda: Yes, mum has been one of my biggest inspirations. She is technically one of the best singers I've ever heard and as an entertainer, she is so strong.

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* How did your love of country music begin?

Mary: When I was about 6 years, we lived in Brisbane and my sister Rita and I used to listen to country music on radio. Early recordings of Carson Robison,(we loved him) Tex Morton and Smoky Dawson. Then I started to practice yodelling up in the mango tree in the back yard where we had a tree house.

Melinda: I used to listen to Ricky Skaggs in my bedroom as a kid for hours...I always loved blue-grass music. Before that though...our family parties were full of music with mum and Aunty Rita singing everything from country to jazz!

* Being very close as mother and daughter, what drives you crazy about each other?

Mary: We are best friends..just like sisters but I suppose there are always things that annoy you. No one's perfect. As she was growing up she used to say "In a minute" when I asked her to do anything. I tried to get her out of it and said "Do it now" but I'm afraid that didn't work because she still says "In a minute"even now.....but only to me!

Melinda: We are very close....but like most mums she has a tendency to give me unwanted advice and repeat things over and over again....she says it's not nagging but for some reason it always leads me to say 'in a minute'! lol

*Do you have a favourite song that you love hearing each other sing?

Mary: There are many favourite songs she sings . I love her ballads like "Dream Him Home" and "I'll Take Care Of You".

Melinda: 'The Cabin'....it's a song mum only does at parties, but I love it...it's moody, sexy and dark and allows mum to show a side that she doesn't often express.

What will people be able to expect to see and hear when they go to SCHNEIDERVILLE at TRECC?

Mary: A rather intimate story about our lives, we joke around a little plus sing some different styles of music we love. We sing separately, sing together, dance a little, play some different musical instruments...altogether an interesting show with plenty of variety.

Melinda: It's a glimpse into our relationship as mother and daughter and the artists and people we are as individuals. We have a pretty unusual relationship really....but sharing the stage together brings so much joy....so I hope that spreads like wildfire to the audience at Tamworth.

**Catch SCHNEIDERVILLEit's a place like no other!
Saturday January 16th 2010, 3pm @ TRECC**