

The *former* Supremes-

**UNCONDITIONAL LOVE,
MOTOWN AND LIVING A LIFE
OF DREAMS AND FUN**

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The Supremes the world's all-time favourite female group earned the accolades of the world with the reign on the music charts during the 60's and 70's. The Supremes had eight individual members during that time and each of the eight ladies contributed to the group's recording and performing success. Scherrie Payne and Susaye Greene, Formerly of the Supremes are genuine former members of The legendary Motown recording trio. The third singer is Joyce Vincent.' The Former Supremes are still touring and recently bought out a single called 'Unconditional Love.' Here the ladies talk about life, Motown and their legacy.



JOYCE: First and foremost, I'd like to clarify I'm not really a Former Supreme. Scherrie and Susaye are the Former Supremes, I've never been a Supreme but I'm with these ladies now keeping that legacy and music alive and I absolutely love it.

Esther: you for that Joyce now back to my question Who is Joyce? (Laughter)

JOYCE: I am me. I've been singing all most of my life. I always wanted to sing, always felt I needed to sing. I really did because I remember as a kid people would ask 'what do you want to be when you grow up?' I didn't know what I wanted to be. They'd convince you it's one of two things you would be a nurse or a teacher. I've been around music all of my life. My dad was a Jazz musician. So I was around music all the time.

Esther: I'm going to ask Scherrie the same question, who are you in a cashew nut shell, a peanut shell or a coconut shell.

SHERRIE: Well that's hard to answer. I still don't know because I'm still looking for me. I guess I loved to sing from the time I was an infant. My mother said before I learned to talk I was singing. I really didn't have an ambition to be a professional singer. I would sing at parties and in the basement. My idols were Billie Holiday and Gloria Lynne. Even when I graduated High School then went to Michigan State and I graduated in medical technology I knew I didn't want to do that either. So I fell into singing accidentally. I started writing songs and one-day when my sister was home, she was on the phone with Eddie Holland-Dozier-Holland so I got on the piano and started playing one of my songs really loud and he called me to the phone and asked me what I was playing and I said it was something I had written and that I had a lot

more. He then asked me if I would audition. So he sent a car around for me at Lamont Dozier's house, played a few songs and they signed me to the company and that was how it all started in 1968 and that's when I met Joyce.

I'm still searching for me and my purpose. I love to write. I do love to sing still. I love to write songs, screen plays and stage plays.

Esther: Now Susaye what about you? You feel like an atomic bomb to me.

SUSAYE: That's a new one for me. (Laughter) But in a nutshell. I've always known that I wanted to be an entertainer. I didn't know I was going to write songs, and I'm very grateful I found that out due to the people I was working for and who I was associated with.

If you are passionate about something you can do it with joy and with tremendous happiness in your heart. I think it's a sad thing that so many people are put off by either their parents, friends or the people that they know who say 'Oh you can't make a living with that.' We're taught about focussing on money or that fame is the goal when in essence it's our own peace of mind, our own personal power that makes us glorious spirits in this world and this is what will make us happy. So in that nutshell and with that thought, I will always create, it's what I do that brings me the most joy and that includes so much for all of us as we all do so many things.

SCHERRIE: Joyce is an excellent songwriter as well as Susaye.

SUSAYE: And You Scherrie (Laughter)

Esther: That was a nice lead into the next question, because I'm loving the energy as this feels all very homey. I hope you're all sitting down with a nice

cup of tea and you've got your feet up as we continue this conversation.

JOYCE: Oh My Gosh. I'm right in the middle of having a nice cup of coffee. Isn't this wonderful.

Esther: Ladies, I'm going to take you back a bit because as you know this year saw 60 years of Motown being celebrated so this is a very pivotal moment. It wasn't just the music, or the glamour but also messages in the music that were very powerful whether it was about love or about making a stand for something. So as you put everything together into the bouquet of performing and entertaining, Motown was very symbolic in its time.

So I'd now like to talk about the history of the Supremes and how Scherrie and Susaye became members.

SCHERRIE: Well for me, I joined Invictus Records and during that time I was a member of Glass House and in 1973, Lamont Dozier, who was my boyfriend at the time had come up to California where he met Mary Wilson at a party. She told him that Jean Terrell had just left the group. Jean was the one who had replaced Diana Ross and they were looking for another lead singer, so he suggested me. So she called, and I sent some pictures of the Glass House album, and a couple other albums. Then she called me back and asked me if I would come back to California. That was a Thursday night and she wanted me to leave on Saturday which I did. Then I thought 'Oh Lord what did I tell her yes for, I can't do this, am I crazy?' and then my mother gave me that motherly talk because she believed in her daughters, that we could do anything, and not to feel defeated or less than. Our mother was fantastic in that regard. So I got on that plane