



‘1968’ - Part V

Inspiration



"JAMES BROWN CHANGED MY LIFE.

When he cut "Say It Lou – I'm Black and I'm Proud," we had our fists in the air. It was like, "Man, black is cool," because at the time it wasn't cool to be black.

Being called *black* was just like the 'N' word, and people don't know that now. "Say It Loud" empowered you if you were black.

The music today only frustrates me. If I can take the young artists I'm working with and get them to be creative with what they're saying and instill some of what we were talking about in '68 – as soon as you hear the music, you say, "That's the bomb!" – then all the better. That's my mission now."

- WILLIAM "BOOTS" COLLINS, 63, singer-songwriter-musician who cut his musical teeth as a 17-year-old bass guitarist with the 'Godfather of Soul' and now continues to mentor young musicians at 'Bootzilla Productions' in Cincinnati.



“IT WAS JUST THIS ROLLER COASTER of pain that year, all sorrow and mayhem. For me, the trouble was personal, as well – my dad died... then I lost custody of my son.

I was a young woman learning to work, learning to continue, learning to finish, no matter what.

That lesson has stuck with me. Tragedy, comedy, what-ever goes on, you have to keep moving, keep making art, because for me, it was all about the music.

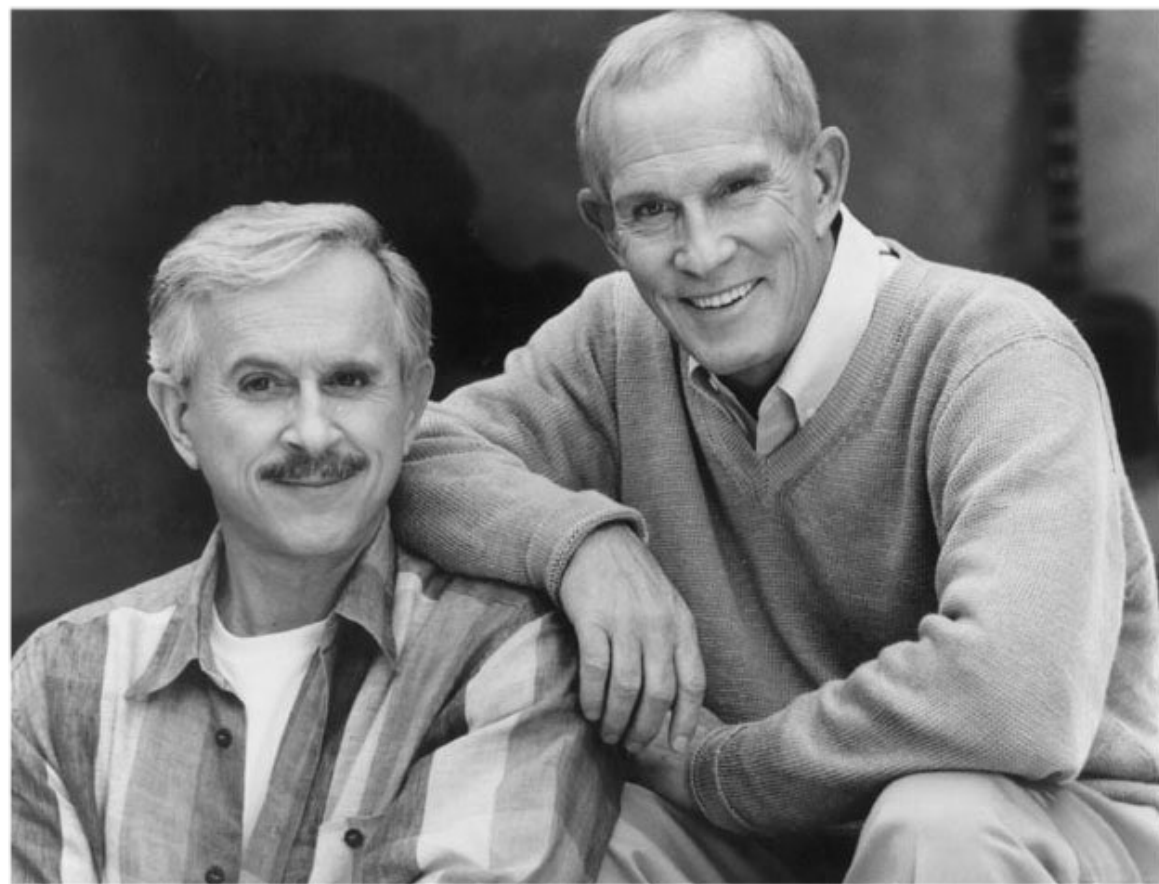
The world changed because of the music. People began to listen to words, they wanted to hear a story, because ultimately it's the personal that matters; it's how we fight our daily wars. That's what connects us.”

- **JUDY COLLINS**, 79, singer-songwriter, activist, whose album *Who Knows Where Time Goes* was released in 1968



“I think I’m a pretty good candidate because... I’ve been consistently vague on all the issues and I’m continuing to make promises t hat I’ll be unable to fulfill.”

- COMEDIAN PAT PAULSEN, on running for president while a member of the ‘The Smothers Brothers Hour.’.



"I LIKE TO SAY WE were at the scene of the accident in 1968. It was a great time to have a show on prime time television. The show reflected what was actually happening in America.

My brother and I were absolutely fearless. We were very polite in our satire, but even so, it was shocking, because no one else on television was saying anything like "Get out of Vietnam." When nothing's being said, something that is being said resonates pretty strongly. When we were fired, I couldn't believe it, because we'd played by the rules.

Funny thing, when I sit and watch the shows now, I keep saying, "Where's this stuff everybody was talking about?" If you take all those zingers from all those shows and string them together, it might add up to an hour."

- **TOMMY SMOTHERS** (Right), 71, co-host of 'The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, a satiric, irreverent show CBS abruptly cancelled in 1969.

'THE GREAT WHITE HOPE' opened on Broadway in 1968.

The play was based on the life of heavyweight champion Jack Johnson (1910), it also tracked the life of Muhammad Ali, who'd had his heavyweight champion belt taken away, too in 1967.



JANE ALEXANDER, 78, a celebrated actress of the screen ... won an Emmy for her role in the HBO movie Warm Springs, and was an Oscar and Golden Globe nominee for roles in several movies, including Kramer vs. Kramer and Testament.

James Earl Jones played Johnson; Alexander, his white mistress... in one scene they were running from the law and end up at a railroad station in Hungary.

There, in a moment of defiance, Johnson beats his chest and booms... *"If they want me, they're gonna have to come and get me. Here I is! Here I is! Here I is!"*

Muhammad Ali came to see that play. He said, "Well, this is my story, except for that white chick."

After the play, Ali remained... he stood in "The ghost light" the one light that stays on in the theater all night long" - it illuminated the stage.

Ali emerged from the shadows, he went out to the middle of the stage, he looked out at the empty house, he lifted those big beautiful arms, and he brought his fists down on his chest, and he said, *"Here I is! Here I is! Here I is!"*



I was a senior in college and reconnected with my old high school sweetheart after almost three years. He was serving with the 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam. We began letter-writing and exchanged audiotapes, and discovered we shared a love that would last a lifetime.

At Christmastime, my boyfriend's parents came to my parents' home while I was on Christmas break to share holiday spirit during a difficult time. They gave me a gift, and inside was an engagement ring from Vietnam, along with a letter and tape from their son asking for my hand in marriage.

With tears in his eyes, my boyfriend's father got down on his knee and, at his son's request, proposed. I said yes, and we were married when he returned, unharmed and whole, eight months later. We have been married 50.

That experience in 1968 taught me many lessons about love, patriotism, patience, and faith, and I am ever so blessed for it all.

KAY NIGHTINGALE, 72



“WHEN I PUBLISHED *Aerobics* in 1968, I was immediately under fire from the medical community. Exercise after 40? Build bone and muscle over 40? Run over 40?

That was contrary to everything med school taught back then ...over 40, act your age.

“What are you trying to do, kill people?” Nineteen books later, the 38th anniversary of the Cooper Clinic, and I'm still fighting to get the message through.

Unfortunately, we're still better at changing the oil in our cars than we are at caring for our bodies.

KENNETH H. COOPER, M.D., 87 is a scientist, author, and the founder of the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas



"I WAS A TV PRODUCER at a non-commercial station, and we were producing some VERY good documentaries on Head Start, on poverty.

I was struck by the children, and the damage that poverty was doing to them. I didn't think filming them was helping much, so I wondered how we could use TV for them, to teach them.

It needed a strong educational basis 'an actual curriculum' but it had to be fun, and funny. Smart, lighthearted, with characters who reflected the diversity of the kids sitting there watching.

Children's Television Workshop was born in 1968. We are in more than 100 countries, co-producing with educational and cultural leaders in each market.

To see the young faces light up when they learn a word, discover a concept... even now, I'm constantly amazed."

JOAN GANZ COONEY is an innovator, educator, and founder of Children's Television Workshop and Sesame Street.

Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich

The Population Bomb

**While you are reading these words
four people will have died from starvation.
Most of them children.**



"WHEN PAUL EHRLICH'S *The Population Bomb* was published in 1968, he hoped that its premise (that the population explosion was rapidly leading to world famine) would somehow influence the upcoming election.

"Naive," he says now, in light of the events that ultimately defined the year. *"But we were right, or nearly so, on the numbers, even if they didn't climb as fast as I thought they would."*

According to [CARE](#), 840 million people worldwide were malnourished; of those who die, six million are children under five. "There's no shortage of canaries in the coal mine," Ehrlich says.

"Climate change, epidemiological environment, the migration of organisms.

But the news covers which starlet is wearing panties, and the political debate is, "Do you believe in the Bible word for word? Should we have a 20 or a 25-foot fence at the border?"

This is trivial, compared to what we're facing. In fact, we're fighting the first big resource war right now"over petroleum."

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