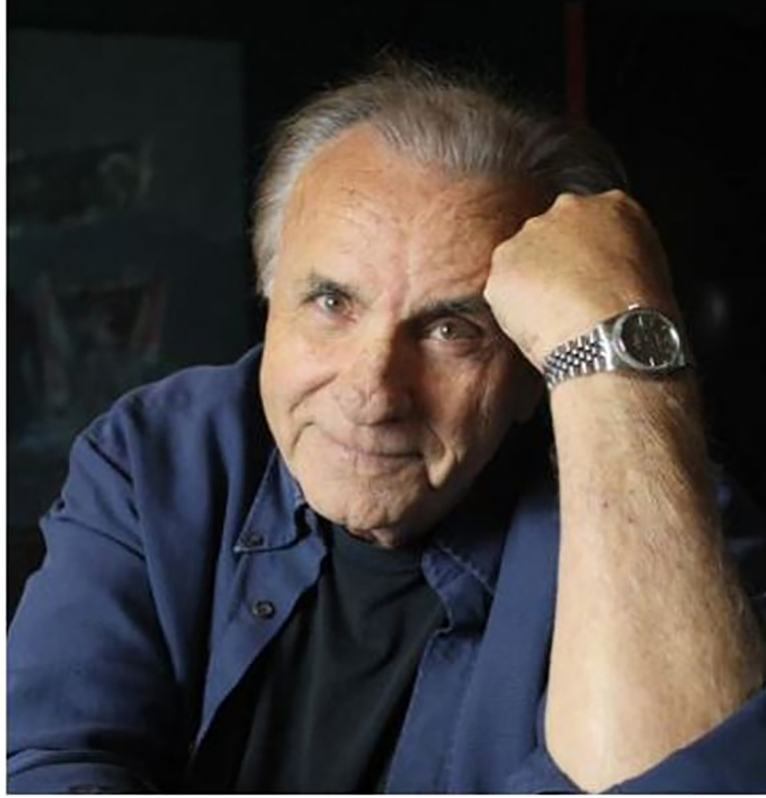


Dane Donohue shared, "Merci beaucoup Bertrand Deveand for your amazing interview in the November issue of *Rolling Stone France* magazine! Once again I am overwhelmed by the wonderful response from the international media about the release of my *L.A. Rainbow* album on P-VINE Records."

## BURIED TREASURE The Forgotten Prince of Yacht Rock



46 years after his first (and only) album, a classic of West Coast pop, Dane Donohue releases *L.A. Rainbow*, a new record that sounds like the good old days.

By BERTRAND DEVEAND - Photo Of DANIEL COSTON

"That's crazy. I would never have imagined recording a second album. Almost half a century later. At my age... It's a miracle!"

At 76 years old, Dane Donohue is over the moon. But he has come a long way.

"My first album, produced in the best studios in Los Angeles, didn't work out. The music business is ruthless. Very quickly, they dropped me. No promotion, no tour, no second chance. I didn't want to stagnate, so I went back home, to Ohio. And I changed careers."

At 30 years old, Dane Donohue is venturing into real estate construction and renovation.

"A family affair. I was working with my father. It wasn't ideal, but I had no choice. I got married. I had children. I had a quiet, normal life."

Music, Dane doesn't completely abandon it. On weekends, he plays with local bands in small clubs. Without any other ambition.

"Not being an artist anymore was terribly hard for me. But all that was behind me. I no longer wanted to be part of the system. I didn't even feel like recording an album anymore."

The years go by. And the miracle happens. Under the yacht rock label, West Coast pop is making a comeback. The most representative albums of the era (late 1970s-early 1980s) are being remastered. Many are finding a second youth on streaming platforms. Among them, the first album by Dane Donohue, considered a cult classic by enthusiasts. Sony re-released it in Japan in 1992.

"I realized that I had quite a few fans, both old and new. "Woman," my duet with Stevie Nicks, has accumulated over 2 million listens on Spotify."

The meeting in the fall of 2021 with producer John H. Nixon will be decisive. Trained at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, the most prestigious music school in the United States, John H. Nixon has dabbled in all styles before creating Page 99, a band that pays tribute to the golden era of Californian soft rock. Two different generations, but a shared passion for the same music.

"We started working together and recording some songs that I had written. In forty-five years, apart from a collaboration for the 'AOR' project (Frédéric Slama) in the early 2000s, I had never set foot in a studio again."

But things happened naturally. Released in September 2024 on the Japanese label P-Vine Records, *L.A. Rainbow* revives the spirit and style of the seventies. Sunny melodies, meticulous arrangements, an old-school sound that seems to have transcended the ages, and an almost intact voice.

"We didn't have a big budget, nor the musicians from LA, but I felt like I was going back in time, like I was in 1978."

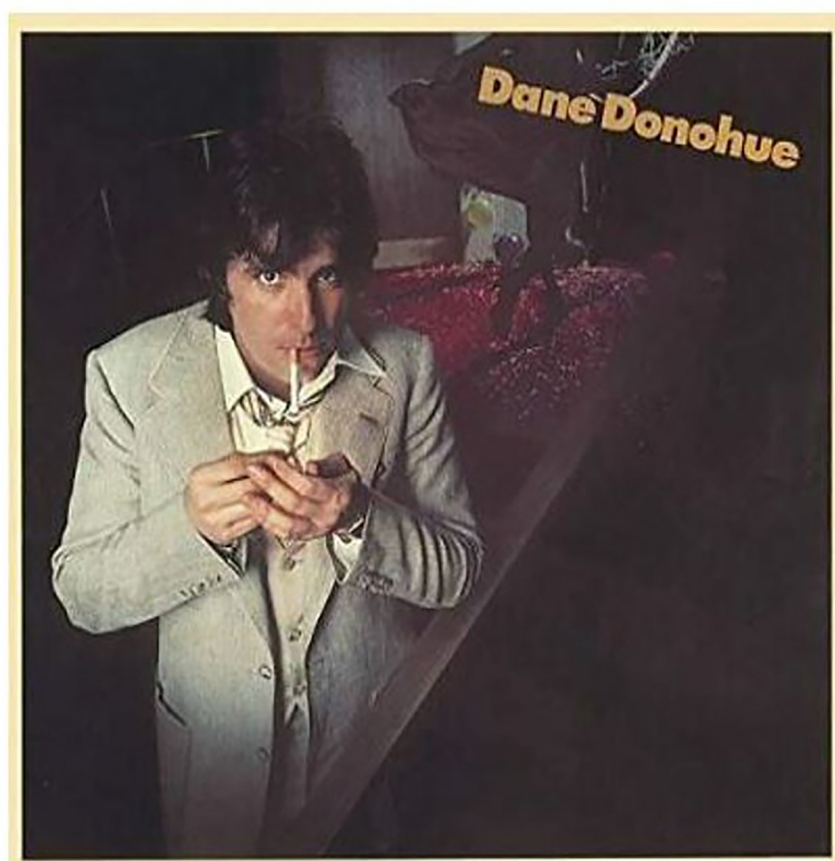
Astonishing return, even improbable. Undoubtedly unique in the annals of music. And a life path that is unlike any other. Because Dane Donohue, after being one of the most promising hopes of Californian pop, has gone through dark times. Abandoned by the profession, forgotten, he also went to prison. A story of fraud in the medical field, which was also the subject of an investigation published on the site Narratively.com: The Lost Prince of Yacht Rock.

"I was unknowingly involved in a gigantic fraud. That earned me four years in prison. I tried to stay positive. I have composed new songs. I even taught music to my cellmates."

Released from prison at the end of 2019, Dane Donohue then faced Covid. He must stay, like the entire world, confined at home. Without too many prospects or specific projects. At a certain age, it's time for assessments.

"I missed out on success. I believed in it, though, but that's how it is. I also tell myself that if I had been a rock star, I might be dead. Today, I am in good health, full of energy. And, at 76 years old, I have the opportunity to do what I love most in the world again."

Has the forgotten prince of yacht rock finally found his lucky star?



1978, the incunabula for many, a West Coast must. Impressed by his demos and his performance in the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, CBS wants to make Dane Donohue its new gem. For the recording of his first album, the label gives him the big resources. A trio of super talented producers: Jai Winding, Steve Hodge, and Terence Boylan; the cream of LA musicians: Steve Gadd and Ed Greene, Larry Carlton, Jay Graydon, and Steve Lukather, Ernie Watts, Chuck Findley, and Steve Madaio; and a choir to make heads turn: Don Henley, Stevie Nicks, J.D. Souther, Timothy B. Schmit, Tom Kelly, and Bill Champlin. "The joke is that I was the only unknown on the album," Dane still laughs. Released in October 1978, the same week as Toto's first album, and despite its undeniable qualities, the album will be a failure, quickly relegated to the category of "buried treasure."

Translated from *Rolling Stone France* November 2024  
and Formatted for the Web by John Charles Mertz

### The Players

Dane Donohue says, "To all of the extraordinary musicians and singers that contributed their talents, professionalism and star power to the project, you are a heavenly muse."

**Background Vocals:** [Don Henley](#), [Stevie Nicks](#), [Timothy B. Schmit](#), [John David Souther](#), [Bill Champlin](#), [Herb Pedersen](#), [Tom Kelly](#), [Jai Winding](#), [Angelle Trosclair](#), [Dane Donohue](#)

**Guitars:** [Larry Carlton](#), [Steve Lukather](#), [Jay Graydon](#), [Dane Donohue](#)

**Piano:** [Jai Winding](#), [David Getreau](#), [Victor Feldman](#)

**Bass:** [Jeff D'Angelo](#), [Bob Glaub](#), [Scott Edwards](#), [Chuck Rainey](#), [Mike Porcaro](#)

**Drums:** [Andy Smith](#), [David Kemper](#), [Steve Gadd](#), [Ed Greene](#)

**Percussion:** [Victor Feldman](#), [Steve Forman](#)

**Horns:** [Steve Madaio](#), [Chuck Findley](#), [Slyde Hyde](#)

**Tenor & Flute:** [Gary Herbig](#), [Tom Saviano](#)

**Saxophone:** [Ernie Watts](#)

**Clavinet:** [Jai Winding](#)

**Vibraphone:** [Victor Feldman](#)

