

## *Razzy Bailey - The Hit Maker*

by Joey Stuckey

Dateline 1966 - The hit-maker, Razzy Bailey, explodes onto the music scene with his song "9,999,999 Tears". It was the first of many hits for this remarkable artist.

A native son of Hugley, Alabama, Razzy is most often thought of as one of Georgia's musical legends. His music has made him beloved by true music fans across the world. His sounds range from country to pop to southern rock and so does his list of famous friends and collaborators. Among them are such names as Willie Nelson, Billy Joe Royal, Randy Van Warner, Delbert McClinton, Johnny Cash, and even KISS member Peter Dinklage.

With 13 Number 1 Hits and 30 Top-10 hits, Razzy has a permanent place in the history of American music.

His landmark year was in 1981, when he had an amazing total of 9 Number 1 Hits to his name making him Billboard's *Country Singles Artist* for that year.

His musical life has given him many memorable experiences, but when asked for some of his most cherished moments Razzy remembers two career milestones...

First, he says is the day when three major labels offered him recording deals within a twenty minute period. The other great achievement is when Razzy performed to more than one million people in Washington D.C. - a crowd even larger than Garth Brooks' now legendary Central Park audience.

Okay, so the past is golden, but what about the present? Well, now-a-days Razzy lives in - surprise, surprise - Nashville, TN with his wife (and manager) Faye Bright-Bailey. He has his own recording studio called The Hit House, and still does a lot of recording and performing throughout the U.S., Europe and the rest of the universe - and I include his performance at the Hard Rock Cafe in *Croatia* in that musical cosmos.

Razzy also devotes some of his time and considerable talent to artist development. He has his own record label, Sounds of America - SOA for short. He is currently pushing a young female country artist, Christina Bailey (no relation), and her first single out on SOA called "*Mississippi Missing Me*". Other news includes Razzy's new recording for Spectra Records, his twentieth official release entitled "*Whiskey California*" which will be out for fans to enjoy sometime this spring with more of that Razzy charm and those powerhouse musical chops.

Sadly, I have to clarify that Razzy has twenty or so **official** releases, because there seems to be many Razzy bootlegs or unofficial releases. If you don't know, this means that the artist isn't getting any money from those sales and so it is like stealing from the artist (not to mention breaking the law). I would like to strongly recommend that those fans of Razzy's music do all they can to make sure that they are buying official releases so that

the artist you love can keep making those hits. The best way to do this is to check the discography on the official artist website in this case [www.razzybailey.com](http://www.razzybailey.com). And while you're there, you owe it to yourself to check out some of the best music that the south has to offer. And so I say rejoice! No matter whether you are a old or new fan of Razy, the hit-maker is at it again and better than ever!