

Interview: Yoko Ono on being #1 and thoughts on Erykah Badu controversy

June 1, 2010
12:09 PM MST



Yoko Ono's "Give Me Something" remixes hit #1.
photo via www.imaginepeace.com

Yoko Ono is no stranger to causing a stir with her **creative work**. From the mid 60's, when she performed "Cut Piece", interactive performance art that commanded onlookers to come up onstage and cut away her clothes until she was naked; her film entitled "Bottoms", a visual study of exactly what you think it is; to her latest appearance on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon with Plastic Ono Band this past fall, Yoko is used to drawing attention amongst the arts community. But what she wasn't prepared for was her recent commercial success with the club crowd.

"**Give Me Something**", a song which originally appeared on the Grammy Award winning "Double Fantasy" album, has been reworked by major figures in the club scene including **Dave Aude**, Morel, and Roberto Rodriguez and released on CD as part of a remix series. The songs haven't been just a minor success, but a big success. They've hit the #1 spot four consecutive times on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play Charts, which is an accomplishment for anyone, let alone a tune that's 30 years old. Other songs in the remix series, including "I'm Not Getting Enough", "Give Peace a Chance", "No No No", "Everyman/Everywoman" and "Walking on Thin Ice" have also all hit #1.

I recently spoke with Ms. Ono via telephone conversation and asked what her reaction to this news was. She said that though she herself knew the songs were "fantastic and so different", she was "amazed fans actually accepted" the new offerings and is "still surprised", because "you never really know" how things will be received.

While I had Yoko's attention, I had to ask her what her thoughts were on the recent artistic statement fellow artist Erykah Badu had just made with her video for her song "**Window Seat**." Badu gained **attention** recently for the video because of its controversial content: as Badu walks the route of John F. Kennedy's assassination site in Dallas, TX among unsuspecting tourists, she strips away all of her clothes until finally collapsing nude at the spot where Kennedy was shot. Badu's artistic expression sparked a lot of debate, much like Yoko's work has in the past. Ono, who was just hearing of the video for the first time from yours truly, told me that the concept of the video "sounds pretty interesting" and "courageous", and that she thought it was "good she did it."

For more information on how to purchase any of the remixes via digital download, visit **IMAGINE PEACE**, iTunes or **Masterbeat**.

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