

# Armstead, Josphine "Joshie"

**Contents: Documents about the Yazoo native who became a dancer for Tina Turner and, later, a singer/songwriter**

- **2006-06-28- Yazoo Herald- Awards and Achievements- Jackson State honors alumna Josephine "Joshie" Armstead**
- **2006-06- Flyer for Jo Armstead's new CD, "Red Hot"**
- **2006-11-15- Soul Walking website- Bio of Armstead**
- **2007-12-13-Printout of Armstead's biography from her website- JoshieArmstead.com**
- **2014-03-11- Wikipedia entry for Armstead**

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**Location: Vertical Files at Ricks Memorial Library of the Yazoo Library Association  
310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194**

## & Achievements

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**Woods**

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**Guthrie**

communication with a minor in political science. Guthrie is the daughter of Ken and Peg Guthrie of Madison and the granddaughter of Bob and Betty Guthrie of Yazoo City.

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The Metro New York Chapter of the Jackson State University Alumni Association held its 18th annual S T A R (Special Thanks and Recognition) program Sunday, June 11, at 3 p.m. at the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building located at 125th Street and 7th Avenue in Harlem, New York. STAR annually recognizes the achievements of native Mississippians who reside in the metropolitan New York area. The event was opened to the public with a reception following.



**Armstead**

This year's honorees were Josephine "Joshie" Armstead, singer/songwriter and Jerry Gray, journalist. Armstead is a native of Yazoo City. She was one of the original

"Ikettes" with The Ike and Tina Turner Revue. She also wrote and produced the record Casanova (Your Playing Days Are Over), Jealous Kinda Fellow, and co-wrote with Ashford and Simpson Let's Go Get Stoned by the late great Ray Charles, plus many more.

Armstead will debut her critically acclaimed self-penned cd "Red Hot" Friday, June 30, 8 p.m., at the VFW Post, 438 East 12th St., during the Yazoo Hometowners Celebration.

She was born to Wilton and Rosie Armstead and comes with exceptional credentials. In the early sixties, she was one of the original Ikettes with The Ike and Tina Turner Revue. Later, she joined an exciting song-writing team known as Ashford, Simpson and Armstead which gave us such hits as the Ray Charles recording of "Let's Go Get Stoned." Today Jo Armstead lives in New York.

**Photos MUST  
accompany  
submitted articles.**

# Jo Armstead's **RED HOT**

Come Celebrate the release of Joshie's new cd,  
RED HOT.

*Known mostly to record collectors  
And music industry producers for  
her vocal and writing excellence,  
this proven artist has compiled a  
collection of her works on CD. It's  
taken a thirty year period of research  
to salvage this small representation  
of some of her works.*

### *Who is Jo Armstead/Joshie?*

*This quiet behind the scenes artist  
has been making beautiful music  
since becoming an Ikettes with The  
Ike and Tina Turner Revue, singing  
on productions with major  
Producers and artists such as  
Diana Ross, Bob Dylan, Nina  
Simone, Burt Bacharach, Aretha,  
and Roberta Flack---starring in  
Broadway Musicals, to writing....  
"Let's Go Get Stoned" for Ray  
Charles with Ashford & Simpson.*



## Jo Armstead

**Only at:**

*VFW Post 1185  
438 West 12th Street  
Yazoo City, Mississippi  
**Jo Armstead's Red Hot CD**  
Party 8pm - 2am  
Friday, June 30, 2006  
Cover Charge \$10.00  
Cash Bar/ Hors D'oeuvres*



[home](#) [start here](#) [the artists](#) [listen out for](#) [chart](#) [been missed](#) [respect](#) [real audio](#) [opinion](#) [network](#) [jazz - I](#)

## 'joshie' jo armstead



b. Josephine Armstead, 8th October 1944, Yazoo City, Mississippi, U.S.A.

'Joshie' Jo Armstead was born in Mississippi in 1944.

In 1961, Joshie joined the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, along with Eloise Hester and Delores Johnson, and became one of the Ikettes.

The following year she sang on their Top 20 hit, 'I'm Blue (The Gong Gong Song)', for the Atco imprint.

After a move to New York, Joshie teamed up with Ashford and Simpson, after a chance meeting with the duo in 1965, who, at the time, were songwriters for the publishing branch of Scepter / Wand Records.

Joshie's biggest hit came with the song 'Stone Cold Lover.'

She also co-wrote Ray Charles number one R & B hit 'Let's Get Stoned' with Ashford and Simpson.

More success came in the form of Ruby Andrews Top Ten R & B smash 'Casanova (Your Playing Days Are Over),' a song later to be remade as a disco hit for the girl group trio Coffee.

'Casanova' was released on Ric Williams' Zodiac label and reached number nine R & B in the summer of 1967.

Other collaborations featuring input from Joshie were Garland Green's gold single 'Jealous Kind of Fella', 'Never Had It So Good' by Ronnie Milsap for the Wand label (A song that went to No 19 on the R & B singles chart in November 1965), 'Too Hot to Hold', 'The Shoe Won't Fit,' and 'The Real Thing' by Betty Everett on VeeJav.

That last melody was also a 1965 number 20 R & B hit by Tina Britt for the Eastern imprint.

By 1965, Joshie had relocated to Chicago, where she formed the Giant Productions company with her husband Mel Collins, whom she had recently married after the move.

This husband and wife pairing set up the Globe, Giant and Gamma labels and enlisted Ruby Andrews, Garland Green, Fenton Robinson, Little Jimmy Scott, Shirley Wahls, Smokey Smothers, and Joshie herself.

Joshie recorded under the names of Joshie Jo Armstead and Jo Armstead.

She was also credited at being instrumental in the birth of the career of John Edwards.

Mel and Joshie's first hit came in the form of Carl Carlton's 'Drop By My Place', a song recorded in Detroit.

The following year, Joshie recorded her own song 'Stone Cold Lover', with the tune reaching number 28 R & B in spring 1968.

The Giant imprint then sold over a million copies of Garland Green's 'Jealous Kind of Fella'.

The song was leased to MCA's Uni imprint and peaked at the Top 5 position in the charts during 1969.

The following year Jo divorced Mel Collins, Giant had ceased as a company, and Joshie relocated to New York for a while.

In 1972, Joshie appeared in Melvin Van Peebles' Broadway play, 'Don't Play Us Cheap', as well as featuring on the soundtrack.

Whilst in New York she sang session work for Stax Records on their subsidiary label Gospel Truth, recording 'I've Got The Vibes' and 'Give A Little Loving'.

Joshie found herself in the midst of trying to retrieve some of her songwriting royalties from over the years and she also began designing women's clothing.



Joshie returned to Chicago over a decade later and found herself managing the boxer Alonzo Ratliff.

During her career she released several sides, which included, 'I've Been Turned On,' 'There's Not Too Many More,' 'I'm Gonna Show You' b / w 'I've Been Turned On', 'Never Had It Like This,' 'This and That' b / w 'No Better for Ya,' 'Stumblin' Blocks, Steppin' Stones (What Took Me So Long), in 1974' and 'Ride out the Storm'.

Joshie also recorded sides with the artists Bobby Hutton ('I Can't Stand A Woman Two Timing A Man', 'Come See What's Left Of Me', 'Oooh Baby' and 'I've Got A Memory') and Shirley Wahls ( 'Cry Myself To Sleep' and 'Don't Destroy Me', arranged by Willie Henderson) for the Smash, Philips and Blue Rock imprints.

In the early nineties, she recorded 'In The Right Place' for her own Prairie Rose Record label.

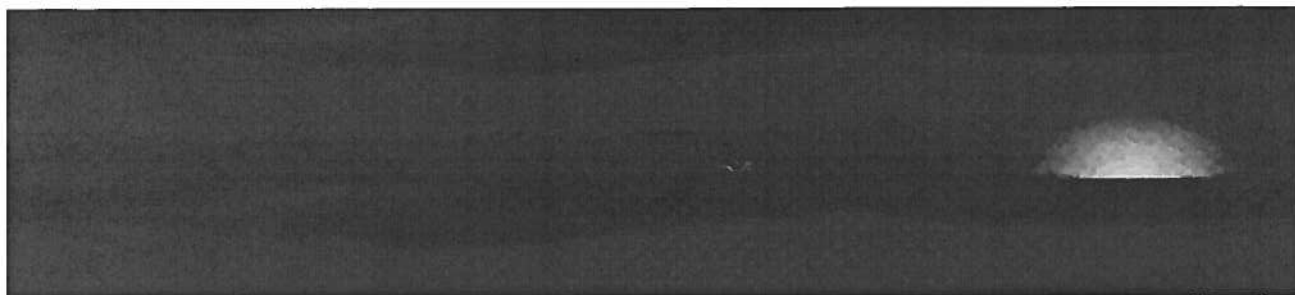
A multi-talented and much ignored female Soul singer / songwriter.

**[...you can check out joshie's website right here...](#)**



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Joshie's Home



**Biography**

**Singer:**

Singer  
Actress  
Writer  
Producer

"Typical of the black experience in the deep South during the 1940s and 50s, my earliest musical training began in the church. I am a preacher's daughter. My mother, the Reverend Evangelist R.A. Armstead, dared to become a minister at a time when it was unheard of for a black woman to enter the pulpit to preach, especially in Mississippi. My mother encouraged me to sing. When I was a little girl, my mother would always take me to church with her. I learned to sing gospel at prayer meetings and revivals in open tents. Every Sunday we attended services from church to church. In High school I became a featured soloist in the glee club. I learned to sing classical music along with a repertoire of Negro Spirituals.

It's here....

**Red Hot**

RAW AND UNRELEASED...From Jo Armstead.... A NEW ALBUM OF LOST MASTERS FROM 1970s. TO ORDER GO TO: [cdbaby.com/jorarmstead](http://cdbaby.com/jorarmstead)

"My grandfather, whom they called "Shine" for his shinny bald head---a bootlegger and a gambler, along with some of the other members of my family (who were not as devoted to the Gospel as my mother), exposed me to the raw, earthy sounds of the Delta blues. By the time I had entered my teens, I was sneaking out to cafes, juke joints, and the dances held on Saturday nights. Blues man Bobby "Blue" Bland gave me my first opportunity to sing with a band. That was an incredible moment for me. The amplified sound of the guitar, bass, drums, piano and the horn section blasting away made that tiny little nightclub infectious. I remember a hot, sticky night. My body dripped with sweat. I gave it my all. It was an intimate, hypnotic, totally exhausting experience. My academic life paled in comparison after that and I did not go back and complete my senior year of High school. Instead, I began singing with a local band that was getting started around town. My life had changed forever.

"Two years later, my sister Velma got a call from her ex-husband. He was on his way through town, he and his new wife. His name? Ike Turner. Velma arranged an audition for me. In the early fall of 1961, I left Yazoo City, Mississippi for good. I was an Ikette with *The Ike & Tina Turner Revue*."

J. Armstead

**CREDITS**

- 05/51/1968 - Stone Good Lover - Jo Armstead - Artist
- 01/01/1971 - Smack Water Jack - Quincy Jones - Vocals
- 11/04/1971 - Bob Dylan artist - Joshie Armstead & Rose Hicks Vocals - Leon Russell on Bass
- 03/01/1973 - Feel Like Makin' Love - Roberta Flack - Vocals (Background)
- 01/01/1977 - Futures - Bert Bacharach - Vocals -Joshie made a guest appearance on album
- 01/01/1977 - Baltimore - Nina Simone - Vocals (Background)
- 01/01/1978 - Wiz (Original Sound Track ) Choir - Chorus
- 01/01/1992 - King of the Blues (Box) - B.B. King - Vocals (Background)
- 08/01/1998 - I Know- Luther Vandross- Vocals (Background)

More Joshie:

Musical Notes

Artist Direct

Soul Cellar

Soul Walking

Musicmatch

Amazon.com

Jeremiah  
Birnbaum

**Actress:**

HB Playwrights Foundation, Inc., Presents:

"Sugar Mouth Sam Don't Dance No More"

By: Don Evans

Starring: Joshie Jo Armstead

Carl Gordon

Directed by: Charlie Briggs

HB Playwrights Foundation Theatre  
124 Bank Street  
New York, NY 10014

The Members:

Boris Aronson  
Saul Bellow  
Herbert Berghof  
Leonard Bernstein  
Uta Hagen  
Romulus Linney  
Paul A. Porter  
Fritz Weaver  
10/72

*"Don't Play Us Cheap"*

By: Melvin Van Peebles  
Ethel Barrymore Theatre  
47th Street West of Broadway  
NYC

"A Broadway production spotlighting the thrilling voices of onetime Ikette Joshie Jo Armstead and legendary gospel basso George (Oopee) McCurn." [www.fantasyjazz.com](http://www.fantasyjazz.com)

"What the show [Don't Play Us Cheap] does have going for it is Van Peebles' enormous musical gift. The score, while not on a level with Ain't Supposed to Die, is still striking; so are two sensational singers, Joshie Jo Armstead and George "Oopee" McCurn. Playboy Magazine .

Cast:

Thomas Anderson  
Joshie Jo Armstead  
Nate Barnett  
Frank Carey  
Robert Dunn  
Rhetta Hughes  
Joe Keys, Jr.  
Mabel King  
Geo. "Oopee" McCurn  
Esther Rolle  
Jay Vanleer  
05/72

ACTING CREDITS:

Melvin Van Peebles'  
Don't Play Us Cheap

Don Evans'  
Sugar Mouth Sam Don't Dance No More

Seesaw  
Music by Cy Coleman  
Lyrics by Dorothy Fields  
Directed by Edwin Sherin  
and  
Seesaw  
Directed by Michael Bennett

Journey Through Forever  
By Oscar Brown, Jr.

"SEESAW"



Joseph Kipness and Lawrence Kasha in association with James Nederlander and George M. Steinbrenner III... presented a musical based on William Gibson's "Two For The Seesaw" at the Fisher Theatre in New York City.... Cy Coleman wrote the music, Dorothy Fields wrote lyrics. Michael Stewart wrote the book, Edwin Sharin directed. Grover Dale choreographed. Robin Wagner designed scenery. Ann Roth designed the costumes. Jules Fisher designed lighting. The 44 member cast stars:

Lanie Kazan  
Ken Howard  
Joshie Jo Armstead  
Bill Starr  
Giancarlo Esposito

"...all did well with the big specialty numbers Mr. Coleman and Dorothy Fields have concocted, particularly Joshie Jo Armstead in her gospel-flavored *"Ride Out The Storm"* that accompanied a magnificently haughty audition as a black Cleopatra..."

By Jay Carr News Drama and Music Critic

"SEESAW"  
A New Musical  
Directed by Michael Bennette

Starring:  
Michele Lee  
Ken Howard  
Joshie Jo Armstead  
Tommy Tune

## Writer:

"LET'S GO GET STONED"

Recorded by Ray Charles  
Words & Music By:  
Ashford, Simpson & Armstead

"CASANOVA (YOUR PLAYING DAYS ARE OVER)"

Recorded by Ruby Andrews  
Words & Music By:  
J. Armstead

"CRY LIKE A BABY"

Recorded by Aretha Franklin  
Words & Music By:  
Ashford, Simpson & Armstead

"JEALOUS KINDA FELLA"

Recorded by Garland Green  
Words & Music By:  
Armstead, Browner, Dollison, Green

"STONE GOOD LOVER"

Recorded by Jo Armstead  
Words & Music By:  
J. Armstead

## Producer:

PRODUCTION CREDITS:

Title	Artist	Co Producer
Re-Light My Fire	Rhetta Hughes	J. Armstead
Jealous Kinda Fella	Garland Green	J. Armstead
Do You Get The Message	Little Jimmy Scott	J. Armstead
Your Memory	Bobby Hutton	J. Armstead
Half A Man	Shirley Wahls	J. Armstead
Stone Good Lover	Jo Armstead	J. Armstead
Wrapped, Tied, Tangled	John Edwards	J. Armstead

web designer Pirchia Broder ©2004



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A multi-talented and much ignored female Soul singer / songwriter.

**[...you can check out joshie's website right here...](#)**



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# Jo Armstead

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Josephine "Jo" Armstead** (born October 8, 1944), often known as "**Joshie" Jo Armstead**, is an American soul singer and songwriter. She co-wrote Ray Charles' hits "Let's Go Get Stoned" and "I Don't Need No Doctor", among other songs written with Ashford & Simpson. After a period in The Ikettes in the early 1960s, she also had some success as a solo singer, her biggest hit being "A Stone Good Lover" in 1968.

## Career

She was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and started singing in the church in which her mother was a minister. After her grandfather introduced her to blues music, she also began singing in juke joints and at dances, and first sang in a club as part of Bobby "Blue" Bland's band. She joined a local band, Little Melvin & The Downbeats, as a teenager. In 1961, together with Eloise Hester and Delores Johnson, she formed The Ikettes as part of the Ike & Tina Turner Revue. [1][2]

In 1962, she settled in New York City and recorded under the name **Dina Johnson**, by her own account a pseudonym to avoid being tracked down by Ike Turner.<sup>[2]</sup> She recorded advertising jingles and sang back-up for such musicians as James Brown, Walter Jackson and B.B. King, before a chance meeting with Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson. They began writing songs together, one of the first results being "Let's Go Get Stoned", which became an R&B chart no. 1 hit for Ray Charles in 1966.

## Jo Armstead

<b>Birth name</b>	Josephine Armstead
<b>Also known as</b>	Joshie Jo Armstead Joshie Armstead Dina Johnson
<b>Born</b>	October 8, 1944 Yazoo City, Mississippi, United States
<b>Genres</b>	R&B, soul
<b>Occupations</b>	Singer, songwriter
<b>Instruments</b>	Vocals
<b>Years active</b>	1961 - 1990s
<b>Labels</b>	Giant, Gospel Truth
<b>Associated acts</b>	Ashford & Simpson The Ikettes

Its follow-up, "I Don't Need No Doctor" was also a hit, and the trio of writers also had success with songs for Chuck Jackson, Maxine Brown and Tina Britt.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

After Ashford and Simpson joined Motown, Armistead moved to Chicago in 1967 with her husband, record producer Mel Collins, and formed Giant Productions. The Giant label released her single "I Feel An Urge Coming On" which, although not successful at the time, later became a favorite with Northern soul audiences in the UK. Two of her follow-up records, "A Stone Good Lover" and "I've Been Turned On", both made the R&B chart in 1968. She also wrote or co-wrote hits for other artists, including Ruby Andrews' "Casonova", Garland Green's "Jealous Kind of Fella", and "Drop By My Place" by Carl Carlton.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

She returned to New York after her marriage broke down, and continued as a singer and writer of commercials. She was a backing singer on Bob Dylan's 1971 single "George Jackson", and performed in a Broadway play written by Melvin Van Peebles, *Don't Play Us Cheap*, in 1972. In the early 1970s she signed for the Gospel Truth label, an offshoot of Stax, and recorded several singles as Joshie Jo Armistead, of which the most successful was "Stumblin' Blocks, Steppin' Stones" in 1974. She also sang as a backing singer for Stax. After Stax Records collapsed, she continued to write songs through her own publishing company, and also worked as a fashion designer. In the 1980s, after returning to Chicago, she had a spell managing a boxer, Alonzo Ratliff. She recorded for her own Prairie Rose Records in the 1990s.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Chart singles

Year	A-side	Chart Positions	
		US Pop <sup>[3]</sup>	US R&B <sup>[3]</sup>
1968	"A Stone Good Lover"	129	28
	"I've Been Turned On"	-	50
1974	"Stumblin' Blocks, Steppin' Stones (What Took Me So Long)"	-	91

## References

- <sup>^</sup><sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> <sup>*c*</sup> Biography by Ed Hogan at Allmusic.com (<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/jo-armstead-p201390/biography>)
- <sup>^</sup><sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> <sup>*c*</sup> <sup>*d*</sup> <sup>*e*</sup> Biographical article and interview, *From The Cotton Fields Of Mississippi, To The Cotton Club In New York City*, at SoulMotion.co.uk (<http://www.soulmotion.co.uk/Jo%20Armstead.htm>)
- <sup>^</sup><sup>*a*</sup> <sup>*b*</sup> Whitburn, Joel (1996). *Top R&B/Hip-Hop Singles: 1942-1995*. Record Research. p. 12.

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American soul singers   American female singers   Songwriters from Mississippi  
African-American singer-songwriters   People from Yazoo City, Mississippi  
Northern soul musicians

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