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Following the retro fortunes of Tony Bennett and Tom Jones, onetime rebel singer Nancy Sinatra is marching back into hipster consciousness.

After topping the charts in the '60s with the kitsch classic "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," she is once again moving her music career into high gear - at age 54. To support her new album, the middle-of-the-road country disc "One More Time," Sinatra's launched a concert tour and promotional campaign, capped off by a Playboy magazine pictorial.

"It's time to get back to work, get off my butt, if you know what I mean," Sinatra said before beginning her short tour, which winds down tonight at Park West in Chicago. "I haven't been in the record business in a very long time."

Joining Sinatra and her seven-piece band onstage will be her musical Svengali of sorts, Lee Hazlewood. The singer-songwriter produced Nancy's '60s hits and helped to shape her rebel sound. The show features a half-hour of the vintage stuff, including their hit cover of "Jackson" (also popularized by Johnny and June Carter Cash).

"In the beginning, I was very much opposed to doing this (tour)," said Hazlewood, now 65, who has been living a reclusive life in Europe for the last 20 years. "Most people thought I was dead, anyway, which was beautiful. But little Italian girls can talk you into anything. I had so much fun with her when we worked together. We don't take our part of the show too seriously."

Sinatra escaped the forlorn fate of her brother Frank Jr. and other celebrity offspring when country-music producer Jimmy Bowen hooked her up with Hazlewood, who had co-written and produced more than 20 Duane Eddy hits.

One of the first songs that Hazlewood played for Nancy was "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'," which he wrote after overhearing the phrase in a bar.

"I fell in love with that song right away," Sinatra said. "But Lee had only written two verses. I asked him to write a third verse and told him a man should never sing that song again."

In a rare interview, Hazlewood described how they shaped her sassy image. "Her

singing was a little too girlish for me," he said. "The only thing I did was work on the lower part of her voice. For the lack of a better word, we made her a ballsy little girl. Nobody minds ballsy little girls. They hate ballsy big women. Then I started writing (songs) in that image for her. People give me credit for creating the image, which I did not.

"She took 'Boots' and ran with it."

With Hazlewood as songwriter and producer, and guitarist Billy Strange as arranger, "Boots" went to No. 1 in February, 1966. The magic continued for two years as Sinatra had hits with "How Does That Grab You' Darlin?," the bluesy "Love Eyes" and pop cutesy "Sugar Town."

To illustrate just how valuable Hazlewood was to the Nancy Sinatra experience, listen to the new disc "One More Time" at least twice. The vocals on the maudlin ballad "I Didn't Wear White" recalls Vicki Lawrence at her worst: "Mama said 'Once, twice, girl, you better be nice; Don't you trust that boy named Ray; He'll use you up and he'll throw you away; And you won't wear white on your wedding day."

With the exception of the pseudo-surf rocker "Roadblock" and the album's first single, the country-blues novelty number "Bone Dry," "One More Time" lacks the guts of Sinatra's '60s catalog. (Hazlewood didn't know that the new record was being made.)

And if the Chairman of the Board disapproved of Nancy baring her booty for Playboy, he must really be recoiling at her cheery interpretation of his trademark tune "One for My Baby." It's the first country-pop arrangement that sounds like it went through a 12-step program.

"That was a little tribute, obviously," she said. "We did change the chorus around a lot to fit the country motif. Actually, my dad's version is also different than the original. I discovered that when I got into the original sheet music. His chords are different. I hope Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen are happy because we're all botching up their song."

Except for working on the coffee-table book Frank Sinatra: My Father (1985), Nancy spent the last decade raising her two daughters, now ages 19 and 20. Sinatra's second husband, choreographer Hugh Lambert died of cancer at age 55 in 1985. (Her first husband was singer Tommy Sands.)

Back in 1987, she did record a droning version of the Moody Blues hit "Nights in White Satin" as a demo. It turns up as the last track on "One More Time." "I thought a woman should do that," Sinatra said. "I also did 'House of the Rising Sun.' " That didn't make the cut.

No matter.

Her boots are walking into a new generation.