



It Clicks

When It Clicks

Jenny Tong Vs Tommy Wong

It seems that **Jenny** and **Tommy** were destined to meet. Call it fate. Destiny. Call it the attraction of opposites for, regardless of their shared vision, opposites are what they are. There must be reasons why these things happen. A collaboration of right place, right time, right people, perhaps. Maybe Venus was in conjunction with Saturn. Who knows for sure, but the point is Jenny and Tommy do have an exquisite relationship that goes further than mere producer and singer.

Like Batman and his superhero chums, Jenny has an undercover job. By day she works for an investment company, but by night she is a fearless producer of top tunes for Tommy. Before embarking on this path our Jen taught music part-time and had never even entertained the notion of pursuing music as a career. She composed the odd ditty for a few companies in her spare time but it wasn't until her friends gave her a well-needed kick up the bottom that she took to the trade full time. "Some of my friends said that I was an idiot when they heard that I'd quit my job to produce music." She says. "Fortunately, I have friends from playing jazz who gave me a lot of support. They said, 'You've got the talent and the ideas. Why don't you give it a try?' Their encouragement and confidence gave Jenny the determination to pursue music as a serious career.

And what of Tommy? Tommy's an idiot. Well, that's what he tells us himself, anyway. After winning a singing contest organised by ATV he had the chance to release an album, but rejected all the offers until he met Jenny, explaining, "It's not difficult to release an album. Unfortunately, in my case the timing and the people didn't match. I wanted to have a conceptual album giving out a certain, positive message, but I couldn't find the right person to realise my idea until I found Jenny." He continues, "A lot of people have the talent to be a producer. But it's not easy to find the person who just clicks with your ideas and characters." In the local music industry, there are only a limited number of female producers, yet Tommy insisted on finding such a female to produce his debut album. "I believe" he explains, "female producers are more passionate. Their point of view is more unique and sophisticated when compared to male producers."

Tommy describes his debut EP *Colour The World* as conceptual. It's about the daily lives of HK city dwellers – the way of life we are so familiar with. Because of this the songs are interrelated – so the first track is about how people feel when they're packed like sardines on the MTR in the morning. The second track is about people chilling out in Soho, and the third track is about the solitude after the excitement of a good night out. Jenny says, "People pretend to be high and happy when they're at parties, but some of them are only fooling themselves." Tommy adds, "Our world seems to be very dull. That's why there are so many problems in society. But you can colour your life to make it more interesting and meaningful. Jenny and I want to spread a positive message." Back to Jenny; "We're very simple people. I've studied in Hawaii where I was surrounded by



sunshine and beaches. To me, life should be relaxing and joyful." To this end, the final track, *Colour The World*, reflects Jenny and Tommy's state of mind. To visualise their feelings, they say, try to imagine a rainbow after heavy rain. Each song is different because there are so many different moods in each day we live and electronic to mellow ballads.

Tommy describes his relationship with Jenny as like mother and son, saying, "even mother and son have conflicts and misunderstandings. Some famous producers have absolute authority over the singer, but Jenny gives me lots of freedom." Jenny adds, "I'm a very flexible person. I try to understand what type of person Tommy is and tailor the songs to suit him. By the same token, he gives me valuable advice." Tommy's presentation may be very different from what Jenny expected, but she accepts it as long as Tommy finds what's most comfortable for him, saying, "Even if Tommy had a formidable budget, and was able to sign a 'brand name' producer, he might not be as happy as he is with me."

Talking to Jenny and Tommy I have learnt one thing – if you want to be happy, be grateful. The duo knows that they're lucky: lucky because they don't have any family burdens. Because Jenny now has the chance to produce music in America and because the recently relaxed atmosphere enriches her creative juices. As the song once went, "These happy days are yours and mine." Remember the happy days and live your life the way you want to live your life – things will eventually click, but only when they click.

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