

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

People  
weekly

Unforgettable  
*WOMEN*  
Of the Century



Though she wrote the song "Woodstock," Mitchell (in 1994) missed the festival due to airport trouble. "I watched it on TV," she said.



## JONI MITCHELL

*Folk and jazz conjoined in her sinuous spirit*

**S**HE CITES EDITH PIAF AND BOB DYLAN AS INSPIRATION—AND you hear them both in her own elliptical, allusive compositions. Joni Mitchell has proven as adept at weaving tapestries of jazz and rock as at stitching complex stories on the clean cloth of her acoustic guitar. And her songs have stood up to renderings by others: covered by Judy Collins and Frank Sinatra, sampled by Janet Jackson.

Born in Alberta, Canada, Roberta Joan Anderson suffered from polio at 9 and later taught herself guitar. A year out of high school she married Chuck Mitchell, a musician she had known for three days, and divorced him after a year. Unknown and broke when she got pregnant, she gave up a daughter for adoption. (She later married and divorced producer Larry Klein, and was reunited with her daughter in 1995.) She then hit the New York folk scene. Discovered by David Crosby, she launched a career that hit early highs with *Blue* and *Court and Spark*. In the 1980s she explored all the music curiosity led her to, including African rhythms, even if fans or critics didn't follow. Still, Mitchell, now 54, does not seem to miss the early days when she was idolized. Says she: "I slept through that queendom." ■



"I never said there wasn't some of me in the songs," says Mitchell (in 1968).

## DIANA VREELAND

*For 50 years, it wasn't fashion until she said it was fashion*

**T**HE BIKINI IS ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT invention since the atom bomb." To say something like that and get away with it takes special conviction and aplomb. Diana Vreeland had both. She knew not only what fashion should be, but how to persuade women to accept her vision as if it possessed the logic of a mathematical equation. "Pink is the navy-blue of India!" came the word from her poppy-red-painted mouth. And so it was.

Born in Paris to a Scottish stockbroker and his American wife, Diana Dalziel received little classroom education, but she had unrivaled exposure to the cultured class at her parents' salons, which included Nijinsky and Isadora Duncan. While on vacation in New York, Diana met banker Thomas Vreeland, whom she married in 1924. When the couple moved in 1936 to New York City, she found his salary would not keep them and their two sons in the style to which Diana wished them to grow accustomed, so she took a job writing for *Harper's Bazaar*. There she offered audacious suggestions for lux living, like, "Why not turn your ermine into a bathrobe?" She was named editor within three years and remained dedicated to the magazine until 1962, when she left for its rival *Vogue*.

*Vogue* was her bully pulpit—her flock, in her words, "the beautiful people." She ordained many models and designers as stars: Marisa Berenson, Verushka, Twiggy, Halston, Oscar de la Renta, Bill Blass and photographer Richard Avedon. When recession hit, in 1971, she was ignominiously fired. Vreeland died in '89 (at eightysomething, she never gave her age), leaving a fashion press that still bears her theatrical mark and follows her haute adjure, like, "Never fear being vulgar—just boring, middle-class or dull." ■