

Go! Thursday

Salloom saga

Roger Salloom wrote a song called "(Gotta Get) Out of Worcester" and Go! knows a few Worcester-ites who've sung a similar tune. Salloom, in a new documentary, is called "America's best unknown songwriter" by filmmaker **Chris Sautter**. Sautter says his film is "about the struggle of an artist to be who he really is. It's about refusing to give up on a dream, even if that dream changes as you grow older." Salloom had a minor hit in 1968 with "Marie Le Peau" with the band Salloom, Sinclair and the Mother Bear. You might have heard it on WBCN-FM, that radical progressive rock station. Salloom, who began his career as a folk singer, was signed to a record deal by the legendary Marshall Chess. In the

late 1960s he performed on the same stages as Santana and Van Morrison. He played with Guy Clark and Jerry Jeff Walker. But that had all fizzled out by the early '70s. In 2002, after living in Northampton for two decades, Salloom tried to revive his career, and Sautter, who first met Salloom at Indiana University in the '60s, followed him around with a camera. The results are up on the screen at the **Regent Theatre** tonight. We haven't seen "**So Glad I Made It: The Saga of Roger Salloom, American's Best Unknown Songwriter**," so we don't know if it's painful or poignant or both. Says Salloom on the Regent website: "I have a jaundiced view of what success is, however. I do not think it brings contentment or happiness. When I was a kid, all I wanted was more of the 'Crazies.'

Then as I became older I wanted to heal those who were hurting. Now I just want to do what I can do to contribute to the human experience." After the movie, Salloom will play a few tunes and he and Sautter will take questions. It all starts at 7:30; tickets are \$10.

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