

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans
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Peppi Borza

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Peppi Borza (#p160105)

by **countrycake** » Thu Sep 18, 2014 2:04 pm

If, like me you have been a fan since the 60s, you will remember Peppi as a friend of Dusty and Tom. He co-wrote with Tom O Holy Child for Dusty. I have just discovered that he made five singles in the 60s. The most interesting is his final single for Decca in 1965. It was entitled The Skip c/w Do The Skip, the skip being a dance - Peppi was primarily a dancer, who also acted and sang.

The single was produced by Tom's company FXB Productions and the writing credit for both songs was Peppi/Bushman. Tom named his production company after the American actor Francis X Bushman. so the Bushman credited with co-writing the two songs is presumably Tom, given the songs are published by Springfield Music The single did not trouble the chart compilers.

<http://www.45cat.com/record/f12055> (<http://www.45cat.com/record/f12055>)

I saw the London revival of Sondheim's Follies starring Diana Rigg and Julia McKenzie in 1987. Peppi was in the chorus.

He died in 1989 at the age of 52.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160107)

by **pat.dunham** » Thu Sep 18, 2014 3:52 pm

Thanks, Jim for info on Peppi. Have just listened to Drury Lane, for the first. Dusty dedicated AISIY to "Peppino" who I image was Peppi. I couldn't remember when he died, I thought maybe he was ill then, or maybe it was just a private Dusty moment.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160111)

by **Corinna** » Thu Sep 18, 2014 5:40 pm

Interesting information, Jim! I always imagined Peppi being Tom's partner, though I wonder if that's ever been mentioned anywhere.

And well done for figuring out the FXB reference. News to me!

Would have liked to hear the song. Who might the producer, Harry Robinson, be? Anyone we've heard of?

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160112)

by [Corinna](#) » Thu Sep 18, 2014 5:55 pm

Oh, look at that! Someone has a bit more information about the vitae of Peppi! This blog of sorts, <http://www.epicure.demon.co.uk/randrandme.html> (<http://www.epicure.demon.co.uk/randrandme.html>), is written by someone who has worked with Peppi in the 1960s. Search for "Peppi" and you will find these two entries:



Whistles & Flutes & Twists, oh my...

In the early 1960s, groups didn't wander on stage dressed up in the sort of clothes that they might have lifted from a scarecrow, as is now de rigeur – oh dear me, no. Matching whistles-and-flutes were the order of the day. The Cannons started out with five slightly sparkly dinner jacket outfits, supplied by Morris Angel, the theatrical costumiers.

I don't know what production they had been made for, but I do remember that mine had the name 'Anton Diffring' on the label. Diffring was a blue-eyed, blonde German, actor, very handsome, who played an awful lot of Nazi bastards in various films and TV shows. Ironic to think that he had fled Germany to get away from the blighters... The trousers led me to think that they had been made for a dance routine, since there was no fly, but a zip at the side, on the hip so to speak.

These served us well for a while, and then we were sent to visit a tailor in Streatham, who would make a set of suits for us, and these turned out to be pale grey mohair, very tasty! We wore them with maroon bow ties that went under the shirt collar. Spraucy!

The group was being booked by the Tito Burns agency, and they came up with an idea I wasn't keen on. The 'Twist' was breaking in New York, and they wanted us to back an American dancer who sang a bit, a chap called Peppi Borza. Pep was from a circus family, and had until recently had an act with his sister, working with Sammy Davis Jr. The plot was, we were to pose as 'Peppi and the New York Twisters', and I think it was the dumb name that put me off. Still, work was work, and for a while we alternated as The New York Twisters and The Cannons. As the former, we played some rather nice stage shows, and also appeared at somewhere completely unknown to us, in Liverpool – The Cavern.

The Cavern is now the stuff of legend. In reality it was a ghastly hole, with condensation running down the brick walls. As we unloaded our equipment, now all impressively rack-mounted by Ken Bran, our roadie, later a leading light at Marshall Amps., clusters of girls quizzed us; what did we think of the beetles? Frankly we had no idea what they were on about. Later that evening we discovered that one of the local groups was wittily entitled 'The Beatles', and they were on to finish the evening. I must say that there were several local groups playing that night, and they were all good and all different. While the rest of the country was still trying to play 'Apache' and sound like the Shadows here was a variety of different sounds, styles and approaches. I think it a pity that it was only the Beatles that really came to fame.

As usual, Peppi got a girl up on stage and showed her how to do the Twist. Years later, on a recording session at EMI, Cilla Black told me it had been she... I remember the little band room at the right hand side of the stage (left hand if you were looking at the stage) there was quite a press of people, including Bob Woolley, the MC, the Beatles' manager, Brian Epstein, and the lads themselves. I remember chatting with their bass player, and his pointing out their new drummer, a diffident individual with a lot of rings on his fingers which he twisted nervously. Apart from that all I remember of the evening was after our set, we took those soaking mohair suits off – they were now dark grey – and dropped them on the floor with a resounding 'splosh'! Ken had to find a dry cleaner for them, first thing next morning, as we had sweated through every inch of the fabric!

Given a decent sized stage, Peppi could put his circus background to use, as he would return to take his call in a succession of somersaults and cartwheels, which shook everybody rigid. Where he is today I have no idea – I remember spotting him on a Two Ronnies show as one of a comic troupe of Morris dancers, but that's all I have seen of him in all the years since then.

In the entry following the above, he has gathered more information about Peppi:



Peppi

In one of the articlettes above, I wrote about Peppi Borza, seen here underneath sister Nita, in the days of their youthful double act, with whom the Cannons had been paired, and packaged as 'Peppi and the New York Twisters'. I said that apart from spotting him as a Morris dancer in a Two Ronnies sketch, I had heard nothing of him since the New York Twisters (and how!) days.

Well, I dug and delved and discovered a few nuggets. In 1973, Pep had had a part as a Muleteer in the film version of Man of La Mancha although I'm pretty sure he would not have Sung the Unsingable Song, and Reached the Unreachable Note...

He is credited in 1979 on the original Broadway cast recording of Evita, and was one of the comedy vocal policemen "with cat-like tread", in the 1983 film of Gilbert & Sullivan's Pirates of Penzance.

1986 cast lists for Doctor Who: The Trial Of a Timelord, episodes 11 & 12, have Peppi as First Vervoid – sounds like an amalgamation of vermin and a hemorrhoid, but I wouldn't bank on it...

In the meantime, he had participated in the composition of four songs with Dusty's brother, Tom Springfield: No Tears for Johnny, Chain Gang Blues, O Holy Child (which Dusty recorded) and The Skip, which I imagine would have been a dance novelty rather than a receptacle for rubble and old mattresses.

And finally I was reliably informed that Pep had died sometime in the later 1980s. Not the brightest outcome to a quest, but at least now I know... I shall always remember his bafflement with English accents, as when he had accosted a bucolic local to ask for directions. He returned with a very puzzled expression. 'The guy says we should turn right at The Ploo. What the f---'s a ploo?' We explained that that was how West Country folk pronounced things, and set off to look for a pub called 'The Plough', where we duly turned right...

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160113)

by [Corinna](#) » Thu Sep 18, 2014 6:00 pm

PS: The blogger's name is Chris Hughes, I just found out. 😊

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160114)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Thu Sep 18, 2014 6:49 pm

If you go right down the thread by Chris Hughes , sub head "Back to the Smoke"you will also find references to Lesley Duncan and Madeline Bell with whom he worked. He also travelled the country in a bus that left from the same pick-up as Dusty, behind Madam Tussauds. Sometimes there were as many as three buses taking bands etc all over the country to various gigs.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160115)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Thu Sep 18, 2014 8:50 pm

Also found out about Harry Robinson, think it must be this [guy](http://www.allmusic.com/artist/harry-ro.../biography).
<http://www.allmusic.com/artist/harry-robinson-mn0000665116/biography>

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160116)

by [daydreamer](#) » Thu Sep 18, 2014 9:53 pm

Chris Hughes is one of my Facebook friends, he occasionally mentions his friend "Pep". It has been documented that Peppi was Tom's partner but for the life of me I can't remember where I first saw it in print. I've a feeling it came from either Vicki Wickham or Simon Napier Bell. Wasn't it Peppi that brought the stool on for Dusty at the RAH? I love The Skip! I have it on tape or even transferred to CD somewhere. He mentions Dusty in it, something like "There was Dusty with me, yeah we looked so neat, Sandie skipping in her two bare feet, Cilla dancing there with Billy J and Martha from the USA"! Don't quote me on those lyrics though, they're from memory, I'd need to listen again. I also loved his 'Pistol Packin' Mama', I think this and 'The Skip' were the only two of his records that I bought.

Peppi photos anyone? 📷



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[id=22211&mode=view\)](#)



DUSTY WHOOPS IT UP!

If there's a party on you can bet Dusty Springfield will be there somewhere!

Last week DISC WEEKLY writers Mike Ledgerwood and Nigel Hunter held a rave in their London flat and guest-of-honour was Miss Springfield, seen below with "RSG" dancer Peppi and Mike Millward of The Fourmost.

Also there was Billy J. Kramer (seen here with Nems press officer Bess Coleman and EMI recording man Ron Richards).

[./download/file.php?](#)

[id=22212&mode=view\)](#)

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160122)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Fri Sep 19, 2014 7:07 am

Here's Peppi.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160125)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Fri Sep 19, 2014 7:30 am

A snap of Dusty, Madeline, Peppi with Carole G. Who took the pic ?



21351_2[1].jpg (14.75 KiB) Viewed 5704 times

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160126)

by **daydreamer** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 7:45 am

Moira did 😊 Here's another from that day.



(./download/file.php?id=22217&mode=view)



peppi poster.jpg (27.33 KiB) Viewed 5701 times

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160127)

by **Corinna** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 8:01 am

Look at you all! How fascinating! 🤔

I love a new perspective (in this case Peppi's) and fresh look on stuff that's well known to me.

What a great thread! Thanks Jim for starting it! 😊

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160130)

by **Cas19** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 8:40 am

Theres quite a few pics of Peppi I'll look through to find some.





Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160131)

by **karen** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 8:42 am

Nice to see them..

Attachments

Dusty and Peppi dancing3.jpg (24.75 KiB) Viewed 5688 times

Dusty and Peppi.jpg (54.12 KiB) Viewed 5682 times

[./download/file.php?id=22221&mode=view](#)

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160134)

by **pat.dunham** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 8:50 am

Anyone found audio of "Skip it". All I find is Skip hire webs!

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160140)

by **Cas19** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 10:21 am

Some more pics.



Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160141)

by **Cas19** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 10:24 am

Theres Pistol Packin Mama. I remember it well. somewhere I have a pic of Peppi in a cowboy hat re this song.

Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160151)

by **daydreamer** » Fri Sep 19, 2014 5:02 pm

Thanks for Pistol Packin' Mama Cas, I can't find an audio of The Skip anywhere online unfortunately.

Dusty and Peppi at the airport.



Peppi Dusty airport.jpg (42.18 KiB) Viewed 5638 times

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160154)

by [pat.dunham](#) » Fri Sep 19, 2014 7:26 pm

?? ? Is Dusty backing on "Lay this Pistol Down" ? ? ?

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160157)

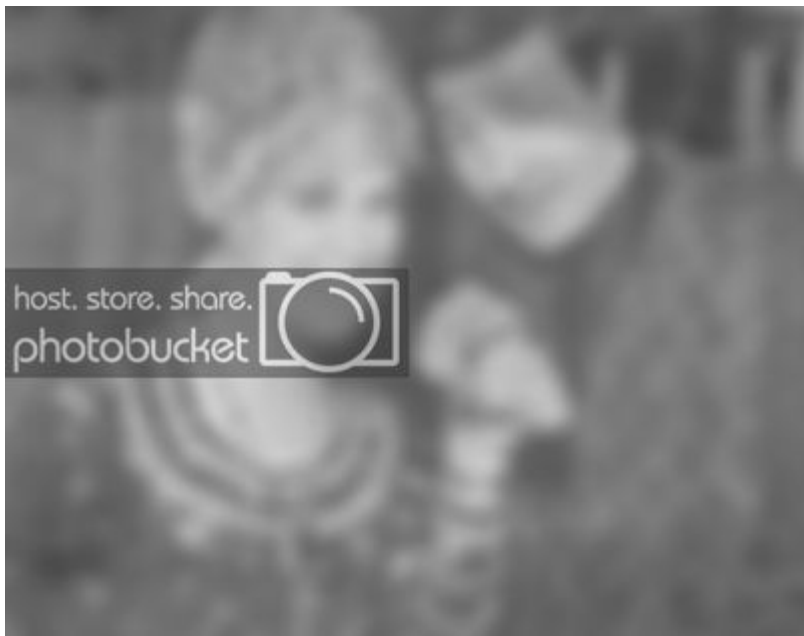
by [daydreamer](#) » Fri Sep 19, 2014 9:33 pm

As far as I know, it's never been said that she was. Dusty really started her Gladys Thong career a year or so later.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160175)

by [Cas19](#) » Sat Sep 20, 2014 7:21 am



Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160179)

by [daydreamer](#) » Sat Sep 20, 2014 8:45 am

I've never been able to work out what that is they're holding!

Some personal ones...



Scan-110221-0005.jpg (52.27 KiB) Viewed 4704 times



Scan-110221-0006.jpg (43.06 KiB) Viewed 4704 times



[\(./download/file.php?id=22246&mode=view\)](#)

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160187)

by **Cas19** » Sat Sep 20, 2014 11:07 am

I had a look at the original cutting and you still can't tell what Dusty is holding.

Here's the cowboy pic of Peppi.



Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160261)

by **allherfaces** » Sun Sep 21, 2014 10:56 pm

What a fascinating thread. Thanks for digging up the info, Jim and Carole I love the fan photos, 🙌👍👍

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160271)

by **daydreamer** » Mon Sep 22, 2014 7:54 am

Two more then Nancy 😊



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Blackpool car 4.jpg (46.06 KiB) Viewed 4631 times

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160276)

by [Corinna](#) » Mon Sep 22, 2014 12:28 pm

Of course that's Peppi! He travelled quite a bit with Dusty!

Come to think of it... Reasonably, Tom must have been invited to Pat's wedding. But he doesn't appear on any photo from the occasion? Or maybe he didn't go at all?

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160279)

by **karen** » Mon Sep 22, 2014 12:46 pm

Couple of bits of info I found about him too.. 😊

Attachments

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[./download/file.php?id=22291&mode=view](#)

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160285)

by **darren2722** » Mon Sep 22, 2014 2:34 pm

Great thread all. 😊 Sorry I can't contribute, but fab pics, articles & vids. 🌟

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160335)

by **JMFabianoRPL** » Tue Sep 23, 2014 5:32 pm

Didn't someone try to claim he eventually was Dusty's "dealer"? Or am I mixing up stories?

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p160417)

by **Cas19** » Thu Sep 25, 2014 3:12 pm

Another small bit. Peppi was gorgeous. We all loved him.



Casx

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p161432)

by **Graham2010** » Sat Oct 18, 2014 4:04 pm

Peppi also can be seen on stage in the RAH video

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p161437)

by **pat.dunham** » Sat Oct 18, 2014 6:03 pm

Graham2010 wrote:

Peppi also can be seen on stage in the RAH video

Where is Peppi on RAH ?

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p162077)

by **Graham2010** » Mon Nov 03, 2014 11:40 am

Sorry for delay in replying.....watch carefully!!.....Dusty comes out for the finale in her purple sparkly thingy.....stage right and camera pans back to entrance and you can see Peppi.....he has the moustached " clone look" ala Freddie Mercury!! Very brief but nice to know he was there.

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Re: Peppi Borza (#p162078)

by **pat.dunham** » Mon Nov 03, 2014 12:09 pm

Thanks a lot Graham- a case of if you blink you'll miss it, but as you say nice to know he was there. This concert must have been difficult for her as she had had a very up and down year, especially losing her dad only weeks before, however as always Dusty put on a great show.

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