

Clem Cattini

b 1937, London. Drums

Influenced by film *Blackboard Jungle*, music and *Rock Around the Clock* and started playing drums in late 1950s - bought book on how to play the drums. Worked in dad's restaurant in Borough but would play and practice all the time. Joined a band that led to playing with Billy Fury. Started playing sessions alongside gigs in 1959.

Would go to the Giaconda Cafe on Denmark St - was like an unofficial labour exchange. People who needed players from studios all around the area would pop into the cafe to find musicians who would be hanging out there chatting and drinking coffee/ "are you free?"

1959 - 1st session Shake it all Over.

1962-63 sessions really kicked off - Cliff Richard, Lulu, Roy Orbison etc.

Skills - had to play safe on sessions, if you made a mistake everyone would have to start again (1-4 track recording). Bad looks from brass players. NERVE RACKING. Sessions were in 3-hour time slots - 10-1, 2-5. One week he did 21 sessions. Had a roadie to move his drum kit - 2 kits. Didn't know before and what the session would be. The Hooligan Mob - high quality musicians would play together a lot. Get it right first time. Learnt to read music after disastrous session. Had to be very disciplined - 6 hours to record x number of songs. Had heart attack due to pressure. Running from session to session. Great atmosphere - humour to relieve the tension. Supportive but sometimes hostile. Wife took his bookings from Fixers (others had agents/bookers). TV, POP, film, jingles. Played in all of the studios.

Rockers not welcome by the "jazzers", and classical set. Formally trained.

Liked the creative freedom of being on the road on tour.

Story about Pie studios - got time wrong, couldn't read music - 9/8 timing. Stood out - "Classic Rock" with LSO. 1964, he was playing on 5 of the top 20 hits.