

Interviewee(s): David Davies (DD)	Interviewer(s): Kirsty McLuckie (KM)
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REGION	East Lothian
TOWN/VILLAGE	Dunbar

Running time: 40.33

0h 00m 00s

KM: That's us. So, today is the first of November-

DD: Uhuh.

KM: 2019.

DD: Aye.

KM: And I'm here with Dave Davies in his home in [REDACTED] in Dunbar and we're going to continue with recording your life story.

DD: Right, uhuh.

KM: So, tell us a wee bit about how you've managed to end up in Sunny Dunny, Dunbar in East Lothian. So, we'd like to hear about your escapades and family life and working life and your travels, please, Dave. And I'm Kirsty McLuckie, your interviewer.

DD: Right... Right.

KM: So, over to you, David.

DD: Uh, yeah... What I missed out in the last interview, last I was in the Isle of Man, in the Villa Marina, playing in...

Unknown: You alright?

KM: Hi there.

Unknown: Hi.

KM: It's ok, I'll just pause the recording for now.

[pause in recording]

Ok, we're just gonna resume the recording because Dave's daughter, Annette, just came in. She popped in to pick up the list – she's going shopping for Dave today. So, back over to you, Dave.

DD: Yeah, whilst I was in the Isle of Man, playing at the Villa Marina... Uh, I met this gentleman, introduced himself, and his name was Mr Remington. Mr Remington. And, uh, he used to sing. Aw, he'd got a lovely voice. He was a Liverpoolian.

KM: Aw, a Scouser.

DD: Yes. And he said to me 'oh', he says, 'I'm the manager, general manager of the Grand Hotel in New Brighton, near Liverpool'.

0h 02m 08s

KM: Wow, sounds very glamorous, doesn't it?

DD: It was a two hundred bedroomed hotel called the Grand Hotel.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And he says 'well, when you've finished here if you've got no other employment, would you come down and see me because'...

KM: *[laughter]* I'll just pause it for two-

[pause in recording]

Sorry, we paused there because Dave's daughter came back to get the right cash card for the shopping but we're all good.

DD: Yeah, and... He came and he said 'aw, Dave', he says... 'Aw', he says, 'your organ playing is fantastic. The crowds you get in the ballroom at night'...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Aw', he says, 'aw'... He says, 'aw', he says, 'it's... And when you've finished your season here would you come and see me'-

KM: Uhuh.

DD: -'at the Grand Hotel in New Brighton because I've got a large concert room which seats and holds- and like a dance floor, and seats all around. It holds three hundred people'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: So, I says 'aw, yes'. He says 'my real name is Mr Kimberley'... Then I- aw, Mr Kimberley. One name- he gave me one name-

0h 04m 00s

KM: So, why was he going under another name?

DD: And why he gave me the other name, I don't know.

KM: Oh well.

DD: I think he must've had a drink in him, I think, ye know.

KM: Uhuh.

DD: Cause he was a heavy drinker.

KM: Oh dear.

DD: So, anyway, I finished the season and got a boat back to Liverpool. Went to see Mr Kimberley at the Grand Hotel.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And he took me in and he said 'I'll show you the concert room'; I said 'alright'. So, when we went into the concert room, in the middle of the concert room was a round dais and on the dais was a beautiful, white theatre organ.

KM: Oh lovely. And was that the organ for you to play? That you played?

DD: So- yes.

KM: Excellent.

DD: So, he says... I said 'look, Mr Kimberley', I says 'are you thinking what I'm thinking? Does this dais go round?'

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Yes, very, very slow', he said, 'very slow, so all the people can watch you play'.

KM: Uhuh, so the whole audience got to see you.

DD: So, I says 'listen', I says 'I'm going to be dizzy. I'm going round and round on this thing'.

KM: That's true. Not if it's going slow, though.

DD: 'Oh', he says 'you'll go very, very slow. And during the interval when you have your break, we'll get two of the waiters to come and help you down'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Of course, you might be feeling a bit woozy'.

KM: And so, did you work there? How long did you work there? Did your family have to move with you?

0h 06m 02s

DD: No, no, no. That... That was before I got married.

KM: Aw, that was before you got married.

DD: Yeah, yeah. So, that... And people were buying me drink and asking me did I want a drink, and I was saying 'no, thank you'. They said 'oh, there's a drink at the bar from so-and-so'. The waiters came and helped me down, took me to my dressing room...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Passed me a drink and something to eat and... I had a twenty-minute break, I think. And going back, Mr Kimberley says 'we've got a star performer, as well, here. He's not going to perform until tonight. So, I want you to meet him when you've finished your afternoon session'.

KM: Uhuh.

DD: 'Well', I said... He said 'his name is Ken Dodd'.

KM: Wow.

DD: So, I said 'oh, I've never met him'. So, I went to the dressing room. Ken, in his dressing room, he was going through his notes and what have you.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'I'm pleased to meet you'... 'Oh'-

KM: And was he very famous at that point?

DD: Oh yes.

KM: Ken Dodd?

DD: Yes, yes, yes.

KM: Cause I remember Ken Dodd and I used to watch all his shows.

DD: Well, he-

KM: He was...

DD: He was-

KM: And he was on the television a lot, as well.

DD: Yes, uhuh. I've got- I've got DVDs of him-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: [?]... And, um... Ye know, he was just starting out at that time.

0h 08m 08s

KM: Oh, I see. Mmhm.

DD: And he says to me 'I'm looking for a musical director'.

KM: Oh, that sounds like a grand title. Were you the musical director?

DD: I said... Well, I said 'I'm employed here, at the Grand Hotel'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: I said 'I just can't get up and leave'...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Go with you'.

KM: No, you had loyalties towards ... the hotel.

DD: So, he says 'will you consider it... If you've got any free time?'

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know? I said 'aye', he says 'I would like you to play for me here in the Grand Hotel'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Even though ye haven't seen my music', cause he was a brilliant singer.

KM: Oh.

DD: Oh, he was a brilliant singer, Ken.

KM: So, how long- did you actually then go to work with Ken Dodd?

DD: Well, what I did was Mr Kimberley had me playing... Seven- six nights a week-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: -in the Grand. And during the day, I had free time.

KM: Yes.

DD: So, it really worked very well with Ken because some of the clubs in Liverpool around about had him during the day.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Afternoon shows.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: So, I went... Went with Ken around all the clubs in Liverpool.

0h 10m 04s

KM: Mmhm.

DD: During the afternoon.

KM: Ahh, and was it busy through the day?

DD: Yes, yes. Oh... He had the place in uproar. How that man... Invented the jokes he told. He hadn't got a script.

KM: No, he just-

DD: No.

KM: -had everything in his head?

DD: No.

KM: Just ad-libbed?

DD: It was just one after the other.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know?

KM: And he was very witty.

DD: And, ye know, he says to me, he says 'I'll get you used to me. Now, my signature tune is 'Happiness'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: [*singing*] 'Happiness, happiness...'

KM: [*singing*] -'the greatest gift that I possess'...

DD: [*singing*] [*mumbling*].

KM: Mmhm.

DD: That was his- he says 'can you manage that?'

KM: [*singing*] Doo doo doo dooo.

DD: I says 'yeah, no bother'; 'There's the music. And then I'm going to sing 'Tears for Souvenirs''.

KM: Oh, I don't know that one.

DD: [*singing*] 'Tears for souvenirs, you're all that's left me...'

KM: Mmhm, I recognise it now.

DD: Right? And another... Oh. And he said that during- 'I've got another one... Which I wrote myself. I wrote this song myself'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And I asked 'what's that song, Ken?' I said 'have you got the music?' 'Oh yes, I've got the music. Yeah, yeah'. 'Love Is Like A Violin'. [*singing*] 'Love is like a violin / With its strings around your heart'.

KM: Ahh, I've never heard it.

DD: Oh, the songs he'd got... And...

0h 12m 04s

KM: So, did you enjoy working with him then?

DD: Yeah, yeah. And now he says 'my timing has got to be right, when you come on and play'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'I want music in different times when- during some of my jokes'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know. And he says... One of his jokes was- 'I think we'll have some fish music', 'fish music? Oh aye? Fish music...?', 'Aye', he says, 'Dave', he says, 'can you play 'There's a Pla[i]ce for Us?'' [*laughter*].

KM: And did you know it? Yes?

DD: Yes. 'There's a Place for Us', fish music. And I says- now, he says 'there's another joke I want to tell and I want you to give a big blast on the organ'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: I said 'what?'. He says 'the timing has got to be right, the whole time'. It had to be right.

KM: Yeah, spot on.

DD: So, I said 'right, what is the joke, Ken? So, I'll know when to come in'. He says 'well', he says 'ye know, I lived in Knotty Ash in Liverpool'-

KM: Mm.

DD: '-at my father's house?' I said 'oh, I didn't know'. 'It was me and my brother'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'We used to help my father on the coal wagon. He had a coal business'.

0h 14m 02s

KM: Oh, his dad was a coalman.

DD: And he says...

KM: That's a hard job.

DD: 'That's how I got into comedy... Watching Arthur Askey and Ted Ray and all of these'.

KM: Yes, all the big names.

DD: Ye know, big names. 'That's how I started off'. (Hold on just now, I'm just going to get a drink.) So, I says 'right, now, when's this big blast that I'm going to play?' 'Yeah, now', he said, 'I'm going to tell you. Ye know, when I was a wee boy... When I was a wee boy, my father used to play with me'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Oh', he said, 'he played a lot with me. I was his favourite boy'. I said 'oh, aye, Ken, aye'. 'Aye', he says, 'he used to come and get hold of me and throw me up in the air and go out for a smoke'.

KM: [*laughter*]

DD: Oh, give it a good blast on the organ. I said 'right', 'now', he says, 'the next one' he says... 'This is my... My really fast, fast joke. I end the show with this. Right', he said, 'I want you to go- we'll play- we'll finish up with 'Happiness''.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: I said 'right, what's the joke?'. 'Well', he says, 'this guy was keen on animals, on birds. So, he went into this shop, pet shop, says to the man behind the counter, 'do you have such things as budgerigars, budgies?'

Oh 16m 24s

KM: Mmhm.

DD: The man says 'ooh, yeah I've got cages of them. You have a look at them'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: So, he said to this guy, look, he said 'ooh, and he was dressed in a long coat and he had pockets in the coat'. So, he says, the guy says 'do you want a budgie?'. 'Oh no', he says, 'I want five'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'You want five budgerigars? Where are you going to put them?', 'In the pockets of my coat'. The guy said 'oh right', he says. 'Right', the guy went, he goes down to London and he fancies the top of the post office tower.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: So, he jumped off it.

KM: Oh lord.

DD: And he says they came to pick him up, the ambulance men, and he said 'ohh'... He said 'I hate this budgie jumping'.

KM: [*laughter*] Budgie jumping rather than bungee jumping. Aww.

DD: Aye, I played him that that one.

KM: So, you then done the dramatic music for it?

DD: Aye. So, he says... Oh, what did he do...? Oh, ye know, the jokes that he...

Oh 18m 04s

KM: Mm. Just rolled on and on.

DD: Just rolled on and...

KM: You must've had a wonderful time, working with him.

DD: Aw, I mean, I never stopped laughing.

KM: How many years did you spend together, working?

DD: Uh, about four years.

KM: Four?

DD: Yeah.

KM: And then where did you move on? Did you come back to East Lothian then?

DD: No, no I didn't. No. After... I followed- I tried to follow Ken but he was doing theatres.

KM: What year would that be?

DD: Uh...

KM: That you worked with him? What years?

DD: Um, twenty, oh... Twenty, thirty... 1959.

KM: 1959, mmhm.

DD: He did all the big theatres, all round the country.

KM: Yeah, so you worked-

DD: Of course, I couldn't come with him.

KM: No.

DD: So, he had to get a new musical director.

KM: Mmhm, because you that went on to lock eyes-

DD: Yeah.

KM: -and meet Mary Macgregor and get married...

DD: That's right, that's right. Yes.

KM: Have your family, Annette and Graham.

DD: Em... Aye, it's funny that because even when I was... A music teacher and a demonstrator in the Edinburgh Organ Studio-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: That was in nineteen... Twenty-six, aye. 1960? No. I finished with Ken... What did I say? I was twenty when I finished with Ken?

KM: Twenty-nine or something, was it?

DD: Was it '59?

KM: '59, oh yeah.

DD: 1959...

KM: Mmhm.

0h 20m 00s

DD: Or 1960, I went back to the Isle of Man.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And it was funny... I didn't go back to the Villa Marina, where I'd been before.

KM: Mm.

DD: I was musical director on the... What...? The... The Star Theatre-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: On the Isle of Man. The Star Theatre, which they had variety shows on.

KM: Ah.

DD: And I was the musical director.

KM: Yes.

DD: And it's funny... That's where I met Mary.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: My wife. And it's funny, with The Star Theatre, we- they hadn't got any organ or anything. There was only two grand pianos.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: In the pit.

KM: Yeah.

DD: A lady pianist in the Isle of Man played one piano and I played the other.

KM: The other.

DD: And-

KM: So, that was nice, you met your wife there.

DD: Yes. And then-

KM: You'll not forget that.

DD: And it was quite... I enjoyed it, but some of the people that the... Manager, or the manageress, got in The Star Theatre-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: -employees for the summer, for the summer season...

0h 22m 00s

KM: Yes.

DD: Weren't up to- not very- they didn't get many in the audience.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Because some of the players, or some of the staff, who were appearing as staff here...

KM: Yes.

DD: Weren't up to scratch.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And it was... And then Ken Dodd, he came up... He came up, they got Ken to come for a week in the summer.

KM: Yes. So, he'd have drawn the crowds, then.

DD: Oh god. Oh, there used to be queues outside, ye know.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And 'aw, Dave', he says, 'are you here with me?' I said 'aye'. He says 'I've got my musical director, he's in Liverpool'. So, I said 'oh Ken, aye. Now', I says, 'what are ye gonna- are ye gonna sing?'. 'Yes, I've got my music here'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And I says 'aye, well'... And he says 'I want another big blast at the end of my joke'.

KM: Mmhm, yes.

DD: 'Oh', I said 'have you got something, aye?'. 'Oh', he says, 'I've got one', he says, 'a song'. He says [*singing*] 'tell me pretty maiden have you got anybody home like you? / Aye, I've got a few' and he screwed his face up [*laughter*]. 'I've got one like [*laughter*]... And aw... [*singing*] bum bu bu bu bum...

KM: Happy memories.

DD: And ye know... Oh yes, after then I went from the Isle of Man to Buxton.

0h 24m 08s

KM: Yes, I've been to Buxton. It's very beautiful, isn't it?

DD: In a nightclub in Buxton, yeah.

KM: Stunning countryside.

DD: Yes.

KM: Did they not film a TV show or something there?

DD: Yeah.

KM: I can't remember the name of it.

DD: This guy, it was a butcher in Buxton-

KM: A butcher from Buxton.

DD: -and his brother and this guy, bought this nightclub in Buxton and they put an organ in, asked me would I play – I said yes. So, they used to have artists... Well, not very good ones but more or less singers, they had.

KM: Yes.

DD: Vocalists. So, this night-

KM: Is this in the sixties-

DD: Yes.

KM: -that you're in Buxton? Uhuh.

DD: In the afternoon, one afternoon, the guy who owned it, he says 'we've got an Italian tenor coming tonight'.

KM: Mm. Mmhm.

DD: 'He's coming early at six o'clock for rehearsal'.

KM: Yes.

DD: 'There's a drummer here and yourself'. So, I said 'what's his name?', 'Roberto Cardinali'.

KM: Oh, lovely name.

DD: Italian.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Italian.

KM: [*putting on Italian accent*] Roberto.

DD: Oh my god. Oh... And he was going- I says- he says 'do you know such a song?', ye know. And he sang that [*singing*] 'Just One Cornetto'...

0h 26m 00s

KM: Aw yeah. [*singing*] 'Give it to me'...

DD: But it was not those words.

KM: [*singing*] 'Delicious ice cream'...

DD: Aye. He sang the Italian words.

KM: Uhuh, he sang it properly, not the advert for the ice cream cone.

DD: No, no. And then he said 'do you know some opera?'. I said, 'aye, I know some opera'. 'Now, we'll have to work together and find out what key I'm singing in'. I said 'what is it?'... [*singing*] da da da dun dun da dun dun da...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: He did that.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And of course... And he did that one with [*singing*] da da da da da dum ba na.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: [*singing*] ba na na bum ba dum bum bum bum ba na na... Oh.

KM: Superb.

DD: Oh, good lord. The guy- the guy hadn't got any music.

KM: Mmhm. It was all in his head?

DD: I don't know how he managed it. Good job I knew the songs that he was singing.

KM: You had a good ear, uhuh.

DD: Ye know. I says, 'well', I says, 'if I didn't know these songs'... I said 'ye'd be up the creek', I says.

KM: [*laughter*] Without a paddle.

DD: Aye. So, he says 'can you do this for me?' and I said 'yes'. Oh my good lord, Buxton, Buxton. And I stayed there for two years.

KM: Mmhm, for two years, and then where did you head off to after that?

DD: Um... Then, I went-

0h 28m 00s

KM: Are these all areas- sorry to interrupt you, are these all places that you forgot to mention?

DD: Yes, yes, yes.

KM: So, you're coming back to them?

DD: Yeah, I'm coming- I'm going back and forwards. I'm sorry, I'm going from one to the other.

KM: No, no, it's fine.

DD: While I was there, I saw a newspaper, *The Stage* magazine musical paper, and in the back there was vacancies for musicians.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And there was an advert there for- they wanted a pianist on a P&O liner.

KM: Oh yes.

DD: Going to Australia.

KM: Yes. You told us about your cruises.

DD: Yeah, well, this one I didn't tell you about.

KM: Oh, did you not tell us about the P&O one?

DD: This one was a... Was on a liner, the *Orsova*, flagship of the P&O line.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: That was way, way back in 1954.

KM: Oh yes, that's a few years ago.

DD: 1954.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And... My aunt said to me 'why don't you go on and go for an audition?'

KM: Yes.

DD: They wanted a pianist. They'd got bass guitar, drums, saxophone and then they wanted a pianist.

KM: Mmhm, a pianist as well, for the band.

DD: We- they wanted a music in the morning, morning coffee, from eleven to half past twelve.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: In the lounge.

KM: Yes.

DD: On board. And then in the afternoon, afternoon tea from half past four 'til half past five.

0h 30m 08s

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And then at night, you'd have to play for dancing on the G deck.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: The dinner dancing, from seven o'clock until half past ten. That would be...

KM: Busy day.

DD: Six days a week.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know. And then I-

KM: You'd be well looked after, though.

DD: I had to play for services on the Sunday.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: For the Sunday service on board.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: The captain was named Captain Pinkney.

KM: *[laughter]* That's an unusual name, Pinkney.

DD: Pinkney. So, for the audition, I had to go down to the Strand in London.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: To a... To Associated Musical Entertainments office.

KM: Very good.

DD: Met the guy in there. He got his fiddle and his bow. 'Right', he says, 'we'll go next door', he says, 'where there's a piano'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'And I want to hear you play and I'll play the violin'.

KM: Yes.

DD: 'To see if you can play along'. So, that's what I did. Then, he... *[laughter]* 'Oh, that's great', he says. 'Right, I'll go back to the office and get a contract'.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Read through the contact, [I'll give you] about five or ten minutes, and if you agree, sign it'.

KM: Sign the dotted line.

DD: 'It's for a three-month round trip'-

KM: Mmhm.

DD: -'to Australia... Starting off at Tilbury'.

0h 32m 02s

KM: A great adventure for a young man.

DD: So, there's another list – what you've got to wear or what.

KM: Oh yes. You had to get your uniform, you told us that.

DD: You had to have two blue lounge suits.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: An evening suit, with two bowties; five shirts, white.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Six pairs of black socks.

KM: Yeah. Is that when you got your penchant for being a smart dresser?

DD: Yeah.

KM: Cause you're always very smart and...

DD: So, and he says 'you've got to have whites when we're in the tropics'.

KM: Uhuh.

DD: All in white, white trousers...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And a white suit.

KM: Super-duper.

DD: When you were going...

KM: Yes.

DD: Across the equator, down there...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: It gets boiling. You've gotta wear the white suits.

KM: Yes, it's hot.

DD: And then-

KM: It's just to let you know that we'll be winding up in five minutes.

DD: Oh, yes. Ok, right.

KM: So, we'll just- we'll give you a wee head start that we'll be slowing down.

DD: Aye. Yeah, we... We started off at Tilbury, joined the ship at Tilbury, met up- met all the guys I was playing with-

KM: What age were you then, Dave?

DD: About thirty.

KM: About thirty?

DD: Uhuh.

KM: Oh, so you were a bit older then, cause the first time you went you were younger, weren't you?

DD: Yes, yes, yes.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Yeah. And we joined the ship at Tilbury, went to Southampton to pick up the passengers.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: From there we went to Gibraltar, stayed there for two days...

0h 34m 03s

KM: Uhuh.

DD: Through the Mediterranean into Naples...

KM: Gosh.

DD: Which, we docked there for two days.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: From Naples, we went to Colombo, Pakistan, through the Suez Canal.

KM: Yes, the famous Suez Canal.

DD: Ah, Red Sea, Indian Ocean... We docked in Fremantle in Australia.

KM: Mmhm, you're very well-travelled and with your work, as well.

DD: From Fremantle, we went round to Adelaide, Melbourne...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: From Melbourne right round to Sydney. We stopped- stayed in Sydney for two weeks and then we had to do all of this coming back.

KM: And then all the way back again. Quite an adventure.

DD: But I... Whenever we got to the Bay of Biscay, ooh...

KM: Was it choppy?

DD: We had to ride out a force nine gale.

KM: Oof.

DD: And the liner-

KM: Stormy weather.

DD: And the liner had no stabilisers on.

KM: Ooh, you'd have been getting chucked about the place, then.

DD: Ooh, I was seasick... Aw, the seasickness pills were...

KM: Terrible.

DD: Terrible. It was terrible. So, I got- I did two trips with them.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: I said to my agent, the agent that... I says- I said 'put me off there, I'm not going back, man. Put me on another line'-

KM: Yeah.

DD: -'which is a shorter trip'. So, then, he says 'oh, do you want a short trip? Can you get up to Liverpool next Friday? There's a- *Sylvania*, the liner *Sylvania*, going to New York'-.

0h 36m 14s

KM: Oh.

DD: -'from Liverpool'.

KM: [*singing*] 'Start spreading the news'...

DD: So, it was only seven days, of course, on that trip.

KM: [*humming*]... Mmhm. So, that was more agreeable?

DD: So... I met different players and different musicians-.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: - on the *Sylvania*. It was a bigger liner than the other.

KM: Yes.

DD: And it was more interesting.

KM: Yeah.

DD: Ye know.

KM: Than your last one?

DD: Docked at New York... Oh, talk about when it says this is a city that never sleeps.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Oh, it goes that fast: boom, boom, boom.

KM: So, is it just like you see it on the television?

DD: Aye.

KM: It is, oh.

DD: Aye. You've gotta walk- you've gotta be careful where you walk.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: You've gotta watch the lights.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: 'Walk now'.

KM: Yeah, it's walk, don't walk.

DD: Ye know? Otherwise, you'd be knocked down.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know?

KM: Yeah.

DD: And, oh, it was that fast. So, coming back, uh, to... To London, Tilbury, Southampton... No, Liverpool. Liverpool, yes?

KM: Uhuh.

DD: Liverpool. I get mixed up with the places. Coming back to Liverpool from New York, we were playing – I was playing piano, others playing-

KM: The fiddle.

DD: -their instruments.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And we looked over and sitting at the bar on the bar stools, tall bar stools, was Frank Sinatra.

0h 38m 05s

KM: Wow.

DD: Dean Martin.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Sammy Davis Junior and Peter Lawford. The Rat Pack.

KM: Oof. Amazing.

DD: They were drinking.

KM: All having a drink [*laughing*].

DD: They were coming back to Liverpool to do a film or something, I don't know what happened.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: So, anyway, Frank Sinatra looked and saw me playing piano. So, his two managers who were looking after him helped him over and he leant on the piano...

KM: Mmhm.

DD: And in a Yankee voice: [*putting on American accent*] 'I wanna sing'. 'Oh', I said nervously, 'Mr Sinatra, there's the microphone'. He never sung a note.

KM: He never sung-?

DD: He collapsed on the floor.

KM: Oh, was he drunk [*laughter*]?

DD: Aye. Two managers had to take him to his room-

KM: Aye.

DD: -and put him to bed.

KM: I suspected you were gonna say as much when you'd said the two minders had helped him over-

DD: Aye.

KM: -I thought he must've been... Quite well on.

DD: So, anyway, Dean Martin did sing. He sang, uh-

KM: He had a great voice, as well.

DD: He did, uh, 'Little Old Wine Drinker', he sang.

KM: [*singing*] 'Little old wine drinker me...'

DD: [*singing*] '...drinker me', uhuh.

KM: [*singing*] Doo doo doo doo...

DD: Sammy Davis danced.

KM: Oh, he was so light on his feet, wasn't he?

DD: He danced to the 'I've Got Rhythm'. [*singing*] 'I've got rhythm'...

KM: [*joining in singing*] 'rhythm'...

DD: [*singing*] Da da da da.

KM: [*singing in unison*] Doo doo doo doo [*humming*].

DD: But Peter Lawford never sang.

KM: [*singing*] 'Who could ask for'... Who was that who never sang?

DD: Peter Lawford.

KM: I don't know who he is. I know all of the other songs.

DD: He was their fourth; there was Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis... He was more than- as a star.

0h 40m 00s

KM: Yes.

DD: He wasn't really musical.

KM: No.

DD: No.

KM: How lucky were you, in meeting all of them on your cruise?

DD: Oh... Oh my god... It was... Ye know, it was fantastic.

KM: Mmhm.

DD: Ye know... Seeing... Ye know, every time they used to play, I used to play- we used to play at night...

KM: That's us. Will we just wind up then, Dave?

DD: Aye, ok.

KM: We'll finish up now. Thanks very much.