

# Beware Record Bootleggers are back!

By *L.A Observer* entertainment correspondent Susan Osmonis

**U**K based Soul music expert Ian Doodleburst- has had a busy week! First he made a shock discovery of random “bootlegging” of records in the city, but in making that discovery, he may have also solved the mystery of the disappearance of a long lost friend.

Bootlegging old unwanted 45s was a practice prevalent in the mid 1970’s, at the height of popularity of Britain’s northern soul scene. At the time Doodleburst was a top DJ who came to L.A and befriended notorious French Moroccan bootlegger and accountant to the mob Simon Sausage. Sausage went on to bootleg many hundreds of obscure records, often using LA pressing plants such as the now defunct Monarch plant on W. Jefferson Boulevard.



Notorious record bootlegger and member of West Coast Ciccone Crime Family Simon Sausage filmed outside a Leeds All-nighter session, 1970s  
[Photo: Ian.Doodleburst]

## “Looking for Sausage!”

The practice of bootlegging old 45s ceased when the northern soul scene died out after the closure of its nightclub the Wiggins Casino in northern U.K. Or at least that’s what everyone thought! Doodleburst meanwhile lost contact with his old friend, when he became fascinated instead by European disco music. In the late 90’s Ian renewed his interest in Northern soul music noting “I’ve been looking for Sausage since the late 70’s without success”, and adding that he had been told that Simon Sausage had been buried alive under the Santa Monica Freeway extension. But now Ian may be on the verge of a breakthrough there too.

For Ian, the story started when he saw a scan of an obscure old soul record, supposedly from L.A by Golden Sandy.

Doodleburst set about methodically putting together a timeline of events: “It’s no co-incidence that Sausage disappeared at the same time as popular Australian

entertainer Rolf Harris enjoyed a resurgence of popularity with students in Britain. I now think it’s highly likely they are one and the same person”.

## Suspicious stylophones

The link that connected Sausage to Harris was the Golden Sandy 45: “Last week I saw a copy of this record posted on the internet and immediately became suspicious. Firstly I could hear a stylophone in the background. Everyone knows that the stylophone was invented by Rolf Harris, and didn’t become popular until the 1970’s. It’s an instrument that my old mate Simon Sausage was playing all the time on all of his productions now I come to think of it. This gives further credence to my theory about Harris and Sausage being the same person”.



Australian entertainer Rolf Harris – could he be the mysterious stylophone player on the Golden Sandy 45?

But Doodleburst was also suspicious about a number of other things with this record.

The artist and producer on the disc for example: “Golden Sandy – I mean you just couldn’t make this stuff up....it just doesn’t make sense, no one has ever heard of her, and she’s not in the phone book either. She doesn’t exist!” The producer: “His name is Nat Fartier Jr appeared on the record and I’d never heard of a Nat Fartier before either – Simon was always making up names like that to throw people off the scent.

Ian then turned his attention to the artwork on the record’s label and recognised it immediately as being one of Sausage’s old bootlegs. “....It’s blue and Simon’s favourite color after yellow and red and green was always blue”.

## Hysterical

Pushing aside what he describes as ‘hysterical pleas’ from hardened record collectors back in Britain who claim that the disc in question was a legitimate release, Ian remains unrepentant and demands proof:

“Nah, these rare soul boys don’t know what they’re talking about!” he quips.

Then on Tuesday, there would be a further twist in the tale when out of the blue, Ian heard of a second copy of the rare 45 turning up in Paris. *I’m just not buying it!*” he adds. At this point Ian became concerned that someone was trying to sell a bootleg in the lucrative collectors 2<sup>nd</sup> hand market, where often rare vinyl can

## The French connection

fetch prices of over \$100. Now he embarked on his final piece of research: “You’ll never guess what I discovered....I went on the definitive website for records discogs and found other records with the name Nat Fartier on them! It appears that someone has been bootlegging records by little known groups like Great Expectations, and Magnum .....But why?”



The Golden Sandy 45 record Ian believes is a Simon Sausage “bootleg”

Ian goes onto explain that these other records were actually from Philadelphia, but he believes he has discovered bootleg copies with the Californian address of Joe’s Kitchen Utensil store on them. “Baffling isn’t it? Why would anyone bootleg records from Philly with an L.A address like that? And why a kitchen utensil store? It doesn’t make sense! It just has to be Simon Sausage!” he insists.



“They are not fooling me!” jokes Ian Doodleburst at home in Britain, with a California bootleg of a Philadelphia LP.

Neither Nat Fartier, or Simon Sausage could be located for comment at the time of going to press. [©2013 SO] [susanosmosin@laobserver.com](mailto:susanosmosin@laobserver.com)

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