

“ Donnie Elbert cut a single for a production company I had with Peter Meaden in '67 and '68. One day Peter and Donnie were hanging out at Donnie's girlfriend's place in Edgware when there was a police raid - the girlfriend's brother was on the run and they thought he was holed up there. For some reason Peter and Donnie were both packing heat. Peter opened the bay window and dropped his piece in the dustbin outside - and, with awesome timing, the dustmen came along at that very moment and emptied the bin. But Donnie got busted with his piece, a gas gun he'd brought over from NY. By the time it came to court, Peter was sectioned and I had to testify as character witness for Donnie. I wore a beautiful suit and told the judge Donnie was set to earn £50,000 over the next year. He got cautioned. I doubt if we went on to sell more than two boxes of that record. Donnie used to jump labels very quickly, but he did leave us with an acetate of “So Soon”. Years later when Joe Boy released it, Ian Levine got cross with me and said it wasn't Donnie at all. No surprise there, then! ”

Norman Jopling *Record Mirror Journalist*

NORTHERN SOUL STORIES #1

As the follow-up to their mega hit cover of Gloria Jones' "Tainted Love" Soft Cell recorded a cover of Franki Valli's Wigan floorfiller "The Night" but it was rejected by record label bosses. The duo released their slant of Judy Street's "What" instead!



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