

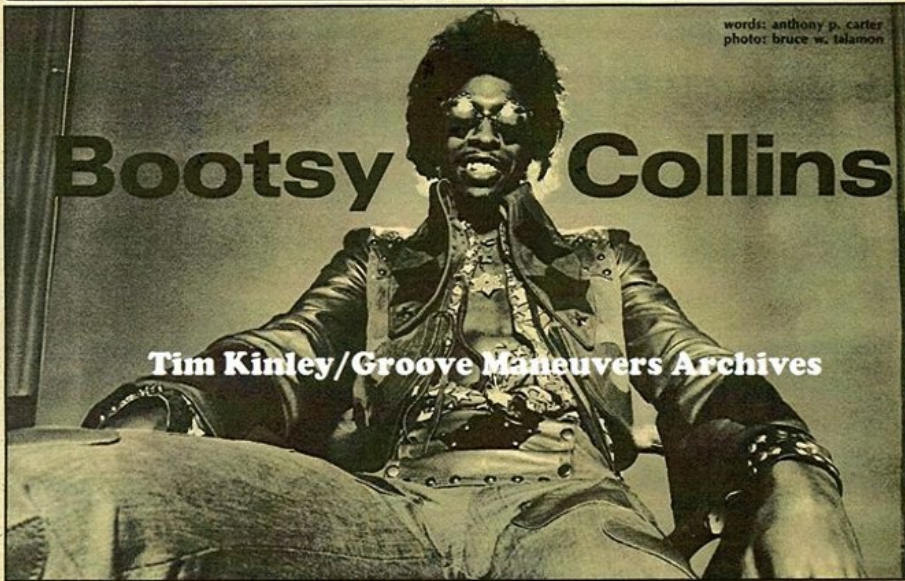


RECORD ARTIST

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# Bootsy Collins

## Tim Kinley/Groove Maneuvers Archives



He's the ruler of Geepieland, protege of Dr. Funkenstein, and all around rhinestone rockstar monster of a doll. He's Bootsy. William "Bootsy" Collins, the leader of the infamous Rubber Band, is also a million-selling recording star, author and perpetrator of such tender ditties as "Bootzilla," "Hollywood Squares," "Stretchin' Out," and "What's a Telephone Bill?" In an exclusive interview with SOUL, the talented bassist discusses such burning topics as skin-diving music, the Psychoticbumpschool, and—would you believe it?—Mrs. Bootsy.

**SOUL:** Bootsy Collins, the innovator of "monster-rock, heavy-weight Funk" music, it's indeed a pleasure to meet you.

**BOOTSY:** It's good to be here.

**S:** We've written stories about you before, Bootsy Collins, so many of our readers are familiar with your music. However, many people still want to know about your life outside of the music world. For example, your love life, leisure time, etc. We want to shed some light in those directions, and in the directions not often revealed to the public. Okay, Bootsy?

**B:** That's cool.

**S:** How did you receive the name Bootsy?

**B:** Oh, my mother named me that.

**S:** What's the significance behind the name?

**B:** None, really. She had to call me something. I was a little thing running around, so she thought Bootsy was an appropriate name to call me. I don't know, maybe I looked like a Bootsy.

**S:** Are you married? Is there a Mrs. Bootsy?

**B:** Hey, I'm the father of two space basses.

**S:** You're the father of two space basses? Well, do they

have any names? Are they human?

**B:** I am the father of two space basses: Space Bass I and Space Bass II. Their mother's name is SpaceFace, Double Bass. Combined, they're all my life.

**S:** In essence, Mr. Collins, you're saying that you're married to your music, and your music is your life and, in actuality, SpaceFace, Double Bass, and Space Bass I and II are merely bass guitars.

**B:** That's correct. And, I personally designed them.

**S:** Many musical personalities are motivated by spiritual forces or similar forces. Is there an inspirational force(s) in your life?

**B:** Yes, when I look for inspiration I look to Casper.

**S:** I've heard that name before. I believe Casper's name is mentioned on one of your albums . . .

**B:** "Stretchin' Out in Bootsy's Rubber Band" . . .

**S:** Then, we are talking about the same Casper, correct?

**B:** Yes we are. We're talking about who I am when I'm not Bootsy or Bootzilla. You see, I'm Bootsy right now, in this interview. I'm Bootzilla, the monster, on stage, and when

I'm alone, in my moments of leisure, I'm Casper.

**S:** You're three people in one? In other words you're Bootsy, Bootzilla and Casper inside one man, William Collins?

**B:** That's right, they're all clones of William Collins.

**S:** Himm, so Mr. Collins . . . on excuse me, I'm sorry . . . Bootsy, what type of inspiration do you receive from Casper?

**B:** Well, sometimes when I'm alone or just before I go to sleep, Casper gives me strength to think of new concepts to apply to my music. I just received a new one the other day: it's called "skin-diving music", and it's deep.

**S:** What does "skin-diving music" involve and has the concept been applied yet?

**B:** The concept hasn't been applied yet, but it's written down and ready to be applied. People are going to come to my concerts in skin-diving gear, and I'll really funk them, then. They'll be in the aisles, front rows, and balconies, skin-diving their funky selves to death. Incidentally, I have two other concepts that I'm working on also—music for the blind to see, and music for the deaf to hear.

**S:** Interesting, yet strange. Most people don't take you very seriously, do they? Some think you're crazy. I find some of your comments unbelievable myself, Bootsy.

**B:** Yea, they think I'm crazy. You know, I am—or maybe I'm more like silly-serious. I make fun of things and expect people to laugh, but I don't expect them to miss the punch line. There's a message in everything that I do, and it's all incorporated in my philosophy.

**S:** Could you explain your philosophy?

**B:** Funkology, the science of funk, is what rules my life. Everything that I do is centered around funk. You see, I live pure funk. In other words, I don't fake the funk. If I did my nose would grow. You know, like the Pinocchio Theory. I'm just as funky on stage as I am off. It's got to be that way.

**S:** I would imagine that you're awfully busy with concert engagements and recording sessions, but when you're free from those commitments, how is your time spent?

**B:** I think of new ideas and new songs.

**S:** Is that it?

**B:** That's it.

**S:** What would you like to

share with SOUL in addition to what has been said?

**B:** Well, I want people to realize that I'm aware of what's going on. If they think that I am funky out of my mind, that's cool. I am only a product of what I believe in, and what I believe in—my music and my life—is what I'm dedicated to. People would understand me and my funky presentation much more clearly if they took a lesson from the Psychoticbumpschool.

**S:** What's the Psychoticbumpschool, other than a cut on one of your albums?

**B:** Every concert that I give is a lesson from the Psychoticbumpschool. This interview is the Psychoticbumpschool. At the school, everyone learns what true funk is all about, and learns how to apply it.

**S:** What does the future look like for Bootsy Collins?

**B:** Right now, I'm just going to complete my book of funk, i.e. my life, and continue spreading the funk to my fans.

**S:** When it's time to throw the towel in and there are no more concerts and recording sessions, what will you do then?

**B:** I'll be a cartoon.

**S:** A cartoon?

**B:** Yes, like on T.V.