

**Bob Gaudio** doesn't need any extra since we all know what he did since leaving the Royal Teens to join Bob Crewe in early 1960. A successful 4 Seasons' group member, song writing and production career culminating with the successful launch in 2005 of the NYC Broadway musical Jersey Boys which since that time has played in various USA cities as touring casts and also in several countries/non-USA cities including London. Interestingly, Tom Austin was present at the premiere of Jersey Boys in NYC (because of the "Short Shorts" inclusion) and Tom was proud to have travelled with Bob at the first stage of Bob's musical journey. The final accolade was the release of the Jersey Boys movie and currently available on DVD.

**Buddy Randell** joined The Knickerbockers group (named after a street where they lived) in 1964 and sang lead vocal on their December 1965 no. 20 hit "Lies", and their 1966 hit "One track mind" (no. 46) in March and in June on their minor hit "High on love" (no. 94). The group featured in the movie "Out of Sight" in 1966 and made regular guest appearances on Dick Clark's ABC-TV programme, "Where The Action Is" between 1965 and 1967. Buddy left the group in 1967, returned in 1968 and finally left the Knickerbockers in early 1970. Buddy recorded the track "Be my baby/Randi, Randi" on Uni 55207 released 3/70 and went under the pseudonyms of Steel Wool recording "No sugar tonight/ditto (instrumental)" issued in 4/70 on White Whale WW 346 and Blowtorch releasing "I want sugar all the time/C'mon and get it" on Paramount Records PAA 0126 in 11/71. Between 1973-74 Buddy briefly backed up artist Brenda Patterson for Playboy Records, appearing on an episode of The Midnight Special TV show. In the 80's he performed with the faith-based band Jerusalem Rivers and featured once more in the Knickerbockers for a very limited time in 1990; Buddy passed away in 1998 at the age of 57!.

Fans interested in post 1960 Royal Teens members put together by Leo Rodgers in 1961 and lasting till 1973 can refer to the following web site for further information ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Teens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Teens)).

Fans interested in The Knickerbockers can refer to the following web site for further information ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Knickerbockers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Knickerbockers)).

Extract from Golden Age of Rock & Roll Part 6: UK Record Collector No. 240 August, 1999



## THE ROYAL TEENS

Short Shorts (CD6)

Let's get everything everybody knows about the Royal Teens out of the way first: future 60s session giant Al Kooper was once in the band, though not on this record; and British comedians Freddie & the Dreamers borrowed this tune for their 60s stage show, complete with a side-splitting display of trouser-dropping. We were easily amused back then.

Not that the original 1958 record was any more dignified, with its wolf-whistle intro and banal dialogue. So it's all the more shocking to discover that the head Teen was none other than Bob Gaudio, who went on to more glorious things as a key element in the Four Seasons' long run of hits. Also in the studio when the shorts were first aired was sax soloist Bill Randell, who cropped up seven years later as the leader of those US Beatles soundalikes, the Knickerbockers (of "Lies" fame).



THE ROYAL TEENS	Short Shorts / Planet Rock (US: Power 215, 1957) .....	£60
THE ROYAL TEENS	Short Shorts / Planet Rock (UK: HMV POP 454, 1958) .....	£30

Current  
Mint Value

## THE ROYAL TEENS USA and UK DISCOGRAPHY

{\*instrumental tracks}      Billboard Chart position *in italics* ( ) and *Cash Box* as charted

Blanche/Baby I'll cry (The 3 Friends with Joe Villa)	Lido 500 [10/56]
We made a vow/Miss Jones The Corvells (with the Royalteens as back-up)	Lido 509 [1957]/Tip Top 509 bootleg [1957]
Short shorts/*Planet rock (78 rpm too)	Power 215 [11/57]
Short shorts/*Planet rock (reissue—different label) (78 rpm ABC 78-9882) (UK HMV 45-POP 454 & 78 rpm POP. 454; 2/58)	ABC 9882 [1/58] (3) (Cash Box no. 3)
Sham rock/Big name button	(Cash Box no. 59) ABC 45- 9918 [4/58]
Harvey's got a girlfriend/Hangin' around	ABC 45-9945 [7/58] (78)
Open the door (forgot the key)/My kind of dream	ABC 9955 [9/58]
†Leotards/*Royal Blue (†matrix number 109X)	Mighty 111 [2/59]
††I'll not be the one (to say goodbye)/*Royal blue (††matrix number 109) (*Leotards" was a take on "Short Shorts" and Mighty very quickly replaced it with another track in 2/59)	Mighty 111 [2/59]
Cave man/Wounded heart (Joey Villa & The Royal Teens)	Mighty 112 [3/59]
*Mad gass/Sittin' with my baby	Power P-113 [3/59]
Believe me/Little cricket (UK Capitol CL 15068; 10/59) (US 78 rpm 4261)	Capitol 4261 [8/59] (26) (Cash Box no. 24)
Was it a dream/The moon's not meant for lovers (anymore) (red/black promo lbl)	Capitol 4335 [1/60]
With you/It's the talk of the town	Capitol 4402 [8/60]
She's my all American girl/Mickey mouse got a girlfriend (Joey Villa)	Capitol 4484 [11/60]
My memories of you/Little Trixie	Mighty 200 [8/61]
Blanche/The oriental (Joey Villa and the original 3 Friends) (*Blanche" was re-recorded in 4/59 and re-released under Joe Villa as main artist a couple of years later)	Chevron 500 [9/61]
My mother's eyes/Jailer bring me water (Joey and The Twisters - Joe Villa's group)	Armour N-2244 [1961]
Bony Moronie/Mumblin' (Joey and The Twisters - Joe Villa's group) (label changed name from Dual to Duel and hence became Duel 505 in 1/62)	Dual 505 [12/61]
Bony Moronie/Mumblin' (Joey and the Twisters)	Duel 505 [1/62]
Blanche/Mona Lisa (Joey Villa with the 3 Friends) re-issue	MF 101 [1962]
*Royal twist/Short shorts twist	Jubilee 5418 [2/62]
*Royal twist/Short Shorts twist (reissue)	All New 1415 [6/62]
Short shorts/*Planet rock (re-released in either black or gold coloured vinyl)	Power 215 [2/62]
Do you wanna dance/Last dance (Joey and the Twisters)	Duel 509 [4/62]
*Mad gass/Sittin' with my babys (reissue bootleg)	Astra A-1012 [11/63]
Short shorts/Believe me (reissue)	Capitol Starline 6050 [6/64]
I'll love you till the end of time Part 1 vocal)/ditto (Part 2 instrumental) as the Bluetones (= Royal Teens)	Bluejay BJ- 101 [1/65]
I'll love you till the end of time Part 1 vocal)/ditto (Part 2 instrumental) as Royal Teens	Swan S- 4200 [2/65]
Chloe/Honest darling, believe me (Joe Villa)	De-Lite DE 501 [12/67]
King of fools/Ballerina (Joe Villa)	De-Lite DE 504 [1968]
The magic of your love/Ballerina/ (Joe Villa) changed A-side	De-Lite DE 504 [1968]

### ALBUMS

#### **MUSIC GEMS FROM THE ROYAL TEENS**

USA True-Gems LP T-G1001

[1974]

(Original album sleeve had black and white track titles with silver/black record label; later pressings had front of sleeve titled "The Royal Teens Original Hits Short Shorts and Others" with drawing of a girl wearing short shorts and a gold black record label)

Tracks: Short shorts/\*Royal blue/Little Trixie/Why/All right baby/Believe me/My memories of you/Sham rock/Dottie

**BELIEVE ME**

France

Demand Series LP D5-0010

[1978]

Tracks: Short shorts/\*Royal blue/Little Trixie,/Why?/All right baby/\*Planet rock/Was it a dream?/Pretty girl/Open the door/Believe me/Harvey's got a girl friend/Dottie Ann/Sham rock/Wounded heart/Hangin' around/My memories of you/\*Coolation/My kind of dream. \* = instrumental tracks.

The Royal Teens **SHORT SHORTS** Canada Collectables Col 5094 vinyl LP (CD issued 8/94) [7/90]

Short shorts/Royal blue/Little Trixie/Why/Believe me/My memories of you/Sham rock/Dottie Ann/Open the door/My kind of dream/Wounded heart/All right baby.



The Royal Teens **LET'S ROCK** Belgium Mighty-Power 300 CD

[8/97]

(Recent reissues on Cedar and Traditions Alive label 2014) \*originally unreleased

The moon's not meant for lovers/Was it a dream/My memories of you/Little cricket/Believe me/Harvey's got a girl friend/Big name button/Hangin' around/With you/Short shorts/Little Trixie/Open the door/Dottie Ann/All right baby/Leotards/Sittin' with my baby/Blanche/My mother's eyes/Short short twist/Why/It's the talk of the town/I'll love you (til the end of time) - *vocal*/My kind of dream/Wounded heart/Sham rock/Planet rock/Royal blue/Mad gass/Royal twist/ I'll love you (til the end of time) - *instrumental*/Dance ballerina/Chloe.

**BEST OF JOE VILLA INCLUDING THE THREE FRIENDS/THE ROYAL TEENS** Platinum 1007

USA CD [199?]

Blanche/Baby I'll cry/I'm only a boy to her/Jinx/Chinese tea room/Now that you're gone/Short shorts/Believe me/Little cricket/Wounded heart/Daydream (previously unreleased)/Was it a dream/It's the talk of the town/With you/I'll love you till the end of time/Don't cha know (by Lou Giadano)/Mona Lisa/Jailer bring me water/My mother's eyes/The oriental/All American girl/Mickey Mouse got a girlfriend/Ballad of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr/Honest darling (Believe Me)/Ballerina/King of fools/The magic of your love/Blanche (1978 version)

Pseudo Royal Teens

Bad girl/Do the Montoona  
Tears in my eyes/Chicanery  
Hey Jude/Smile a little smile

**THE ROYAL TEENS**

**BOB GAUDIO**

20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox TCF 117 [10/65]

Rev (Hollywood label) 45-115-67/45-116-67 [5/67]

Musicor MU 1398 [2/70]



The Royal Teens "NEWIES BUT OLDIES" LP USA Musicor MS 3186 [2/70]/UK Pye PKL 4408 [11/71]

Rock n' roll music/Smile a little smile/Proud Mary/Traces/Honky tonk woman/Build me up buttercup/Sugar sugar/Suspicious minds/The games people play/Hey Jude.

### Interesting Canadian 78 rpm releases

Short shorts/Planet rock	Sparton 534R	[1/58]
Big name button/Sham rock	Sparton 575	[4/58]
Believe me/Little cricket	Capitol 4261	[9/59]

### The Knickerbockers (with Billy Crandall's aka Buddy Randell)

All I need is you/Bite bite barracuda		Challenge 59268 [11/64]
Jerk town/Room for one more		Challenge 59293 [5/65]
Lies/The coming generation	<i>Billboard no. 20</i>	Challenge 59321 [11/65]
One track mind/Must be doing something right	<i>Billboard no. 46</i>	Challenge 59326 [2/66]
High on love/Stick with me	<i>Billboard no. 94</i>	Challenge 59332 [6/66]
Chapel in the fields/Just one girl	<i>Billboard no. 106</i>	Challenge 59335 [7/66]
Love is a bird/Rumours, gossip, words untrue	<i>Billboard no. 133</i>	Challenge 59341 [9/66]
Please don't love him/Can you help me?		Challenge 59348 [11/66]
What does that make you?/Sweet green fields		Challenge 59359 [3/67]
Come and get it/Wishful thinking		Challenge 59366 [6/67]
I can do it better/You'll never walk alone		Challenge 59380 [12/67]
A matter of fact/They ran for their lives		Challenge 59384 [4/68]

### Post-Knickerbockers

<b>Buddy Randell</b> (vocals) Be my baby/Randi, Randi	Uni 55209	[3/70]
<b>Steel Wool</b> (Buddy Randell musician) No sugar tonight /ditto (instrumental)	White Whale WW 346	[4/70]
<b>Blowtorch</b> (Buddy Randell vocals) I want sugar all the time /C'mon and get it	Paramount PAA 0126	[11/71]

### Knickerbockers' Albums

Lloyd Thaxton Presents The Knickerbockers vinyl LP		Challenge 12-6-64 [10/65]
(Sang/lip-synced some songs on The Lloyd Thaxton TV show with audience participation prevalent)		
Jerk and Twine vinyl LP		Challenge CHL 621 (mono)/CHS 2521 (stereo) [12/65]
Lies vinyl LP	<i>Billboard no. 134</i>	Challenge CHL 622/CHS 2522 [02/66]
The Fabulous Knickerbockers CD		Sundazed SC 11002 [1988]
The Great Lost Knickerbockers Album CD {LP 5000 [1989]}		Sundazed SC 11012 [7/92]
Jerk and Twine (reissued on CD)		Sundazed SC 6010 [11/93]
Lies (reissued on CD)		Sundazed SC 6011 [11/93]
A Rave Up With The Knickerbockers CD Ace CD WIKD 122 [1/94]/Big Beat Records BB25 122 [11/95]		
Hits, Rarities, Unissued Cuts and More (aka Knickerbockerism) 2 CD set		Sundazed SC 11040 [2/97]
Lies – Very Best Of The Knickerbockers CD Collectables COL CD-0531 [1993]/COL CD 6036 [8/98]		
Rockin' With The Knickerbockers CD		Sundazed 6216 [7/03]
Best of the Knickerbockers CD		Curb CRB 78896 [8/05]
Rockin' With The Knickerbockers vinyl LP Sundazed 5154 (stereo) [2/06]/Sundazed 5354 (mono) [8/12]		
One Track Mind: The Garage Pop Sound of the Knickerbockers CD Grapefruit AEC 501392918174 [8/10]		

### Selected Miscellaneous Reissues 45's/Album Tracks (e.g.s of Royal Teens tracks – incomplete list)

Various artists (Royal Teens sing "Short Shorts") A Million Or More Best Sellers LP US ABC 216 [1962]		
Various artists (Royal Teens sing "Short Shorts") Cruisin' 1958 LP	US Increase INCM 2003	[6/70]
Blanche/Baby I'll cry (The 3 Friends) reissue of Lido 500	Lost-Nite LN 398	[1972]
Blanche/Baby I'll cry (The 3 Friends with Joey Villa) reissue	Relic 1021	[1973]
Short shorts/Black slacks (Joe Bennett and the Sparkletones)(reissue)	Roulette GG 126	[1973]

Short shorts/Born too late (The Poni-Tails) UK Probe GFF 114 [2/73]  
 Short shorts/Black slacks (Joe Bennett & The Sparkletones) ABC 45-1228/Goldies 45 MCA D-2402 [1973]  
 Believe me/Was it a dream Doo-Wopp 112 [197?]  
 Believe me/My baby said (The Ribbons) Good Old Gold 110 [197?]  
 Short shorts/Black slacks (Joe Bennett & The Sparkletones) UK Revival REV 6020 [1982]  
 Var. Arts Original Rock n' Roll Hits of the 50's Vol. 2 (Short Shorts) LP US Roulette 59002 [1982]  
 Var. Arts Rockin' Rollin' Vocal Groups Vol. 5 LP (Little Cricket) US CHAM 80635 [1984]  
 Var. Arts Original Rock n' Roll Hits of the 50's Vol. 1 (Short Shorts) CD US Roulette RCD 58001 [1986]  
 Various Artists Goofy Greats (RT's - Short Shorts) UK K-Tel NU 9030 LP [1983]/so352 CD [8/93]  
 Var. Arts Cruisin' 1958 (Short Shorts) US Increase CD INCD 1958 [3/93]  
 Var. Arts Philadelphia's Doo-Wop Sound - Swan Masters Vol. 1 CD (I'll love till the end of time) US Buffalo Bop 55038 [2/99]  
 Var. Arts Axes, Saxes, Skin, Ivories Vol. 2 CD (Mad Gass) USA AEI 3003 [5/99]  
 Var. Arts Official American Bandstand Library of R n' R 4 (CD) (Short Shorts) US Atlantic 92904 [5/00]  
 Var. Arts The Golden Age of American Rock N' Roll Vol. 10 (Believe Me) UK Ace CDCHD 850 [9/02]  
 Var Arts Greasy Rock n' Roll Vol. 12 (LP/CD) (Dottie Ann) UK Greasy GR 012 [2006]

**Live Gold Records in Association With Rock Magazine Presents Article From Rock n' Roll Revival Show 12/1970**

**H**ere's a group that had Bob Gaudio, Al Kooper and Joey Villa who formed the group after leaving the 3-Friends. They first started out recording for ABC in 1958 when they released "Short Shorts" which reached number 3 nationally. They came back with, "Harvey's Got A Girlfriend" also on ABC. They then moved onto Capitol Records where they cut, "Believe Me" on which Joey Villa sang the lead vocals. It is believed the Al Kooper may appear with the Royal Teens on this gig after so many years. Complete with shorts, here are the Royal Teens.

**ROYAL TEENS**  
 Short Shorts  
 Believe Me  
 Harvey's Got a Girlfriend  
 Big Name Button

**ROYAL TEENS**

Article from the USA Life Magazine Volume 44 No. 11 March 1958



ROYAL TEENS sing their record success, *Short Shorts*. Song was first Teens ever recorded and was written by two of five singers in the boy-and-girl group.





## THE ROYAL TEENS

The Royal Teens were a talented, self-contained rock & roll band who hit the worldwide pop music charts in January, 1958 with *Short Shorts*, and later that year scored again with a smooth ballad titled *Believe Me* when Joey Villa was added as lead singer. Alan Freed, the King of rock & roll disc jockeys, played *Short Shorts* nightly throughout New York City, Dick Clark spun it every afternoon on "American Bandstand" and 1958 was the year of the best looking "short shorts" in America.

Included on this limited-edition album is the original 1958 smash version of *Short Shorts*, which reached #3 on the Billboard national survey and stayed 16 weeks in the Hot 100 chart. In addition to *Short Shorts* and their other great hits, this album (100% legal—not a bootleg) includes never-before released Royal Teens masters, such as *Royal Blue*, *Why*, *All Right Baby* and *Sham Rock*, all cut during 1958-59.

Good time rock vocals and instrumentals from the late '50s are plentiful in this collection. The Royal Teens are no longer united but their music and style is now preserved on disc. We've all grown up since then—including the Royal Teens. Bob Gaudio, piano player and writer, later joined the Four Seasons and in 1964 co-wrote many of their finest recordings such as *Rag Doll* and *Dawn*. He also wrote and produced Frank Sinatra's *Watertown* album on Reprise in 1969. Al Kooper was another replacement in the Royal Teens; he went on to found the Blues Project, Blood Sweat & Tears and many other successful groups in the late '60s.

### THE ROYAL TEENS

#### Members:

Joe Villa—vocals—Brooklyn, New York  
 Bob Gaudio—piano—Fort Lee, New Jersey  
 Tom Austin—drums—Fort Lee, New Jersey  
 Bill Crandall—sax—Fort Lee, New Jersey—replaced by  
 Larry Qualaino  
 Billy Dalton—bass—replaced by Al Kooper

The five fellows got together in 1957 and formed an instrumental combo known as the Royal Tones. They then decided to change it to the Royal Teens, since all the members were in their teens at the time.

In late 1957, Bob, Tom, and both Billies collaborated on a song called "Short Shorts" which they recorded and sold to ABC-Paramount. The

### Article Taken From UK Record Collector November, 2014 Number 433 (Used in Music To Watch TV Ads By)

By comparison, The Four Seasons' **Bob Gaudio** cuts a less charismatic figure; however, in songwriting circles, he remains one of the biggest names to come out of the early 60s Brill Building era. In conjunction with producer Bob Crewe, Gaudio was responsible for a swathe of classic vocal-group smashes such as Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Rag Doll, Beggin' and Silence Is Golden – songs that made a star out of Frankie Valli, and which now survive as the bedrock of Broadway musical *Jersey Boys*. And if that wasn't enough, he penned *The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore* for The Walker

Brothers, and *You Don't Bring Me Flowers* for Barbra Streisand too.

Gaudio's talent revealed itself at a very early age. As Screamin' Jay was casting his spell in the summer of 1957, Gaudio was just 15 and playing piano with a New Jersey high-school band called The Royals. It was during this period that he and drummer Tom Austin wrote the novelty number *Short Shorts*, about the local girls' penchant for wearing cut-off jeans. On the advice of producer Leo Rogers, the group recruited a girl singer, Diana Lee, changed their name to The Royal Teens and signed to ABC/Paramount. Before long they were No. 3 in the US charts. Though the hits dried up almost immediately, the Teens remained something of a fixture on DJ/promoter Alan Freed's much-vaunted rock'n'roll package tours where, with a selection of sidemen in tow – including a young Al Kooper – they opened for legends such as Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Cook and Chuck Berry.

Nobody would go so far as to call *Short Shorts* a classic, but it's one of those silly-season songs that never quite goes away. And so it returns... underpinning a **Channel 4** trailer for short dramas (<http://youtu.be/HbLNs5wqsls>).



### THE ROYAL TEENS

Left to right: Tom Austin, Larry Qualaino, Bob Gaudio, Joe Villa, Billy Dalton

song was released in January 1958 and became a national hit almost overnight.

After several other recordings like "Harvey's Got a Girl Friend" and "Big Name Button," the group left ABC and signed with Capitol records. Their biggest hit for Capitol came in late 1958, with "Believe Me," written by Joe and Tom.

Although the group only had about four hit records as the Royal Teens, it contained three famous artists. Joe had sung with the Three Friends in 1956, and recorded a national hit with "Blanche." Bob Gaudio went on to form the Four Seasons in the early sixties and wrote most of the Seasons' biggest hits. And of course Al Kooper went on to be a big star in his own right in the late sixties.

Today Bob Gaudio is a staff writer for Mowest records in Los Angeles. Joe still resides in the New York area but does not do any singing except for an occasional rock concert, when he performs with two other singers as the Three Friends.

January	1958	SHORT SHORTS	ABC
April	1958	BIG NAME BUTTON	ABC
August	1958	HARVEY'S GOT A GIRL FRIEND	ABC
October	1958	BELIEVE ME	Capitol



THE ROYAL TEENS