

Matt Lucas: Biography

Matt Lucas was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1935, and raised in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. Matt's early life experience in the segregated South led to his first encounter with blues music. At the age of 14, during a troubled period of his youth, Matt took off for Los Angeles to get into movies. It was there he started playing drums with mostly black bands in the Los Angeles area. Matt returned to Missouri in 1955, playing bars and honky-tonks in southwest Missouri and southern Illinois as a drummer and sometime vocalist. He traveled back to Memphis in the early 60s and began performing with Narvel Felts. It was at this time in 1963, that he recorded a version of Hank Snow's *I'm Movin' On* for the local Renay label, later picked up by Mercury's Smash Records. It climbed the charts to become Matt's first worldwide Billboard hit. Other hits, *Ooby Dooby*, *Mabelline*, and *Motor City Twine*, soon followed. Matt then left for Detroit where he worked with such acts as The Supremes and Stevie Wonder. By this time he had many hits in the Rockabilly, Blues, and R&B genre. Ever on the move, Matt headed to Canada. There, with the help of Ronnie Hawkins, Matt put together a new band and produced new hits, including *The Old Man* and *I've Paid My Dues*, on Kanata Records.

Matt has been included in Billy Poore's book, "Rockabilly, a Forty Year Journey", Sun Record's, "The History of the Memphis Sound", by Colin Escott, "The A-Z of Rock 'n' Roll" by Grahm Woods, Billboard Magazine's "Top Pop Singles", by Joel Whitburn, and is a member of the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.

Matt's most recent release *Back In The Saddle Again* on Ten-O-Nine Records, features Matt with music legends James Burton and Charlie Musselwhite. Matt is currently touring and performing worldwide at clubs and various rockabilly and other music festivals. He resides with his wife Barbara in Florida.