

Fabian (1943-) Encyclopedia Article

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Perhaps the quintessential teen idol of the 1950s, Fabian was only fourteen when he was plucked from obscurity and thrust into the idol-making machinery by Philadelphia record producer-promoter Bob Marcucci. Though he had failed his high school chorus classes, the darkly handsome Fabian Forte hit the national charts with the offkey single, "I'm a Man." The hits "Turn Me Loose" and "Tiger" followed. Critics savaged him; *Time* labeled him a "tuneless tiger." But to teenage girls lamenting Elvis Presley's tenure in the U.S. Army, Fabian filled a void. Aware that he was being marketed like "a thing," Fabian left music in the early 1960s to pursue a Hollywood career. But after proving an affable co-star in popular movies such as *High Time* and *North to Alaska*, his career stalled. His career was revived in the 1980s by "golden oldies" tours, which continued into the 1990s.

Fabian

Further Reading:

Farley, Ellen. "The Story of Frank and Fabe and Bob." *Los Angeles Times*, November 23, 1980, 30-31.

Time. "Tuneless Tiger." July 27, 1959, 33.