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THE BLOG



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Become a fan

**Buster Poindexter Subversive at the Café Carlyle**

In case you were wondering about his rocker roots, David Johansen can be seen in a photograph flashing amidst many images in the documentary *Robert Frank--Don't Blink*. In fact, he was a star in Frank's 1988 *Candy Mountain* back in the New York Dolls days, along with Tom Waits, Leon Redbone, Dr. John, Joe Strummer, and Kazuko. Today performing at the Café Carlyle, in a pencil thin 'stache worthy of John Waters and his signature pompadour, as Buster Poindexter, he's no less of a star. In fact, he's transitioned effortlessly onto the intimate uptown cabaret stage with a witty, smart show, sprinkling song with jokes, backed by a first rate band: Brian Koonin on guitar, Richard Hammond on upright bass, Ray Grappone on drums, and Brian Mitchell on piano and accordion. Poindexter adds to his own raspy voice with a cool harmonica.

"Volare," "Dance With Me," "Piece of My Heart," "Desiree," "Seven Deadly Virtues," "Deep in a Dream," "Gangster of Love," and "Heart of Gold" were some of the highlights of the set, and his mad self-effacing humor can go far, describing a Japanese man who experienced both Nagasaki and Hiroshima, but when asked, what did you think of the show, replies, "Worst thing I ever saw." Or, what are critics, he asks, answering, "They go into the battlefield and shoot the wounded." On the night we attended, a drunken, loud fan kept requesting his signature "Hot Hot Hot," that mainstay of bar mitzvahs and weddings alike, which he usually performs in a conga line threading through the tables. Wasn't gonna happen, and yet the rousing tune remained a presence in absence for a totally fun evening.

A version of this post also appears on [Gossip Central](#).