

Lola

(The Kinks)

I met her in a club down in North Soho
Where you drink champagne and it tastes
just like

Cherry Cola

C-O-L-A Cola

She walked up to me and she asked me to
dance

I asked her her name and in a dark brown
voice she said, "Lola"

L-O-L-A Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Well, I'm not the world's most physical guy
But when she squeezed me tight she nearly
broke my spine

Oh my Lola, lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo Lola

Well, I'm not dumb but I can't understand
Why she walks like a woman and talks like
a man

Oh my Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Well, we drank champagne and danced all
night

Under electric candlelight

She picked me up and sat me on her knee

She said, "Little boy won't you come home
with me?"

Well, I'm not the world's most passionate
guy

But when I looked in her eyes

I almost fell for my Lola

Lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

I pushed her away. I walked to the door
I fell to the floor. I got down on my knees

I looked at her, and she at me

Well that's the way that I want it to stay

I always want it to be that way for my Lola

Lo lo lo Lola

Girls will be boys, and boys will be girls

It's a mixed up, muddled up, shook up
world

Except for Lola. Lo lo lo lo Lola. Lo lo lo
loLola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Well I'd left home just a week before

And I'd never ever kissed a woman before

Lola smiled and took me by the hand

She said, "Little boy, gonna make you a
man."

Well I'm not the world's most masculine
man

But I know what I am and I'm glad I'm a
man

So is Lola

Lo lo lo lo Lola. Lo lo lo lo Lola

[Outro]

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola, lo lo lo lo Lola

"Lola" is a song written by Ray Davies and performed by English rock band the Kinks on their album *Lola Versus Powerman and the Moneygoround, Part One*. The song details a romantic encounter between a young man and a possible trans woman, whom he meets in a club in Soho, London. In the song, the narrator describes his confusion towards Lola, who "walked like a woman but talked like a man".

The song was released in the United Kingdom on 12 June 1970, while in the United States it was released on 28 June 1970. Commercially, the single reached number two on the UK Singles Chart and number nine on the Billboard Hot 100. Due to its controversial subject matter and use of the brand name Coca-Cola, the single received backlash and even bans in Britain and Australia. The single version (mono) used the words "cherry cola" while the album version (stereo) uses the name "Coca-Cola". The track has since become one of The Kinks' most iconic and popular songs, later being ranked number 422 on "Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Songs of All Time" as well as number 473 on the "NME's 500 Greatest Songs Of All Time" list.

Drummer Mick Avory has offered an explanation for the song's lyrics, claiming that "Lola" was partially inspired by Avory's frequenting of trans bars in west London. Avory said, "We used to know this character called Michael McGrath. He used to hound the group a bit, because being called The Kinks did attract these sorts of people. He used to come down to Top of the Pops, and he was publicist for John Stephen's shop in Carnaby Street. He used to have this place in Earl's Court, and he used to invite me to all these drag queen acts and transsexual pubs. They were like secret clubs. And that's where Ray [Davies] got the idea for 'Lola'.

I remember going into a music store on Shaftesbury Avenue when we were about to make "Lola". I said, "I want to get a really good guitar sound on this record, I want a Martin". And in the corner they had this old 1938 Dobro [resonating guitar] that I bought for \$150. I put them together on "Lola" which is what makes that clanky sound: the combination of the Martin and the Dobro with heavy compression. – Ray Davies

The success of the single had important ramifications for the band's career at a critical time, allowing them to negotiate a new contract with RCA Records, construct their own London Studio, and assume more creative and managerial control. In a 1970 interview, Dave Davies stated that, if "Lola" had been a failure, the band would have "gone on making records for another year or so and then drifted apart".

Originally, "Lola" saw controversy for its lyrics. In a *Record Mirror* article entitled "Sex Change Record: Kink Speaks", Ray Davies addressed the matter, saying, "It really doesn't matter what sex Lola is, I think she's alright". Some radio stations would fade the track out before implications of Lola's biological sex were revealed. On 18 November 1970, the song was banned in Australia because of its "controversial subject matter".

The BBC banned the track for a different reason. The original song recorded in stereo had the word "Coca-Cola" in the lyrics, but because of BBC Radio's policy against product placement, Ray Davies was forced to make a 6000-mile round-trip flight from New York to London and back on June 3, 1970, interrupting the band's American tour, to change those words to the generic "cherry cola" for the single release, which is included on various compilation albums as well.