

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1953

DAILY NEWSPAPER

50 pence

## INTERVIEW OF DÉSIREE DUPREE

« DD — The director was not able look at me in the eyes. Once again, I was lonely. I only spoke to the monkey and the horses.

Over time, the fabric of my suit was shorter, and show more and more of my skin. The director forced me to show at private events, where there were only men. He did not paid me more when he allowed them to touch me. Their dirty hands passed on my thighs, my legs, my bottom, and my chest of course. They laughed with the director when one of them spanked me.

**« Within a few weeks, I was nothing more than a sexual product for the director to earn more money. And I hated it. »**

When people discover me, they have different looks : disgusted, curious, lewd, amused. I am used to it, to be seen as a weird thing more than a human-being. When the magician of the troupe, visited me one night, I had the courage to denounce it to the director. He looked at me, and laughed loudly. He said that it was not surprising at all, that I am made to be a fantasy, a sexual desire because of my body. It was kind of my fault. When I wept, he got angry and shouted at me. He also told me that if I did not leave the circus now, I would suffer the same thing again but from him. The same evening, I gathered the few things I had, some clothes and the bag with the money I owned. And I left.

**AL — It might be private, but may you tell us why did you separate ?**

DD — Thanks to a doctor, I learned that I was a woman. I did not have masculine genitals but a malformation of my clitoris. My disability came from an hormonal problem. I could be operated. At the same time, I miscarried. I wanted another child with Dell, now that I knew I could be a mother. I revealed him the truth about Jimmy, Ethel and his own father. I also told him that I wanted to have an operation. But he started to get angry at me. That night, he scared me a lot, and I was not so sure anymore that he was not able to hurt me. So I divorced him and left. I was not as sad as I thought I would be. In fact, I have freed myself. »

DD — I was again a beggar but I had enough money to buy food. It lasted a few weeks and then I joined another circus, where I met Dell.

**AL — May I ask who was Dell to you ?**

DD — He was, I thought, the love of my life. He loved me for who I was no matter how much my body was weird. He loved to show his surhuman strength but he was mostly sweet to me. He was also a freak. He accepted me, I loved him, so we got married. To me, he was more than a brute. I was the happiest with him. We left together that circus and we moved to Jupiter, and Elsa, the headmaster of the Freak Show, recruited us.

**« We were now part of the huge family of different people with a lot of different disabilities. »**

DD — And because everyone « normal » disliked us, we loved each other. The shows worked, I played piano. Even if there were a bunch of dark events, I had friends for the first time.

Sometimes, Dell was a little brutal with me. But I knew how to handle it. He was weird and never wanted to touch me. I liked it, at first, because my traumas made me uncomfortable with physical touch. But it became suspicious over time. I thought I was the problem, or he did not love me anymore perhaps. After we broke up, we learned that he was homosexual. It did not surprise me very much.



Source : Google, Desiree Dupree, American Horror Story, Season 4 « Freak Show », 2015

