

Diana Ross wears 9 outfits for a sparkling New Orleans Jazz Fest debut

[nola.com/jazzfest/2019/05/diana-ross-wears-9-outfits-for-a-sparkling-new-orleans-jazz-fest-debut.html](https://www.nola.com/jazzfest/2019/05/diana-ross-wears-9-outfits-for-a-sparkling-new-orleans-jazz-fest-debut.html)

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST Diana Ross wears 9 outfits for a sparkling New Orleans Jazz Fest debut Updated May 5, 2019 ; Posted May 4, 2019 Erika Goldring Photo Diana Ross performs at the Saenger Theatre on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2013, in New Orleans. On Saturday, May 4, 2019, she performed at the New Orleans Jazz Fest for the first time. (Erika Goldring Photo) 16 1.1k shares By Laura Testino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

May 4, 2019



Diana Ross made a joke that she was 47-years-old, which would have been completely believable based on the way she looked in all nine, count' em nine, of her dazzling New Orleans Jazz Fest ensembles. What gave her away was the crowd dancing and singing along to every word of her slew of No. 1 hits that date back to 1964.

“So if I’m 75,” she corrected herself, “then I wanna see you move out there!”

She said this shortly after kissing her hand and placing it on her hip while performing “Upside Down” in a form-fitting, off-the-shoulder sequined red dress.



Photo by Laura Testino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Diana Ross, 75, performs on the Gentilly Stage during her New Orleans Jazz Fest debut. This red gown was the fourth of nine ensembles she wore during her 80-minute set. Photo by Laura Testino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

This exchange was part of the brilliance of Ross' Gentilly Stage performance on Saturday (May 4). She proved that performing at 75 just means she's an expert at keeping an audience engaged and entertained.

Her band and trio of backup singers first took the stage dressed all in black, setting up Ross' Fair Grounds debut with shimmering sounds from drums and chimes. She began her 80-minute set, which NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune was not authorized to photograph, with "I'm Coming Out" in a gown with a form-fitting bodice of gold sequins and a voluminous skirt of golden tulle.

Each time Ross left the stage to change, she would return with a feathery, fur or sequined coat that she'd later shed to reveal yet another evening gown.

Before the first quick-change, the crowd been bouncing around and singing along to Supremes hits like "Baby Love," "Stop in the Name of Love," "Come See About Me" -- even though the sound wasn't quite right. Ross' mic was too low, especially considering the volume of the band, the backup singers and the crowd.

With her first quick-change into the red sequin gown, however, came much better mic volume that lasted the rest of the show.

Ross slipped into a sparkling silver number for “Why Do Fools Fall In Love” and then, yes, again into a sparkling white gown. She arranged “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” the second-to-last song, so that she spoke most of the verses and then gave it her all for the chorus.

Finally, she dove into “I Will Survive,” giving each band member and back-up singer solo turns.

When Ross left the stage, just before 7 p.m. when her set was supposed to end, the crowd stayed.

“Diiii-ana!” one man screamed from standing in the seat of his folding chair.

She returned in an all black jumpsuit with bright green accents.

Ross introduced the younger singers and musicians who shared the stage with her and spent the rest of the song — a reprise of “I Will Survive” — with a phone in hand, capturing moments of herself on stage and of the enthused crowd.



Photo by Laura Testino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Ross, 75, concludes her Jazz Fest performance by dancing with the crowd. Photo by Laura Testino, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

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Laura Testino writes entertainment and home and garden stories for NOLA.com / The Times-Picayune, where she is the life and culture reporting fellow. Reach her at 504.717.6584 or email LTestino@nola.com.

A simple basement cleaning leads this man to discover a secret room stashed with items that scared him enough to move out immediately

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Almost half a million people -- 475,000 -- attended the recently completed [New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell](#), festival organizers announced Thursday, May 9. The festival, celebrating its 50th anniversary, featured eight days this year instead of the usual seven, with the first weekend adding a "Locals Thursday."

Headliners included costume-changing Katy Perry and even more costume changes by Diana Ross, Dave Matthews Band, Tom Jones and a grand finale by Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue with members of the Neville family including Aaron, Cyril, Ivan and Ian Neville.

The attendance for 2019 wasn't much different from 2018, which saw crowds of approximately 450,000 fans -- about 25,000 more than 2017. The 2018 festival only had seven days.

In 2017, attendance was 425,000, the fest [previously announced](#). Severe weather, with high winds and lightning, [caused the festival to open after 3 p.m.](#) on the first Sunday in 2017. The festival usually opens at 11 a.m.

The 2019 festival had some disappointments, with the Rolling Stones canceling, followed by the cancellation of replacement Fleetwood Mac.

Next year's 51st annual event will span April 23 – May 3, 2020, with eight festival days again (April 23 – 26 and April 30 – May 3). For the most up-to-date Jazz Fest info, visit www.nojazzfest.com.

If you missed Jazz Fest, read some of our reviews to get a recap:

[Jimmy Buffett taunts the NFL at Jazz Fest](#)

[Buffett is the hero of seaside hedonists everywhere.](#)

[Diana Ross wears 9 outfits for a sparkling New Orleans Jazz Fest debut](#)



[The 75-year-old performer dazzled at the Gentilly Stage on Saturday \(May 4\).](#)

[Backed by a live funk band, Freedia was especially electric.](#)

[The band has long been the most interesting act in New Orleans.](#)

