



# Dolly Works the Windows

**While travelling, Dolly Prada enjoyed Holland's famous tolerant and liberal attitude towards sex work, renting one of the renowned 'Windows.'**

Amsterdam's Red Light District is a major tourist attraction, located in the heart of the old part of the city, with cobbled streets, tree-lined canals and old buildings illuminated with rose-coloured lighting.

In the mid-2000s, transgender Asian sex worker Dolly quit her job in Australia, changed all her money to pounds and headed to Europe. In Amsterdam, she saw a sign advertising a 'room for rent' – one of the nearly 300 small rooms with floor to ceiling windows for sex workers to "ply their trade."

She answered the ad and started working straight away, paying €260 to rent a window for an eight hour period. "You work in a room with a curtain," she says, "when you get a job, you close the curtain." A cross-dresser at the time, Dolly would start work by entering the room as a man, putting on a pink dress and make-up and would emerge from behind the curtain as a woman – "I would go in as a boy and come out as a girl!"

Dolly describes posing sexily behind the glass window to attract customers, doing "cheeky, naughty stuff." Everyone, men and women, would look at you "window shopping," then someone would knock on the glass and ask "how much?"

There was no time limit on bookings, with clients staying for as long or as little as they liked for €100. Most preferred a quick exchange, "to fuck, fuck, fuck and then go." Dolly had non-stop customers – even on the day shift, which wasn't as popular with other workers. Dolly found window

work lucrative, working an eight hour shift each day for about a week and making "a lot" of money.

The window rules were pretty simple – wash the sheets in the laundry after your shift and provide your own condoms (which were easy to get from the numerous sex shops). When Dolly's shift ended, the next worker would move in. Because you weren't allowed to sleep in the room, Dolly stayed at a €10 per night backpackers.

There were some tricky situations, when clients realised she was transgender and "had never been with a tranny before." She had to explain what being a tranny meant to some customers. There were requests for her not to be naked, for her to perform oral only, or clients asked to "do doggie without seeing my penis." Other clients were first timers who were happy to try anything; some were "really in to Asian women."

Dolly's advice to anyone thinking of going to work in Amsterdam is to ensure you are on the correct working visa and to check the requirements before you go. She says, "Amsterdam is a great, safe city for sex workers to work. I felt safe and protected, by the laws, security and by how open minded it is there."

With the money she earned she travelled for two years around Europe, seeing 27 countries. Dolly happily tells that she now lives full-time as a woman and works in a local Melbourne parlour. The best thing about her experience in Amsterdam is that she's "proud to be an international sex worker!"

*[\*please note, the use of 'tranny' in this article is from direct quotes from Dolly and is how she self-identifies and self-refers.]*