

There are Faces I Remember

Supplemental Material for Owners of the Limited Print Edition

**Dr. Angie McCartney
Foreword by Ray Connolly**

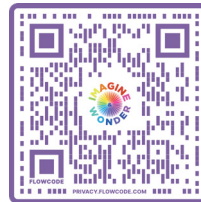


THERE ARE FACES I REMEMBER



DR. ANGIE MCCARTNEY & RUTH MCCARTNEY

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Foreword

I first met Angie McCartney in 1966. I was in my first job as a sub-editor on the Liverpool Daily Post at the time, but I wanted to be a writer. So to show that I could write, I decided that my first-ever interview should be Paul McCartney's younger brother, Michael – who, as Mike McGear, was with The Scaffold, a three-man comedy/poetry group based in Liverpool. I don't remember how I got Mike's phone number or address, but I remember turning up in my red sports car at Rembrandt, his father's grand house on the Wirral, which was across the River Mersey from Liverpool.

To say that I was nervous would be an understatement, a state of affairs not helped by my lifelong stammer. Angie opened the door, invited me in, and then made me a cup of tea and fed me biscuits while her husband, Jim McCartney, and I chatted as we waited for Mike to wake up. They could see how nervous I was, but they made me more than welcome.

As a result of my interview with Mike McGear (and a few others), I got a new job the following year on the London Evening Standard where my role was specifically to write about Sixties people who were making the news. Obviously, that included the Beatles, whom I got to know well. Mike was now a friend who would sometimes stay with my wife, Plum, and me when he came down to London. And, through that connection, I stayed in touch with Angie and Jim McCartney.

Then on the morning of December 27, 1967, I was asked by the Evening Standard to write about the hugely negative reaction to the Beatles' Magical Mystery Tour film that had first shown on BBC TV the previous night. It was the Beatles' first failure, and, not knowing where better to begin, I rang Paul McCartney's home in London and was surprised when his father, Jim, answered. He and Angie were staying with Paul for Christmas.

Paul, Jim explained, was still asleep. I would have to ring back later. Evening newspapers demand that articles are pretty well written instantly, so thirty minutes later I rang again and then again until eventually, Mr. McCartney said some words that I've never forgotten.

“Son,’ he said, ‘God loves a tryer. I’m going to go upstairs and get him out of bed to come and talk to you.”

My conversation with Paul that day would be the first of many major Beatles pieces I wrote in my early career, and always Jim's advice ‘God loves a tryer’ would be my personal motto. I'd never heard it before, but the meaning was clear: if you don't keep trying, you'll never win.

The thing about Jim McCartney was that despite the extraordinary success of his sons, he remained what I would call ‘an old-fashioned gentleman.’ And whenever he and Angie would come to see my wife Plum and me in our home in Kensington, he would always feel in his pockets, or Angie's purse, for a half crown to give to each of our young children. That was what elderly people used to do when they visited families with small children. And, at his side, Angie, though much younger than Jim, shared the same values.

Before she met Jim McCartney, Angie had had some severe knocks in life, and there have been other, later setbacks too, for her and her daughter, Ruth. But she's a fighter. She never gave in or stopped trying.

Which is a quality I hugely admire in friends, and is probably why over fifty years later, although separated by an ocean and a continent, Angie and I keep in touch and are still friends.

Ray Connolly
July 2022

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank several people who have helped my sometimes crusty memory. In no particular order they are:

Ruth McCartney, Martin Nethercutt, Ray Connolly for the fab foreword, Shannon MacDonald for the cover illustration, Marshall Terrill, Lisa Derketsch my editor and proofer, Peter Archer, Mark Lewisohn, Freda Kelly, Mark Lapidos, Kevin Smith, Paul Antonelli, Ivor Davis, Jude Southerland Kessler, John Burnes, David Bedford, Judith Kristen, and Janet Weston. And to my publisher Steven Wilson of Imagine & Wonder and the tornado that is known as Dr. Simon Mills for getting this all formatted. And if I have forgotten anyone, please accept my apologies. Remember, I'm an old fart.

The Family Photo

The first 1000 owners of this collectible tome will have noticed that Angie and Ruth have inserted a FREE personally signed 8×10 photo of them, Jim and Paul taken in the back garden of Paul's London home on June 25th, 1967. Just after this image was snapped by good friend Barbara, Ruth and Paul painted a large black and white sign which read "Come Back Milly" and can be seen later that same day in the BBC "Our World" broadcast featuring The Beatles performing LIVE – the world premiere of "All You Need Is Love." Jim's sister Milly had recently sailed 6 weeks on the Oriana to Perth, Australia and would see this message on TV, making her so homesick that she did indeed "come back!" On the back, you will see a numbered QR code and scanning that will take you to a video greeting from Angie, which she will change out from time to time.

3 Lucky Drawing Winners

But wait, there's more! If you are the owner of book #9, #64 or #710 – please reach out to us via email at info@mccartney.com with a photo of you holding the photo, and showing the back of the image and the #, and you'll receive a special little surprise from Angie.

There Are Faces I Remember... Some Have Gone and Some Remain

It is my pleasure to introduce you to my latest book. This is a personal look at some of the Fabs, their friends and family members who have crossed my path in the last six decades.

I am writing about people whom I was fortunate to meet as a result of “marrying into the family” – The Beatles family – to be exact. That happened when I wed Jim McCartney, Paul’s dad, in November, 1964. My first real adventure into their world was our honeymoon in Nassau in the Bahamas in early 1965, where we watched the boys filming scenes for their HELP! movie. What a trip that was. Alistair “Mr. Fixit” Taylor made all the arrangements, and then it was “up, up and away.”

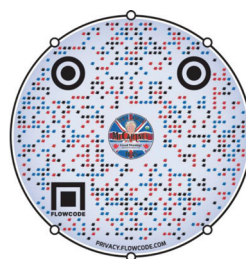
There are, of course, other people who loomed large in the history of The Beatles. However, I am only writing about people whom I actually met. For example, I was never fortunate enough to have met Stuart Sutcliffe. I had a lovely friendship with Stuart’s sister, Pauline, and her partner, Diane Vitale. Sadly, Pauline is no longer with us but Diane is continuing to take care of the Stuart Sutcliffe Foundation and working dilligently to keep his memory and his legacy alive. We are keeping in touch on the subject. And it may be a surprise for you to know that despite all these years having flown by, I have never personally communicated with Yoko.

When I look back on my life (and The Faces I Remember), I am grateful for experiences and friendships made, and the music shared, which I know will go on into the sunset.

I contacted the “usual suspects” with a few Q & A’s to add to the book, and those who responded are included at the end of their respective chapters. A little inside information, straight from the horses’ mouths!

I hope you enjoy my latest effort, and I will also be pleased to hear from you on my Dr. Angie McCartney Facebook page. And you can always find me at www.mrsmccartneysteam.com.

Ruth and I also present a half-hour show called TEAFLIX Tuesdays on <https://facebook.com/drangiemccartney> from 11:30 a.m. Pacific time for a nice chit-chat. We often have interesting guests from Beatle World and other places join us. So c’mon down! Previous editions are on YouTube and you can access them via:



<https://bit.ly/teaflixyoutube>

And although I didn’t meet my wonderful son-in-law Martin Nethercutt as a result of being part of this global family, I am glad he came into our lives. Martin, who is Ruth’s husband and partner in so many ways, is responsible for much of the promotional work that surrounds me. He has been so gracious as he guides me through the process. I am constantly amazed at his ability to make me appear hip (do they still say hip?), and my gratitude knows no bounds. I hope we can look forward to many more projects.

Finally, a very special thanks to my collaborators. This starts with genius illustrator Shannon MacDonald for the wonderful cover art “A Hard Day’s Night,” and the legendary Ray Connolly for gracing me with such a generous foreword. And as ever, daughter Ruth, “The Digital Diva” for making this all magically appear in the cloud and in print. And let’s never forget Marshall Terrill, who did a “Hawkeye” on the project followed by Lisa Derketsch, who did an additional run-through. My nephew, Peter Archer helped tremendously with research and fact-finding.

Now get the kettle on and settle in for a carousel of characters across the Beatles’ universe and beyond.

Dr. Angie

Authors

David Bedford

When David Bedford was sidelined by a health problem in the early 2000s, he decided to spend time researching and writing about Liverpool's most famed sons. He discovered, through the process, that no biographer from Liverpool had ever actually written about the Beatles, so it was no wonder that his first book, *Liddypool: Birthplace of the Beatles* (Dalton Watson Fine Books, 2009), instantly put him on the map as a *Beatles* authority.

Since then, David has gone on to write several books, all equally detailed and well-received. They are frequently my “go-to” source when I want to look up information on the Beatles’ schools, early lives, places they lived, and lots of other stuff not pertaining to their musical careers. David has also published several really charming children’s books. You will find them all on amazon. David also runs David Bedford’s Book Club Liverpool.

David’s work as an author has led to other endeavours. He worked as an associate producer and Beatles historian on the 2018 documentary *Looking for Lennon*. As if that weren’t enough, David runs the official *Stuart Sutcliffe Fan Club* on behalf of his estate.



Like so many other connections, I first met him at a festival, and we have become good friends over the years. He is a great supporter of all things Beatles-related, and often appears at the many festivities that are held all over Liverpool and the United States. He has been kind enough to publicize a couple of my books.

He and his wife, Alix, have three daughters and live in the Woolton area of Liverpool, close to where it all began.

www.davidabedford.com

And here are some words from David:

When did you first become aware of the Beatles?

When I was a child. I grew up in the Dingle near the bottom of Madryn Street where Ringo was born. I attended the same primary/elementary school (from 1969–1976) as he had done. I lived in the Dingle until I was 24. When I learned to play the guitar (late 1970s) the first guitar book I bought was *The Beatles Complete* (which I still own), so the music became important to me, too. When I left the Dingle, we moved to the Penny Lane area where we have lived since 1989. Our three daughters were born in the same hospital as John Lennon and they also attended *Dovedale Primary School* which John Lennon and George Harrison had attended. I am still the Chair of the Board of Governors there. I have lived with the Beatles around me my whole life.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

No, I love them all equally.

Have you ever seen the Beatles live?

No, I wasn't born until 1965.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

I have met Pete Best and, after several visits, he agreed to write the foreword to my first book, *Liddypool: Birthplace of The Beatles*. I have always admired Stuart Sutcliffe and, though he died in 1962, I now help to run the official Stuart Sutcliffe Fan Club on behalf of the Estate. I met, and was friends with, Stuart's sister Pauline, who sadly died in 2019. Diane Vitale has since taken over and continues to keep the legacy of Stuart alive.

What influence have the Beatles had on you?

When I had to retire from work at the age of 35 back in 2000, I was at a loss. My general practitioner advised me to find something to do with my brain and encouraged me to pursue my interests. This coincided with Yoko Ono visiting Dovedale School and making a generous donation to the school. Through a former Dovedale pupil I knew, I was put in touch with the *London Beatles Fan Club* and I wrote the story about Yoko's donation. That began a life-changing moment for me when I started to write about *The Beatles*. Although it took nine years, my first book *Liddypool* was published, and I thought that would be that. It wasn't. I have now just published my eighth book on *The Beatles*, was the associate producer on the documentary feature film, *Looking for Lennon*, and am working as historian/consultant on many other projects, including further books.

You could say that my doctor prescribed *The Beatles* and it turned out to be the best therapy ever!

Do you have a favourite Beatles song?

Always difficult between "In My Life" and "A Day in the Life" – always between those two. Could I say *In My Day in My Life*? They are both works of genius, among many other works of genius.

Dr. Bob Hieronymus and Laura E. Cortner

No doubt many of you will be familiar with Dr. Bob's many ventures, not least of which is his famous Woodstock bus.

But his work and research on *The Yellow Submarine* projects have been a massive undertaking, and he's not finished yet. According to a recent visit, he and his business and creative partner, Laura E. Cortner, made to our TEAFLIX Tuesday in October 2021. He is now mulling over the possibility of creating a series of classes to which people could subscribe and get a Zoom consultation on some of the behind-the-scenes stories, re-writes and time-crunching madness that went into the making (and re-making) of this classic piece of entertainment.

It seems unfathomable now to look back on the chilly reviews the film received on its initial release, and later when it first appeared on *BBC Television* in 1999. It was obviously way before its time.

Dr. Bob was one of the original contributors to the project, which subsequently underwent numerous changes of direction, rewrites galore, and wrangling from all sides. The effort was well worth waiting for. It is now, without a doubt, a classic in its genre.



The first of the two books on the subject: *Inside The Yellow Submarine* was published in 2002, at which time, Dr. Bob thought it was all done and dusted. That is until he began to be contacted by several people asking why they had not been mentioned. It seems that the turnover of artists and technicians who had worked on the project had been far greater than Dr. Bob had discovered from his none-too-shabby research. He decided to write a companion book, again with the aid of his business partner, Laura Cortner.

That one was titled *It's All In The Mind (Inside The Beatles' Yellow Submarine Vol. 2)*, published in 2021. And he says he is not only grateful to *The Beatles* for their music and their pioneering spirit, but also for encouraging lots of young kids to follow their dreams, learn an instrument, get out there and do it. But, even stronger was his admiration for Paul and Linda (wait a minute, shouldn't that be Linda and Paul?) for their animal activism, and their vegetarianism, which has made so many people aware of what they can do for their health and, equally important, for the planet.

Paul, together with daughters Mary and Stella, went on to introduce and popularize Meat Free Mondays, which has now gained credibility and acceptance around the world.

Dr. Bob's two books delve into matters far removed from the usual fluff books which regularly flood the shelves, and he gives credence to many young up-and-coming artists, and shows us the nuts and bolts of the animation world.

These books have proved very popular worldwide and have been translated into Japanese, German, French, Russian and Spanish.

And that ain't all! These two wizards co-authored the following books:

<i>Founding Fathers, Secret Societies</i>	(2006)
<i>United Symbolism of America</i>	(2008)
<i>Secret Life of Lady Liberty: Goddess of the New World</i>	(2016)

The latter is an historical and symbolic analysis of the Statue of Liberty from feminist and Native American perspectives.

So it's not only Rock 'n Roll!

As with many of our subjects, you can find him on Facebook and follow his many interesting pursuits.

Additionally, Dr. Bob very kindly sent me his answers to the usual questions, which are below for your edification.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I first became aware of The Beatles when I was in college. I was a performing folk singer in coffee houses at the time and was not terribly impressed by their music at first. I thought it was fun, but it was pop music, and I was into folk at the time. I did like their cheeky attitude and their haircuts, though. I remember talking about them. When they released the *Sgt. Pepper* album, my opinion changed considerably, and I realized they were doing things never before done. Then my admiration went through the roof.

Who is your favourite Beatle?

I admire George Harrison the most because of his success at spiritual enlightenment and his willingness to teach others about how to attain a higher state of consciousness.

Have you seen them live?

I have never seen them perform live as a group. I've seen Ringo and Paul a few times in recent years.

No, I haven't met any of them, just the fifth Beatle, Sir George Martin. Sir George and Lady Judy gave me and my family a tour of AIR Studios in the late 1990s and we bonded with them over our concern about the environment. We donated to their fundraiser to assist the island of Montserrat, and he granted us several exclusive interviews for our *Yellow Submarine* book and radio show.

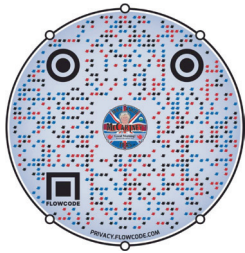
What influence have the Beatles had on your life/career?

Their music has been the soundtrack of my life. And the animated film based on them called *The Yellow Submarine* has consumed a great deal of my life as I researched who made it and the involvement of The Beatles. Go to www.yellowsubmarinebook.com to learn more.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

It depends on what day you ask me what I will tell you. Today, I'm thinking of "No Reply," which I always identified with as an experience I've had myself so many times. My other perennial favorite is "With a Little Help from my Friends." I love that message. I even painted a huge mural in downtown Baltimore after the song. We're all in this together. So much of The Beatles' message is about this: come together, we are all one people on one planet, all together now, our friends are all aboard, etc.

Watch Dr. Bob & Laura on Teaflix via Facebook here:



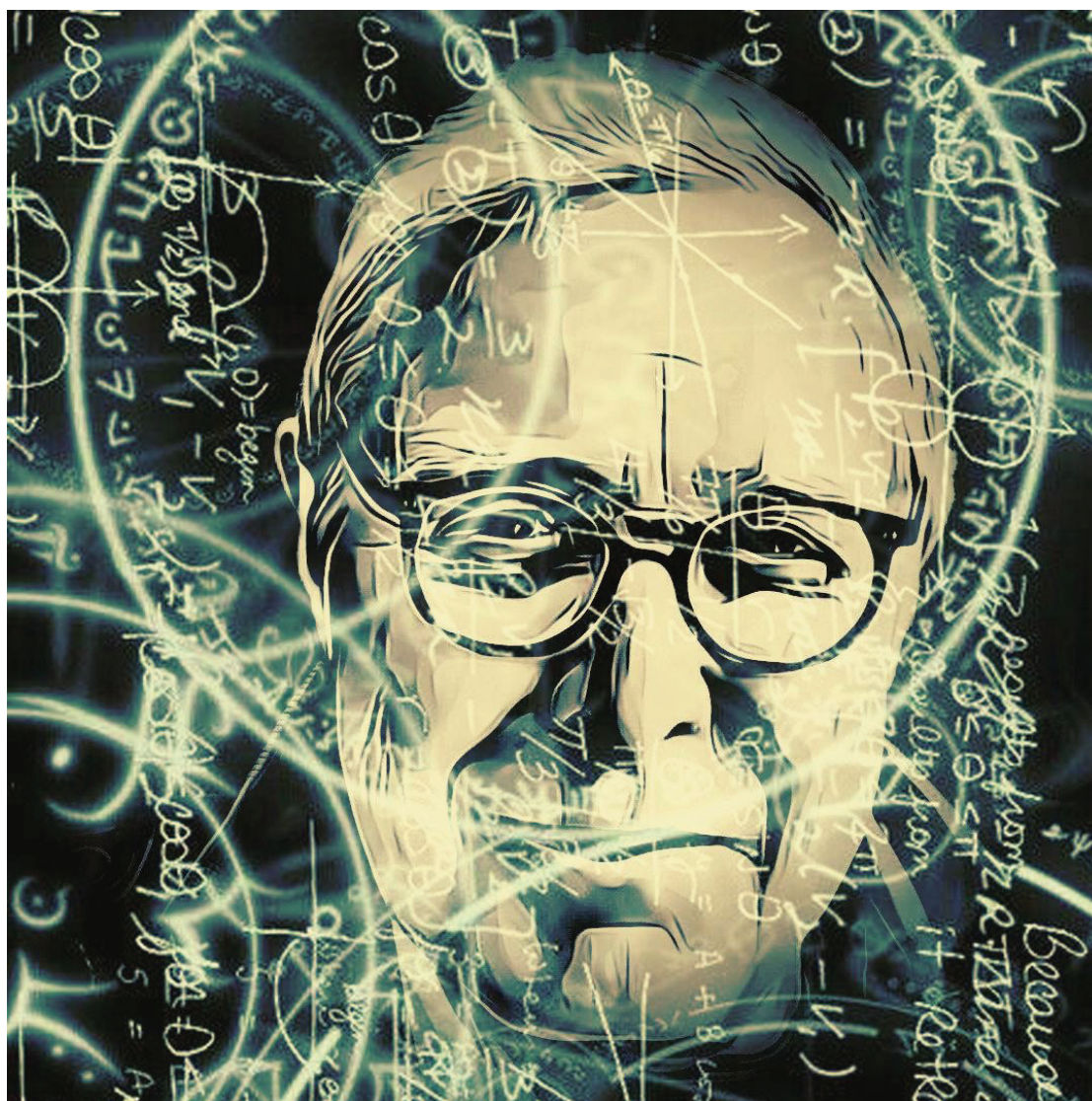
Gavin Scott

My dear friend and fellow Brit, Gavin Scott, is not only an author but a multi-talented artist who has produced over 200 shows for the *BBC*. He has written and directed movies and creates the most wonderful, and innovative, shadow box presentations of varying subjects including, of course, *The Beatles*. He possesses one of the most inventive minds you will ever encounter.

Additionally, he has written screenplays, acted on stage and television. He has even appeared a couple of times on my *TEAFLIX Tuesdays* - surely the apex of his considerable career.

He has spent time in Borneo, teaching English to the children of headhunters. He was elected to the Liberal party in the UK, met and married his lovely wife, Nicola, a New Zealander, fathered three beautiful daughters. He is now a grandfather, which he reckons is the best item in his biography.

I first met him through *BritWeek*, the annual festival of arts, industry and creativity, originated by Sir Nigel Lythgoe, which has had to take a back seat since *COVID-19*, but it won't lie down, and we can expect it to rear its creative head in the not-too-distant future.



Gavin wrote a fascinating Trilogy called *The Duncan Forrester Mysteries* available on amazon.com, a series of novels about a fictional character with real people woven into the narrative. They are all fused with an element of mystery, crime, romance, and all the other ingredients that make a novel one that you truly cannot put down. The books I have mentioned are only the tip of the iceberg.

His latest is called *The Adventures of Toby Wey*. It deals with an earlier period in history, the 1800s, with a dark diary of the children who were forced to work in atrocious conditions, and the skulduggery that went on between the upper and lower classes. I learned a lot from his books. Truly, my education continues at The University of Google.

One guaranteed thing about Gavin is that you never know which of his hats he will be wearing when you get into conversation but, whichever one, you will not be disappointed.

We occasionally have dinner with Gavin and Nicola at their delightful pad in Santa Monica. It always turns into a fabulous evening of good company, good food, time spent delving through the many fascinating pieces of art Gavin has created in his studio, ranging from shadow boxes, to various productions he has been responsible for, chotchies out of the kazoo of the many things he has collected on his trips around the globe, from dolls, to pieces of pottery, feather fans, toys - it's like a wonderland. Any kid would be delighted to find themselves in this captivating wonderland.

And then, of course, there is his interest in music. He also has opinions about the Beatles, which he was happy to share with me. You will find them at the end of this chapter.

He went on to act as musical advisor on the Dave Grohl movie *Studio 666*. An American comedy/horror film based on a story by Dave Grohl, featuring The Foo Fighters. This finally came to fruition at the end of 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to COVID19. It was directed by BJH McDonnell, written by Jeff Buhler and Rebecca Hughes.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

In 1963, in Havelock North, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand when I was 13 years of age. Oddly enough, the first song of theirs that I really liked was not even a Lennon & McCartney composition, but a cover tune, "A Taste of Honey." It was a wonderfully evocative and slightly melancholy tune.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Paul.

Did you ever see them live in concert?

I saw Paul at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles in 2019 with my grown-up children and two grandchildren, who loved it all. Ringo joined him on stage and I was able to tell them: "You'll be able to tell your grandchildren that you saw half of *The Beatles*."

Have you met any of The Beatles?

I interviewed Paul for BBC Radio's PM programme when *Venus and Mars* was released in 1975. This was during his Wings period.

What influence have The Beatles had on your life/career?

I have been a fan since I saw *A Hard Day's Night* in 1964. In the 1960s, every new Beatles single created a milestone, and every new album provided a soundtrack to my teenage years. I remember arguing with my friends at school, in a car, on the way to a play rehearsal about the meaning of "Norwegian Wood." I remember my nostalgic joy at hearing "Yellow Submarine" and the yearning of listening to "Here, There and Everywhere."

I can still recall my amazement at seeing the first pictures of the group with mustaches! I played "Penny Lane" over and over again in 1967. Later that year, a pal of mine, Foss Campbell, rushed into the study I shared with three other boys with his (then, revolutionary) Phillips Cassette tape recorder, and replayed his recording of the first twenty seconds of every track of *Sergeant Pepper* which he'd got from a kid who had the actual album.

When I was about to leave New Zealand, in 1968, to spend a year as a volunteer teacher in Sarawak, I sat on a roof in Wellington, beside a beautiful girl who was a fellow volunteer. We were looking at the lights in the harbour and listening to "All You Need Is Love" and felt perfectly in tune with life, the universe, and everything else. In Sarawak, I heard "Hello Goodbye" echoing off the forest whilst traveling along jungle rivers with my pupils, the children of headhunters.

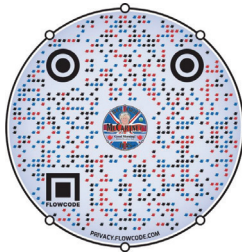
In 1970, back in New Zealand at university, the master of my hall of residence asked me to turn down the volume on the second side of *Abbey Road*, which I was evidently playing far too loudly. I was doing this to celebrate the fact that I had just met the girl who was to become - and fifty years later still is - Nicola, my wife.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

“All You Need is Love.” If you want to know why - re-read this piece.

<https://www.bookseriesinorder.com/gavin-scott/>

Watch Gavin’s Teaflix interview by scanning this code with your phone:



Judith Kristen

Judith and I have been friends for many years. No prizes for guessing why.

We initially met in cyberspace, then at *The Fest for Beatles Fans*. We also met in person when she visited us at the Casa in Los Angeles, along with her friend and fellow Beatles fan, author Shelly Fredman.

Judith is an author and the biggest *Beatles* fan (short for “fanatic”) you could ever wish to meet. Her main crush was George.

She saved up her pennies when she knew they were coming to New York. Like many others, she skived off school and got herself to JFK to watch them deplane and walk down the steps to the tarmac.



She finally managed to achieve her ambition of meeting George Harrison, albeit in an elevator at his hotel. You can read all about it in *My Date With A Beatle*. This tells of her adventures with friend, Shelly Fredman in their teens, when they schemed and connived to get out there and meet their heroes.

re-published by Imagine & Wonder.

She is an animal activist, a wonderful hostess, and her trips to Liverpool are legendary. A lovely, warm and fun gal to get to know.

www.judithkristen.com

Judith was happy to answer my questions:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

Late in 1963 on a news broadcast. My life started to change right then and there. It didn't matter that it was a brief segment, my soul felt it was life-altering... and it was..even until now.

Who is your favourite Beatle?

George.

Have you seen The Beatles live?

Nine glorious times from 1964-1966. My mother went to the JFK concert with me in 1964 ... and she loved them! Who knew?! I think all nine concerts probably cost me about \$60 (yes, that's 6-0) even though twice I exchanged my original - waited in line - for tickets for an upgrade at a place called *Glassman's Ticket Agency* in Philadelphia, which, of course, cost a bit extra. But it was always worth it.

Have you met a Beatle?

It's detailed in my book, *A Date with a Beatle* ... taken right from my diaries and memories from when I first heard about them on television in late 1963 until I finally concocted enough wild scenarios to finally meet George in Atlantic City in the Summer of 1964. Not exactly the way I had planned, but it was a beautiful happening just the same for my Beatles-besotted 16-year-old self.

How have The Beatles influenced your life?

The influence they had on my impressionable young self was clear to me - as much now as it was way back then. They were first friends with a love for rock and roll music, they were raised by loving families, (John had a rougher start, but he always knew Mimi loved him dearly). Paul, and brother Mike, were raised by their dad, Jim, from a young age after the death of their beloved mother, Mary - from cancer. And, Ringo was raised early on by his devoted single mother, until Harry Graves came along and loved him like his own son. Ringo was also quite sickly as a child and was hospitalized for long stays at a time. Lots of hardships for all of the lads, but they never lost their sense of humor. They truly loved one another, and they never, ever gave up on their dream. I learned, and still believe, that it's not what happens to you, it's how you handle it. You know, the old, "Fall down seven times - stand up eight. ...And in the end.... well, you know the rest.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

May I mention two of them? One is a slow song and the other a fast one. I love "This Boy." The lyrics are lovely, the harmonies are heavenly perfection, and John's voice, when I first heard it in this song, brought me to tears. Soft tears, but I was fifteen and obviously touched.

The other totally epitomized the energy of that first *Beatle* summer for me back in 1964.

You would think since the two songs that brought *The Beatles* to America - "She Loves You" and "I Want to Hold Your Hand," that one of those tunes would surely be what energized my 15-year-old soul as I watched them walk off that plane at *Kennedy Airport*, but neither one was. Although, I must say I loved them both, and I even bought myself a Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! button.

THEN, the day after my 16th Birthday - April 4th, started the very first week when The Beatles topped the charts with five songs: "Can't buy me Love," "Twist and Shout," "She Loves You," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," and "Please, Please Me."

Again, while I loved all of those songs and could still sing them in my sleep, it wasn't until the early Summer of 1964, when their first film, *Hard Day's Night* came out with a song to match the film title that rocked my soul and spoke John, Paul, George, and Ringo deep into my DNA and there it stayed - as DNA should.

The first chord chimes out in a magical fashion, then three guitars, a set of drums, and those glorious Liverpoolian voices set my soul freely on fire! And I was overjoyed to have it happen. It epitomized the summer of '64 for me and my friends, and when we got to hear them sing, "A Hard Day's Night" in person??! Are you kidding me?!!! There could never be a better year to turn 16 as far as we were all concerned. It was enchanting, magical, mystical, ...and just a smidge short of otherworldly. ... maybe even less than a smidge.

... And in the end ... (sorry, but I felt compelled to put it that way) when you hear George's guitar twinkling, jingling, and jangling while it magically fades softly into music history he took me and a billion other Beatles fans right along with him.

The Beatles were far more than just 'A splendid time is guaranteed for all.' They were our Happily Ever After. And what could possibly be better than that?!

Go Judith! Is tenacity your middle name?

Kevin Roach

Kevin Roach is another one of Liverpool's prolific authors. He joined us at the launch of my first book, *My Long and Winding Road*, at *The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall* 2013. We had fun, along with Freda Kelly, Billy Hatton and Pete Price.

I first learned of Kevin when he published *Julia* about Julia Baird, John Lennon's half-sister, who is a very active writer herself; he is also an advisor on many projects, and involved in the running of The Cavern Club and its peripheral activities.

As an author, Kevin is a fountain of knowledge, and diligently researches his subjects before going to print.

He published another very interesting book called *The McCartneys - In The Town Where They Were Born*. It goes back to the family's roots from Paul and Michael's childhood, to the church where their parents were married, and gives a different perspective on Liverpool, where they grew up.

Kevin is very active in all matters relating to *The Beatles* and he, and his lovely wife, Julie, keep up-to-date with all that is going on in the City.



<https://www.beatlesliverpoolandmore.com/about-blm.html>

Here are Kevin's responses to my questions:

Who is your favourite Beatle?

My favourite *Beatle* used to vary between John and George. John had a great singing voice and he was always outspoken with his strong views. George, known as “the quiet Beatle” would say to reporters: “ask me the question and I will give you an honest answer.”

As I was born in 1963, I am a second generation *Beatles* fan. I never saw all four of them perform together, but I have seen Paul and Ringo several times.

Have you ever met any of The Beatles?

I have met Paul several times through my work at the Liverpool Archives Department of the Central Library, where Paul often spends time.

Working in the archives, I had access to the school records, parish records, newspaper cuttings from the times of *The Beatles* and other Merseyside groups, which influenced me to become an author. My first book was published in 2009 relating to the McCartney family history, and this was supported by Mike and Paul McCartney.

What is your favorite Beatles song?

My favourite Beatles song is an endless list. However, I do prefer Beatles pop songs up to 1966. After that time, their lyrics became too “far out” for me, but one song which I still regularly play is “I’m Happy Just to Dance With You” from *A Hard Day’s Night*, featuring George on vocals.

Marshall Terrill

Author and journalist, Marshall Terrill, is one of the nicest guys you could wish to meet. Our paths first crossed many moons ago when he expressed some interest in my first book, *My Long and Winding Road*.

He also edited my second book, *Here, There and Everywhere*. And would you believe it - he is brave enough to volunteer to give this book the once over too. I wonder how many marks out of ten I will get this time?

He is one of the most prolific writers you will ever know. We met up again when he co-authored a book with Mel Haber of *The Ingleside Inn* in Palm Springs called *Palm Springs a la Carte*. *McCartney Multimedia* had a long relationship with Mel, and took care of his website and social media during his lifetime, both for *The Inn*, and his famed *Melvyn's Restaurant*.

Marshall has now authored/co-authored 31 books (and counting). And what a mind-boggling amount of research he must have done to get through those.

One of his favourite subjects is Steve McQueen, on whom he is an expert. He has partnered with Steve's widow Barbara McQueen on various projects, including books, art exhibits and lectures.



One of his more recent books is about evangelist Billy Graham, another legend in our lifetimes.

Marshall executive produced the 2022 feature documentary, *Johnny Cash: The Redemption of an American Icon*, untold story of how ‘The Man in Black’ saw the light. It tells of how Johnny Cash focused on a critical period in his life and career when he went from singing hymns in the cotton fields to playing sold-out stadiums...Look out Mr. Spielberg ...

Some of Marshall’s other books are about Christian subjects. *Jesus Music* is a history of Contemporary Christian Music and *Lennon, Dylan, Alice and Jesus* is a spiritual history of rock and roll. Quite a combination.

Marshall also worked with Laurence Juber, and invited us to join them at *The Grammy Museum* in Los Angeles in celebration of the publication of their coffee table book, *Guitar With Wings*.

Marshall has written other celebrity books, as well as sports-related ones, and you can find all of his work on amazon.com.

Marshall, and his wife, Zoe, often visit us in Los Angeles at our home, and they also like to make weekend getaways to Palm Springs. They currently live in Arizona, but I like to think of them as Citizens of the Globe.

A little bird tells me that he has a book about Elvis and Colonel Parker in the pipeline, and another celebrity one (or two) under discussion.

There is a ton of information on amazon.com about his books and films.

I am very proud to have received this great piece from Marshall Terrill, which I know you will enjoy.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

In May 1973 when I was ten years old, so that makes me a second-generation fan. My older brother Michael purchased *The Beatles 1962-1966* when it was first released. I’d hear those songs on his turntable and I kept thinking, “I know these songs from somewhere.” When Michael disclosed to me it was one band, it blew my mind. I saved up my allowance (usually reserved for G.I. Joes and Wacky Packages) to buy *The Beatles 1967-1970*; and, from there on, it was a full-on obsession for the next half-century.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Yes – but it requires a little explaining. Paul McCartney was initially my favourite Beatle because he was everywhere on the radio and the most visible when I was growing up. His songs were also the most accessible of the former Beatles. In fact, the very first single I ever bought was “Another Day.” (My second was “Imagine” by John Lennon and “Maggie May” by Rod Stewart – pretty good taste for an eight-year-old kid, eh?). I became a John Lennon man in high school. Why? Because his songs were like a diary, and by listening and examining his lyrics, you knew exactly what was going on in his life. That’s what an artist does – they write about life from their perspective. He was a pure artist from head to toe.

Have you ever seen them live?

No, I was too young to see the Beatles perform live, and when the “Wings Over America” tour came to Washington, D.C. in 1976, I had the opportunity to see them. But I was thirteen and my mom and dad felt a concert experience in the “stoner age” where I could be plied with marijuana, alcohol and denim-clad beauties with long feathered hair. They felt it was not a place I should be. They were ultimately right – but damnit, that one still hurts! (I did eventually see Paul McCartney live several times since the 1989 tour, including three performances at Madison Square Garden).

Have you met any of them?

No, but have had the opportunity to meet Paul McCartney if I really pushed it. I didn’t push it because I have met many celebrities over the years, and it’s hit or miss with my idols. But, if I had the opportunity to meet one, I would have wanted to meet John Lennon the most.

What influence have they had on you?

Strangely enough, the influence has been non-musical. As I have studied their life and career, it made me curious about geography and the places they lived, worked and played. I have an endless fascination with England and her people. I’ve been twice and have visited many cities there, including Liverpool, the Wirral,

Bradford, London, and Brighton. Reading about their travels to Greece and Japan made me want to visit, which I did in 2007 and 2010. There were also places they travelled to that gave me great pause, but I won't mention those.

On a literary note, the influence has been John Lennon's lyrics. They are laced with hope, cynicism, and irony – which is so very human because we experience the range of those things. I especially love the lyrics to “Nobody Told Me.” (“Everybody's smoking, and no one's getting high; everybody's flying and never touch the sky”)

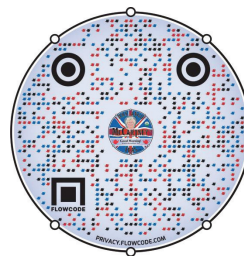
What is your favourite Beatles song?

You are forever banned for asking that question, Angie! You just can't have one. But I'll be brief and list my favourites – “Rain,” “Good Morning, Good Morning,” “Dear Prudence,” “Sexy Sadie,” “Baby You're a Rich Man,” “It's All Too Much” and “In My Life” – which shall be played at my funeral as well as “Mull of Kintyre.” If people don't cry at my funeral, those bagpipes are guaranteed to elicit a few tears!

... and from Angie ...

Marshall, you never cease to amaze me. I am so grateful, not only for our friendship, but for your kind interest and guidance in my attempts at writing. If you ever need a fan club, let me know.

Watch Marshall and the ladies on Teaflix Tuesday by scanning this code.



www.marshallterrillauthor.com

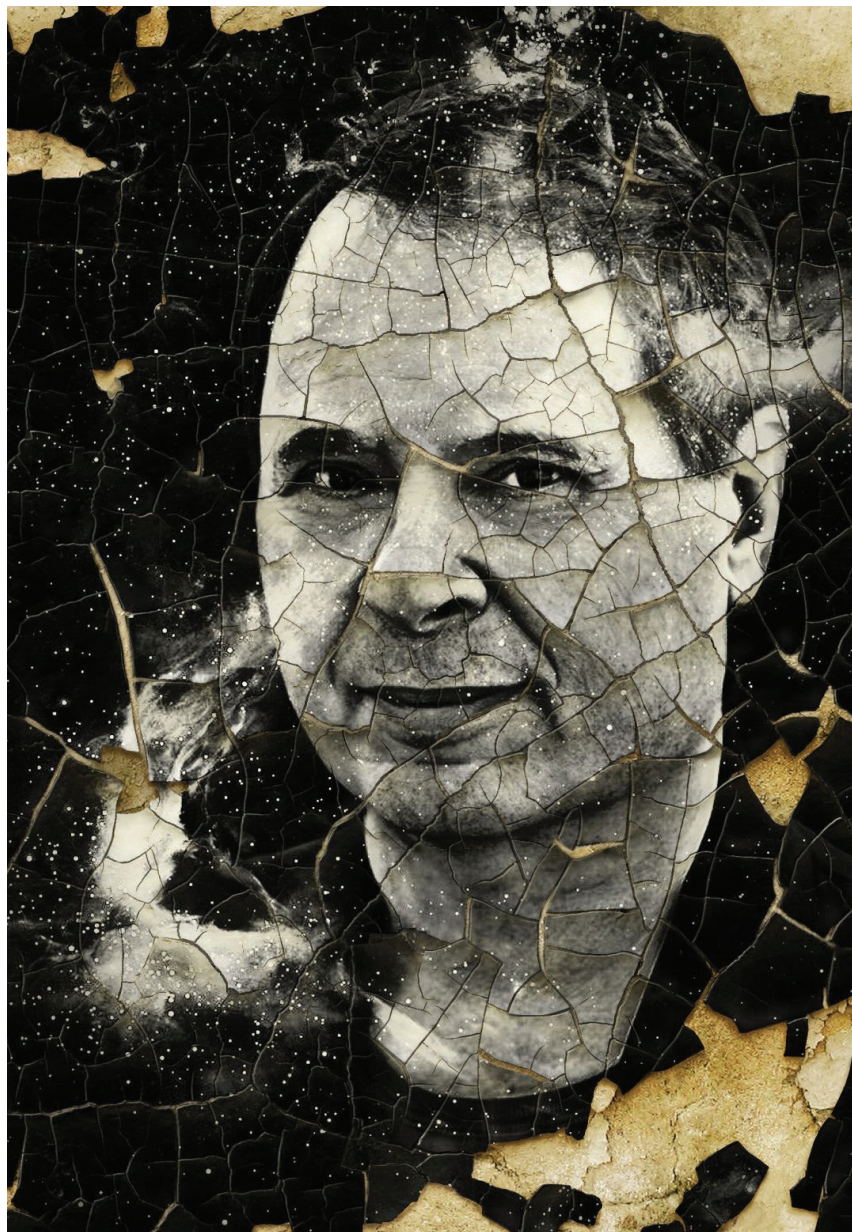
Paul Ferrante

Paul is the author of a great novel called *30 Minutes in Memphis: A Beatles Story*. His book has an interesting slant on what might have been a heart-stopping situation. It's a really enjoyable read and I urge you to download it. You can find it on Amazon.com.

After reading it, Paul and I subsequently met via one of Mark Lapidos' *Fests for Beatles Fans*, when we shared a Zoom together, and furthered our friendship.

Paul was then gracious enough to be my guest on *TEAFLIX Tuesdays*, when it was a pleasure to spend time with him. He kindly gifted me a tee shirt bearing the name of his book, which I proudly wear frequently.

He continues to participate in the Fests, where he engages with his many fans and followers.



<http://www.paulferranteauthor.com>

I was delighted when he agreed to answer my questions for inclusion in my current book.

Thank you, Paul, and for your support and your friendship.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

Just before they first came to America. The older kids at school were always talking about them.

Who is/was your favourite Beatle?

Paul.

Have you seen the Beatles live?

I'm sorry to say, I have not.

Have you met any of the Beatles?

Once again, sorry I have not. However, I think I've seen around a hundred cover bands. But I made sure I got my 30-year-old daughter tix to Sir Paul's 2022 tour in New Jersey.

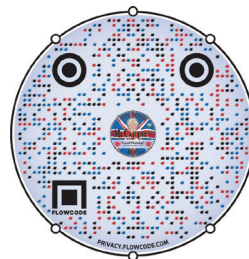
What has The Beatles influence been on your life and your pursuits?

I grew up with the music, and still listen often. They appear in many of the novels I have written, and I even wrote a historical fiction novel called *30 Minutes in Memphis: A Beatles Story*. It takes place during their 1966 tour.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

"In My Life"; I danced to it with my mother at my wedding, and my daughter chose it for our dance at HER wedding. Second place: "You Can't Do That."

Watch Paul's Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:



Seth Swirsky

You can truly say that Seth Swirsky is a man of many parts - and ALL of them are working. He is a prolific author, Grammy-nominated songwriter, filmmaker, recording artist, musician, baseball expert, Beatles expert, and even managed to wrangle a lovely interview with the late Sir George Martin at his home in England. Oh, and in his spare time, he is a political writer. When does this guy sleep?

I first met him at a festival many moons ago. When I first began my *TEAFLIX Tuesdays* shows, he was one of my first guests in March 2018. Wow, I just realized I have been doing *TEAFLIX* for over five years. It's amazing how the number of viewers has grown since then, and the number of countries it reaches never ceases to amaze me.



You can find Seth's work on [Amazon.com/books](https://www.amazon.com/books). You can learn more about him via his Facebook page. He really is an amazing guy.

He has boundless energy and is a truly positive and "up" sort of a guy. I'm not sure which is the greater of his passions - baseball or the Beatles. He is certainly an expert on both subjects.

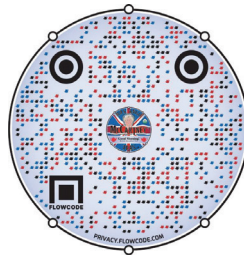
Seth continues to be actively involved in Beatles-related pursuits, and I follow him on social media to keep up with his untiring work in keeping the legend of our heroes alive.

His experience in and around the entertainment business is extensive, covering many interesting aspects and controversies.

Seth visited us and when he was on *TEAFLIX Tuesdays* he brought us up to date with his many pastimes and pursuits. He is one busy and very talented man.

Find out more about Seth at: <https://realseth.com>

Watch Seth's Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:



Celebrity Beatle Fans

Al Sussman

Al Sussman has quite a history. In his book *Changin' Times, 101 Days That Changed The World*, he begins by telling us of his first brush with *The Beatles* when they made their monumental impact on America.

At first, he was not that impressed, but was persuaded by his young friend Chuck into thinking that as even his Mom mentioned the madness surrounding their arrival at JFK there must be something to these guys from Liverpool.

Like countless others, at the tender age of eleven, and despite the fact that there were still only three TV channels (there was no cable in those days) *The Beatles* had still managed to garner so much coverage, that Al joined the 73.9 million viewers who tuned in to and witnessed the world changing.

And although it never made the headlines as much as when they made their appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* a week later, it heralded the start of what came to be known as *The British Invasion* and nothing was ever the same again.



Living in England at that time, we didn't receive much overseas news and one of the few items that made it was the kidnapping of Frank Sinatra Jr. Al writes of this period in his book, which throws more light on the mood of America.

Meanwhile the radio stations in the States were giving massive coverage to their new found heroes, whose fame was rapidly increasing.

The press were gradually increasing their coverage and many of the up and coming writers of that time are still in the forefront today. Veterans like Tom Frangione, Mark Lapidos, Wally Podrazik, Bruce Spizer, and Jude Southerland Kessler, all of whom are keeping us well informed to this day. They should be congratulated on their staying power.

Meanwhile, back across the pond, the stalwarts were Billy Harry, Tony Barrow, Ray Connolly, and a gradually increasing bevy of journalists and fact finders who were feeding the beast daily.

Then more recently Wikipedia got into the act, plus the gradual influx of cable stations, followed by Social Media, and serenity and privacy were no more.

Al Sussman's book *Changin' Times*, chronicles these historical events in a memorable fashion and serves as a great reminder of what took place in the years following the death of President Kennedy. I have it on my Kindle from amazon.com.

His contributions to numerous Beatles related publications is invaluable

He says that in October 2023 it will have been 55 years since he began writing about *The Beatles*, pop music and pop culture. He spent about 30 years in the retail/wholesale music business and his first retail job was at a Sam Goody store in Paramus, NJ. And it's interesting to note that his immediate supervisor was a young chap named Mark Lapidos. So it's not surprising that he was one of the first people to learn from Mark that he had an idea for a new show called Beatlefest. Al has been part of the Fest (now known as *The Fest For Beatles Fans*) as an official and unofficial part of that organization since it began in 1974, so you could really call him a *Beatles Veteran*.

Over the years, in addition to chronicling the progress of *The Beatles*, Al has participated in many Fests and is always happy to mix and mingle and answer questions from the Fans. He never ceases to amaze me with his unending good nature and happy disposition.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

Tuesday night, Jan. 7, 1964, the first time I ever heard a No. 1 record by an act I had never heard of before. And my immediate reaction was negative. It took better than a month but *The Beatles* won me over with their *Ed Sullivan* Show appearances, specifically the second one from Miami Beach.

Who is/was your favourite Beatle?

The one I heard most recently. Yesterday, that was Paul ("Take It Away") but that'll change with the next Sunday morning Beatles radio shows. Day by day, whoever catches my attention.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

I met Ringo at a signing he did in New York in 1999, I think. That's the only one.

How have The Beatles influenced your life/career?

I'm one of the teenage males who read everything we could about The Beatles, which led to my first writing gig, a teen column in a weekly town newspaper in 1968.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

I don't have one favourite, but they always include "Nowhere Man," "Here, There and Everywhere," "All You Need Is Love," "Here Comes The Sun," etc.

Alan Merrill

Alan was born in 1951 in The Bronx, New York, and carved out a good career as a vocalist, songwriter and guitarist. He co-wrote (with fellow band member Jake Hooker), and sang the lead on *I Love Rock 'n Roll*, which later became a huge hit for Joan Jett.

Earlier on in his career he spent considerable time in Japan, where he also did some modelling and recorded commercials, but found himself slipping into a “pop” slot which did not suit his ambitions.

After knocking around the world a bit, he finished up in London where he met Jake Hooker, and the two of them decided to form *The Arrows*.

He was the first person that we knew who succumbed to Covid 19 when he suffered complications arising out of the virus in March 2020, in a New York hospital. That was when we first realized that this Pandemic was for real.

We originally met him in Manchester in the early 60's, when Ruth and I would go to Granada Television in Manchester to watch TV musical shows being filmed, then in the capable hands of Johnny Hamp, Head of Light Entertainment. Alan was with *The Arrows*, a three man group, and Ruth fell for them all. I mean, really ? Of course she did. Their Producer was Muriel Young, who always made us most welcome.

After many years of travel around the globe, we reconnected via Social Media just a few years ago and kept up a fairly regular exchange of emails, keeping one another up to date about Alan's musical and daily life in New York. He kept pretty busy throughout and seemed as though he would live forever. Sadly, that was not to be.



Alex Hyde-White

Alex Hyde-White is a fellow Brit. He is a successful stage, film and TV actor. The body of acting work listed on his IMDB.com page is mind-boggling. He also runs a voiceover studio, and produces lots of books on tape, radio commercials, and other vocal pieces.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the number of authors has grown. For many, it is their first venture. Thus, they need a degree of hand-holding if they want to voice their own books. If not, Alex can either cast appropriate voiceover talent or even use the site which McCartney Multimedia recently built for him at <https://alexhyde-white.com>

The more mature Brits (i.e. old farts) may be familiar with his late father, Wilfred Hyde-White, a staple of British stage and films and, in later life, spent his days in Woodland Hills.



Alex grew up knowing many entertainment luminaries, including Peter Sellers, who was a good friend of the family. (How am I doing for name-dropping?).

Alex was born in England but spent his childhood in Palm Springs, California, which is where he first got bitten by the acting bug.

I recently saw him in a TV series called *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, when he played a doctor. I frequently see him popping up on Netflix, in such movies as *Pretty Woman* and episodes of such series as *NCIS*.

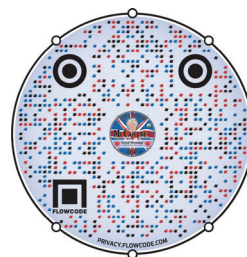
He has published a book recently called *In The Volume*. It's a very entertaining and comprehensive account of his acting career and his voiceover work. It deals with his life of travelling between England and America, creating a very fruitful and varied entertainment career. It is scheduled to become available as an audio-book in the near future.

At one time he was married to Karen Dotrice, who will be remembered as the little girl in *Mary Poppins*. Although they are no longer married, they have a very cordial relationship and share the same British sense of humour.

We recently chatted on *TEAFLIX Tuesdays*. I was saddened to learn that he is now living in Florida. However, the Santa Monica voiceover studio is alive and well, and keeping busy.

He has a couple more movies in the pipeline which I will tell you more about when the release dates are confirmed.

ICYMI (in case you missed it) scan the code to see Alex' appearance on Teaflix Tuesday



And here are Alex's answers to my questions:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

In the mid-1960s on Summer AM radio when I was living near Universal Studios in Burbank, California.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

George.

Have you ever seen The Beatles perform live?

No.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

No.

What influences have The Beatles had on your life/career?

Funnily enough, we ended up producing *Peter Asher's Beatles A to Z* book for MacMillan Audio a couple of years ago. That was fun!

Do you have a favourite Beatles song?

The whole *Sergeant Pepper* album really. I was about ten years old when it came out.

I probably listened to it until I was about twelve and I wore out the vinyl. And, in 1987, it was the first CD I bought.

Benny Mardones

Singer Benny Mardones left us in 2020 after a long bout with Parkinson's Disease, which sadly made it no longer possible for him to perform despite his loyal fan following. His dear wife, Jane, was with him to the end, caring for him and keeping his spirits alive, long after he was able to sing.

When we first moved into the Playa del Rey area, he was introduced to us by a local artist. Benny had been a devout follower of The Beatles, and in particular Paul. He lived close to us and would often come around in the afternoons for a chinwag with me, and to partake of some Mrs. McCartney's Tea, usually fortified with a drop of Bell's Scotch Whisky.

Benny's musical career started in the New York area, where he steadfastly retained his huge fan base and, in fact, continued to make special appearances in and around Syracuse on a regular basis throughout his career. He was heralded as the only singer to appear on the *Billboard* charts three times with the same song: "Into The Night." It is said to be one of the most performed wedding songs in the United States.



One afternoon he wandered into our offices where we were meeting with potential clients. They were devout evangelists from Arizona. They even clutched their Bibles as they talked to us. Benny, being Benny, was chit-chatting, and his language was, shall we say, rather colourful. Ruth tried to give him the stink eye to shut up, but her efforts went unnoticed. We began to think that we would not, after all, be signing a new client, when Benny mentioned “Into the Night.” The lady of the group was overwhelmed when she realised who he was, and said that this was the song that they played at her wedding. After that, things turned around, and it was all good. Phew! Did we breathe a sigh of relief? They duly signed up for a website and various other services, and were thrilled to pose for photographs with Benny and get his autograph.

How’s that for the power of music? It’s a pity we didn’t have a swear box at the office. It would have been my retirement fund by now.

Benny and Eddie Money worked extensively together, the pair making a hugely popular rock and roll pair of demons.

Benny’s beloved son, Michael, recently became a father, and lovingly displays photographs on social media of his daughter, his pride and joy. I can only imagine that he must wish his father could see his grandchild. But, you know what, maybe he can?

Jane and Benny moved from Playa to Menafee a couple of years ago. After that, most of our contact was limited to phone calls and emails. However, we kept in touch until we couldn’t.

We have many memories of happy times shared, lots of laughter, lots of music, and nothing can ever take that away. And I know that his dedicated fans continue to keep his memory alive.

www.bennymardones.com

Brian Auger

Once more, it was due to Mike McGear's connections that I met Brian Auger. He was a very successful keyboardist who had played with numerous top notchers. The two of them got together when Brian played keyboards on Mike's Album *Woman*. This was produced by Roger McGough, who also co-wrote some of the tracks.

In addition to working with Mike McGear, Brian has been associated with Rod Stewart, Jimi Hendrix, Alice Cooper, The Yardbirds, and countless others.

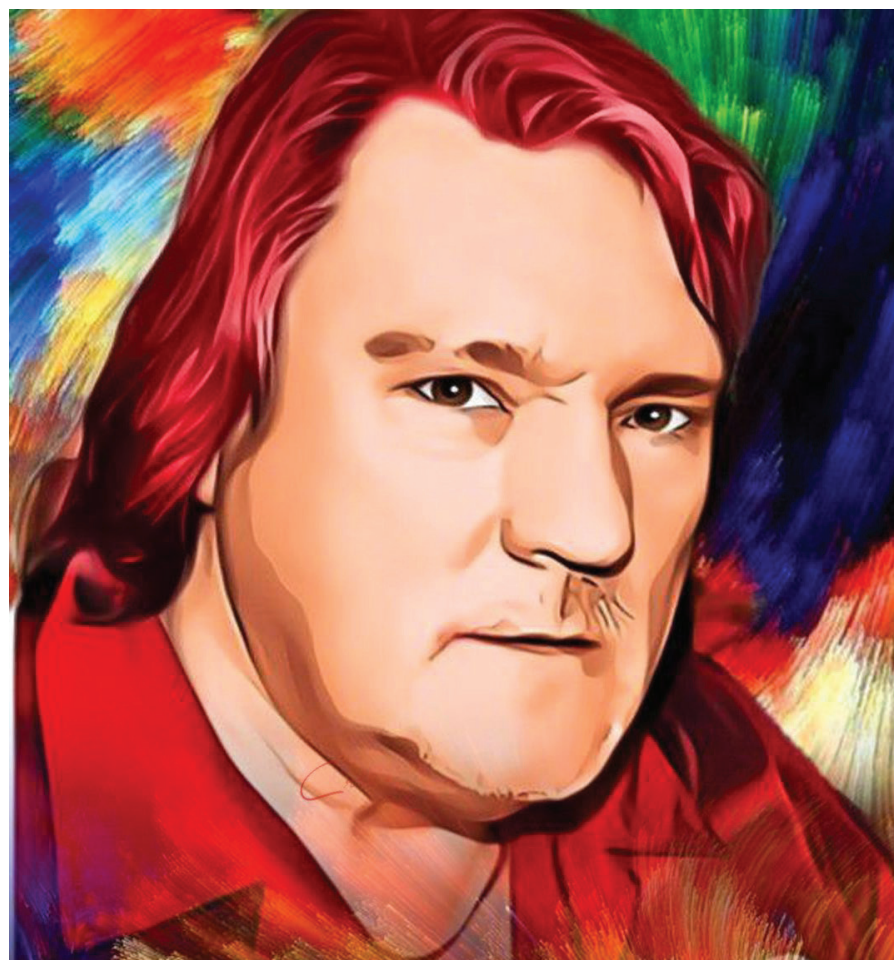
He has also done some promotional work with Mercedes Benz, and if you care to click on his website, BrianAuger.com, you will see some magnificent photographs of his zip through Los Angeles. His son, Karma, is also a drummer. Brian says his son is his greatest critic and keeps him in line. He has also worked alongside daughter, Savannah, on some of her gigs. She is a very successful vocalist.

Brian is one of the few remaining B3 players, an instrument that always brings back the good old days of the 1960s.

Brian was among the many friends that Mike brought home to tickle the ivories at Rembrandt at some ungodly hours of the night, but a little good music is always welcome, both then and now.

I hear he is in the throes of planning a new tour right now. You can't keep a good man down.

www.brianauger.com



Brian Cadd

We first met Brian Cadd, the larger-than-life Australian musician, when we relocated to Nashville. This was following the 1994 Northridge earthquake in California which forced us to flee from Los Angeles. He was referred to us by an old friend from Australia, where we had spent time during our “lost years.”

Ruth was just beginning to learn about this new magical internet thingy. She and Brian made a plan to meet in nearby Franklin, where he was staying, so they could write some songs together. Their ‘business meeting’ took place at a cosy pub. They partook of numerous Irish Coffees, thus severely impairing their songwriting skills. They prudently rescheduled that plan for a later date.

Brian asked Ruth, “Have you heard of this new thing called a Yahoo?” At that stage, she had not. He showed her his very small computer and explained how you could plug it into a modem which made a lot of “bdoink, bdoink” sounds, and gain access to something called *Yahoo*. He was not too sure how it all worked, but



they both played around with it in an attempt to familiarise themselves with the platform. In Brian's words, "It's a blue link that you click on, and it takes you to this big list of information, like a phone book, only on your screen." It was then that the light went on with Ruth, sparking her new persona, "The Digital Diva."

She ordered several books on html from the local library. The librarian was as bewildered as Ruth. After a few phone calls, she said she would have to send away to Knoxville Library to order them. A couple of days later she called to say the books had arrived. That was the start of *McCartney Multimedia*. Ruth and Martin hunkered down, ordered pizzas, learned html, and convinced a couple of local entertainers that they just HAD to have a website. Then we were off to the races.

Brian, ("Caddo" to his friends), was already a well-established composer. It wasn't long before Ruth had overtaken him in the ways of the internet and was able to help him progress with his online representation. To this day, when we have cyber problems, we are oft heard to mutter, "It's all Caddo's fault."

Brian flitted from continent to continent, writing and performing, whilst we gradually eased ourselves into this new world. We even marvelled at fax machines, where you could watch a piece of paper come out that had been sent by someone continents away.

At that time, Brian was a revolving-door member of *The Flying Burrito Brothers*. Decades previously they had made their mark and were now pretty much a legacy band.

I had a secretarial job at *The Tennessean*, the local Gannett newspaper, and I too gave up my job and went to work for Robert Hendrick at *The Creative Syndicate*. I embellished my knowledge of computers, modems, fax machines, shredders, (a sheer delight, so therapeutic), and other forms of this new-fangled technology. In my estimation, the shredder only just outranks bubble wrap in eliciting a wonderful feeling of release, especially at the end of a stressy day. But I digress.

Brian moved from Perth to Melbourne, Australia just as *The Beatles* were beginning to make their mark worldwide. Like so many others of his generation, Brian was intrigued by their inventiveness and, in particular, their sense of humour, which was akin to that of the Aussies. We have spent time together in recent years on his many trips to the States, when he loves to be updated on all things *Beatles* related and entertains us with stories relating to their times in Australia.

In 1969, he formed *Axiom*, Australia's first "supergroup" with Glenn Shorrock, who later became the lead singer of *The Little River Band*". He once again penned all of *Axiom*'s hits before the band broke up in England in 1971.

Returning to Australia Brian joined *Fable Records* as head of A&R and chief producer. *Fable* launched a rock label called *Bootleg Records* in 1972. Brian not only ran the label, but was its first artist.

The next few years saw many gold and platinum records as a solo artist and an array of prestigious awards for film scores, title songs and TV themes. He also produced several acts and wrote and produced for some of Australia's most successful ad campaigns.

I had the pleasure of being inducted as a Doctor of Business Studies at *City University Los Angeles (CULA)* on the same day as Brian received his for his services to youth and music. The ceremony was held in Los Angeles, and a good time was had by all. This was brought about under the auspices of Dr. Simon Mills (another Aussie) to whom Brian introduced us, and with whom we have cemented not only a friendship but a great business relationship. Simon has also contributed to Martin's Geist musical projects, playing keyboards, so we are "family" in more ways than one.

We also work together with Simon on many book publishing and voice over projects.

www.briancadd.com

And here you have Brian's personal recollections:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

Probably around 1964. Certainly from the first real hit, whenever that was.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

I love them all equally.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

Well, almost. Ringo recorded a song of mine, which was written with *The Flying Burrito Brothers'* John Beland. Halfway into the project he changed producers, and heaps of new songs were recorded. Ultimately we didn't make the list. The song is called, "Some Folks Do."

What influences have The Beatles had on your life/career?

About the same influence as they did on every other performer, writer or producer on the planet. Music changed forever when they arrived. Fortunately, folks like myself lived through their time together and existed in the same Industry. It would be impossible to measure their influence on music, audiences, our Industry, or society in general.

What is your favourite Beatles song and why?

Too many really. Depends on the mood. "The Long and Winding Road" is magnificent. But equally, in the right mood, "Yellow Submarine" works great. "Get Back" is a great rock song. Too hard to pick. It's like picking a favourite grandchild. Impossible.

www.briancadd.com

Brian “Saxophone” Jones

Brian Jones is one of the founding members of *The Undertakers*, a talented and hilarious Liverpool band from the early days of Merseyside rock ‘n roll.

They wore morticians’ clothing complete with stovepipe hats and morning/mourning coats, and their van was a genuine hearse. *The Undertakers* could always be assured of a warm welcome, and their zany antics were just the ticket for the Scouse sense of humour.

Their name came about by accident when a newspaper advert about their upcoming appearance mistakenly gave them the wrong name, but after they had a great reception that night, they decided to keep the name and find the artefacts to match it.



They played at Hamburg's *Star Club* in 1962, and, on their return to Merseyside, were offered a management contract by Brian Epstein. To everyone's shock and horror they turned him down. Instead, they signed a recording contract with Pye Records. Tony Hatch became their record producer.

There is a photograph on YouTube of fans queueing at *The Cavern Club* for what was thought to be the Beatles, when they were, in fact, queueing for *The Undertakers*.

They developed a major following on Merseyside, and their live performances were enhanced by the great vocals of Jackie Lomax. Added to this was the extra appeal the band had by the presence of Brian "Saxophone Jones," who is still going strong. Over the years, *The Undertakers* have undergone many changes in their lineup, but good old Saxy is still entertaining audiences and raising oodles of money for local charities.

Jackie Lomax went on to sign with Apple in later years and was produced by George Harrison.

On a separate note, I later hired Brian to be a part of Gary Glitter's backing band for several UK tours. He was a perennial favourite with audiences, and his premium sense of humour was a big advantage to them all when trafficking from gig to gig in their not so luxurious bus.

I remember Brian marching into the restaurant in a rather posh hotel in Ashby de la Zouch, dumping his *Liverpool Football Club* tote bag on a chair. After scanning a menu that included kedgeree, vol au vents, and other delicacies, he demanded baked beans on fried bread, two fried eggs, mushrooms, sausages and a mug of tea.

Just the memory of that is making me hungry.

The somewhat startled waiter retreated to the kitchen in shock. Brian duly got his required breakfast, much to the envy of many others around him.

With Brian, what you see is what you get. I was happy to write the foreword to his book, *Sax, Drugs and Rock and Roll* which you can find on amazon.com. It has some great photos and lots of fun stuff about the old days.

And all those years later, I was delighted to see Brian and his lovely wife, Rosie, in Liverpool at the launch of *My Long And Winding Road*, my first book in 2013 when we had fun catching up on old times. Sadly Rosie passed away in mid April 2023, leaving dear Brian with a heavy heart and many, many wonderful memories. But Brian is soldiering on and playing gigs to raise funds for charity.

If any of my readers are in the Merseyside area, look up the gig lists in *The Guide Liverpool* where you will hopefully find *The Undertakers'* itinerary.

www.briansaxophonejones.com

Dr. Erika Steele (aka Dr. Sunshine)

Erika is a scientist who is heavily involved in top secret matters relating to Artificial Intelligence and Technology and therefore not encouraged by her present employers to use her real name publicly.

Erika is the executive producer of over 15 internationally acclaimed global films and series, as well as CEO, COO of companies, promoter, engineer, business adviser, futurologist, strategist, and Certified in *Artificial Intelligence Organizational Strategy* from MIT. *Ameritech*, *Viacom*, *MGM* and *Sony* have some of her IT footprint, where she developed system optimization code that saved the company 1.95 million dollars annually. Other notables: *Founder of Technical Quality Assurance*, *RAND IoT Cyber Security Think Tank participant*, *Autonomous car AI component advisory*, *AR Neuroscience Device Engineer*, *Mentor at UCLA DataFest*, *Philanthropist* and *cause based storytelling promoter*, Degrees in *Visual Communications*, *Technology Management*, and *MIT Tech in Artificial Intelligence*.

Her research into this technology spans several years and several employers. She has many degrees and is a brilliant and very vivacious lady.

Although all of this makes her sound like a very serious, even stodgy person, she is quite the reverse, with a bubbly personality, she is very gregarious and a people person, One of her other talents is as a pianist. She is classically trained with an extensive repertoire.



I had the pleasure of having her as my guest on *TEAFLIX Tuesdays* in February 2023 when she wowed my viewers.

We met at a local charity function and bonded immediately. Ruth and Martin are pleased to be in contact with her at this time of new technology and feel that they can learn so much from her.

She is dedicated to her work, which as you can imagine keeps her pretty busy, but one of her first loves was music, and she was happy to talk about her experiences re *The Beatles* over the years. Here are her comments:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

“My parents were born in the 1940s which was the conduit to growing fond and sentimental towards Beatles songs. Then a re-awakening meeting the “family behind” including Angie, Ruth, and Martin.”

Do you have a favorite Beatle?

I don’t know about a favorite but the two most impressive were of course, John Lennon and Paul McCartney will always be remembered as the principal song-writers in the band.

Have you ever seen the Beatles perform live?

Only on old televised recordings

Have you met any of The Beatles?

After they split, I met Paul at the Palms in Hollywood.

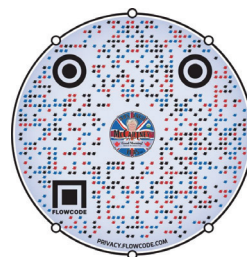
What is your favorite Beatles song?

This is a difficult one since The band recorded more than 300 tracks in total, and all of them are arguably classics.

Different from most but actually later in my life it has given me more meaning and inspiration... song: “Blackbird singing in the dead of night, take these broken wings and learn to fly. All your life, you were only waiting for this moment to arise.”

I remember growing up in Orange County California surrounded by orange groves and strawberry fields in my backyard. I would often be found in the strawberry fields picking and eating strawberries. That song, I thought, was written for me. With my mother and recent father’s death I can’t help but long for yesterday...

Watch Dr. Sunshine’s Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:



Grant Geissman

Grant Geissman is one of the busiest guitar players I know. He was nominated for a *Grammy Award* in 2023. His band is named BLOOZ. The category was best contemporary instrumental blues album. His current album is his 16th.

You name them and it's a good bet Grant has played with them. He is primarily a jazzman, but he has also strayed into other genres over the years.

He is also a composer and arranger, and has worked on the music for many of the TV series we all know and love. They include *Monk*, *Mike and Molly*, and *Two and a Half Men*. Whenever we see Charlie Harper doodling at the piano, that is Grant tickling the ivories.

Geissman played with the *Chuck Mangione Band* for a while, and appeared on the iconic *Feels So Good*, which sold over two million copies. Most music lovers recognize it from the first two bars.



Living in the San Fernando Valley, he is on call by the major studios for session work with some of the headliners, and is a California boy, born and bred.

Ruth and I had the pleasure of chatting with him on a recent *TEAFLIX Tuesdays*, and we all felt as though we had known each other for a lifetime. He is one of those guys.

This isn't his first *Grammy* nomination. He has received and been nominated for awards a number of times. He is very low-key about his achievements, and is always willing to help up-and-coming musicians find their place in the sun.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

After the first *Ed Sullivan* appearance, all the kids were talking about *The Beatles*. From then on *The Beatles* were a constant factor: on the radio, in magazines, newspapers, and on TV. I became a huge fan. I remember my mom getting me *The Beatles* album called *Something New*, and I just played it over and over. After that, I got every new *Beatles* album as soon as they came out. *The Beatles* always did something different with each new album, and they expected the audience to expand and grow along with them.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

It's hard to pick, but I guess I would have to say, Paul. He is the most melodic writer, and overall the best musician in the group. And he is quite an amazing singer. But I really do love John's singing, which is so soulful and emotional. Together, they were an unbeatable combination.

Did you ever see The Beatles live in concert?

I saw their very last concert at *Candlestick Park* in San Francisco on August 29, 1966. I was thirteen at the time, and my mom took me. She was a big Beatles fan as well. They sounded great, and you could actually hear them, which apparently wasn't always the case in their live shows at the time. I remember the beautiful three-part harmony vocal opening of "Nowhere Man," which sounded perfect.

Did The Beatles have any influence on your life or career?

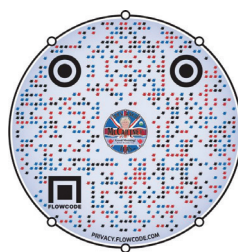
Like most musicians who came up during that era, *The Beatles* were the primary impetus for me wanting to get a guitar and to try and play music. They were absolutely the spearhead of a whole movement of kids wanting to get guitars and have a band out in the garage. It's possible I might have picked up the guitar if they hadn't come along, but it's really impossible to imagine what life would have been like without the continued excitement and inspiration that *The Beatles* provided, and still provide.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

It is virtually impossible to pick just one. But my three desert island discs would have to be *Rubber Soul*, *Revolver*, and *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

www.grantgeissman.com

Watch Grant's Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:



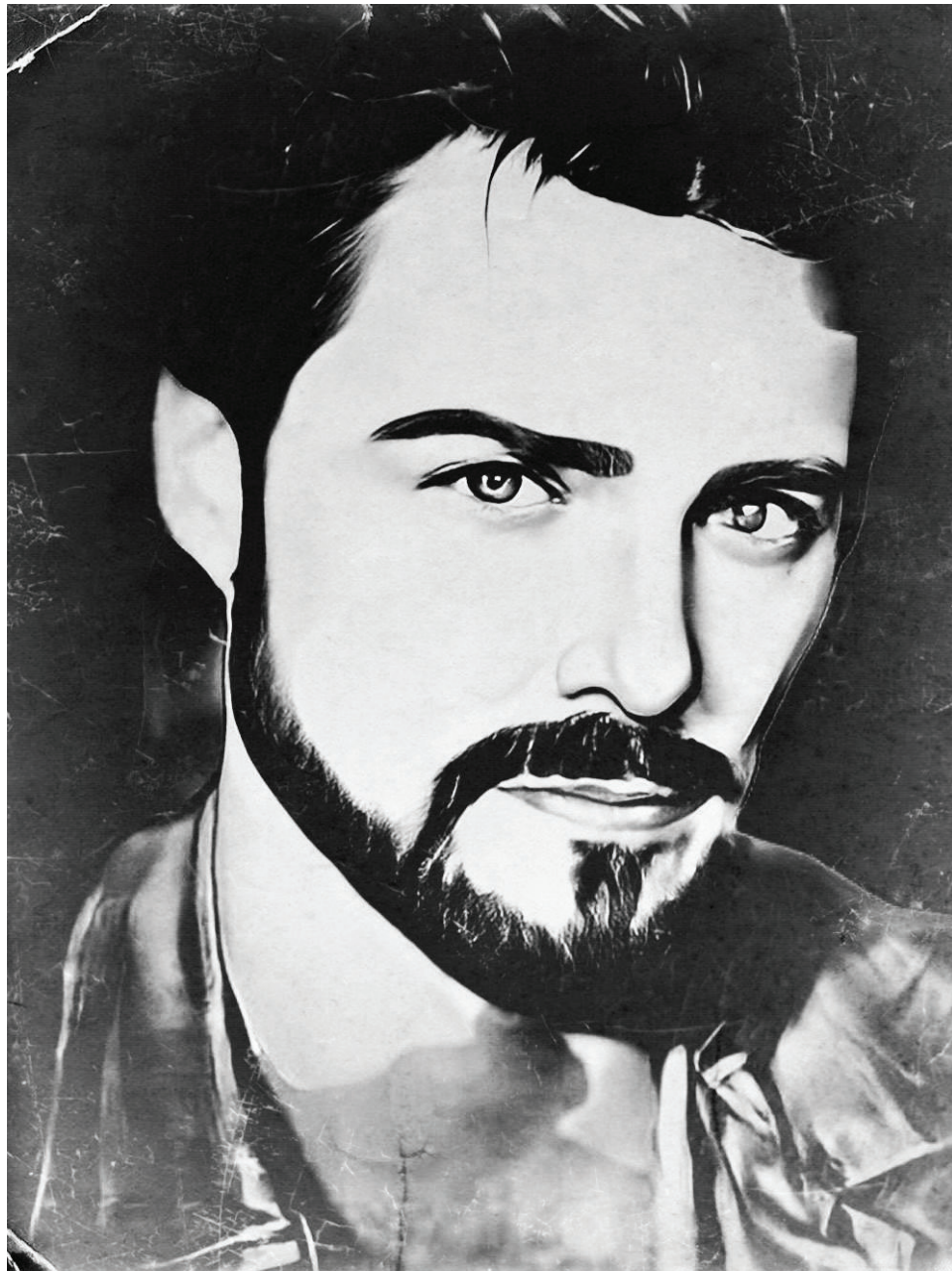
Greg Evigan

Greg Evigan evokes happy memories of *BJ and The Bear*, the *NBC* comedy series that captured so many hearts, and is still very popular today.

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Greg for us to recap some of the good old/bad old days of the entertainment world. What a simpler time it was then.

He has certainly covered some ground, having appeared in *Grease*, *Jesus Christ Superstar!*, *Tek War*, *Pacific Palisades* and even *General Hospital*, where he was a baddie ... a real baddie. So much so that they killed him off.

Fast forward to today. Greg remains extremely busy in the world of voiceovers, *Ted Talks*, and the many other forms of social media that have become so prominent in our lives.



I was interested to learn about a recent project he did with the *Royal Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra* at *Abbey Road Studios*. The boy's certainly multi-talented. As a kid he was classically trained in piano, organ and saxophone.

He and wife Pamela have three children, Vanessa, Briana and Jason. The girls are both actors, and his son is a *Grammy*®-nominated musician. Pamela was a working actor when they met, so there is no shortage of talent in that family.

He told me some fun stories about working with Ringo on his 1978 TV special.

Here are Greg's answers to our questionnaire...

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I remember I was on my mom and dad's bed in New Jersey. My sister and I were excited to watch The Ed Sullivan Show. Our family watched that every week and when The Beatles came on we really didn't know what happened to us. Our bodies started going crazy! We started jumping up and down on the bed. My sister was crying and she was only nine years old. I was eleven, and couldn't believe what I was hearing. It did something magical to all of us as we all know from history.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

It's hard to pick a favourite Beatle, I loved each one of them for their separate and unique talents. I always looked at Paul as the one who seemed organized about the band and kept everything together. I had a band myself so I know how hard that is.

John I looked at as a deeper creative force, if that makes any sense. I felt the same way about George, only I didn't feel he had all the opportunities that John did in the band. Ringo was the fun loving one as we all know. He added an excitement and a fun loving attitude to the mix.

Have you seen the Beatles perform live?

I recently saw Paul perform at the Sofi Center in Los Angeles. Incredible show and I was amazed that he could still get up there and pull it off. He still has incredible love for music and I thought the show was phenomenal! Inspirational at 80! Gives us all some hope.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

I did have the pleasure of not only meeting Ringo but I worked with him when I first came to California. I did his TV special somewhere in 1978 when I first came out to California. My friend Althea, who did some casting, said to me, "Do you want to play a greaser?" And I had some experience as a greaser doing Grease on Broadway, so I took that character, put on my T-shirt, and black pants, and my blue-suede shoes and sold Ringo a '57 Chevy!

What influence have The Beatles had on your musical career?

The influence they've had on my musical career is spectacular! I really don't think anyone else has influenced me more than The Beatles. Their love for great writing and incredibly well-constructed lyrics and music is something I myself as a writer have always tried to achieve and to keep in mind. As well as George Martin's "wash" that he always seems to have in the background of almost all the songs. Hands-down, influences me more than any other artists.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

Hard to pick a favourite Beatles song but the first one that comes to mind (and it is of course a JOHN song) is "Imagine." But like I say ... It's hard to pick a favourite.

You can catch up with him at www.evigan.com.

Gerard McMahon

Gerard McMahon is another stalwart British friend, a musician of note, whose music for movies has absorbed him for some years.

He is particularly known for *The Lost Boys*, the classic which remains in our consciousness over generations. 2022 saw it in the headlines again, with a stage show and a movie in the works. And an album due in the near future.

Gerard, also known as G Tom Mac, has around 50 movies and 100 or so TV shows to his credit. They include *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Chasing Amy*, *All The Right Moves*, and *The Banger Sisters*, to name but a few.

His boundless energy and creativity keep him on the go, through thick and thin. “Pandemic be damned” is his attitude.

Like so many musicians, he confesses to being influenced and impressed by the amazing range of *Beatles* compositions, and his admiration continues unabashed.

I had the distinct pleasure of welcoming him as a guest on one of my *TEAFLIX Tuesdays* shows recently, when we had a wonderful trot down memory lane and, as always, he is immersed in the next phase of his career.



A documentary is in the works about his life. He has kindly invited Ruth and me to contribute to it, which we hope to do in the very near future.

He is friends with Roger Daltrey of *The Who*, with whom he swaps funny stories, and forwards him many of mine. I guess you have to have a certain type of sense of humour - largely British - to appreciate some of them.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I became aware of the Beatles just before coming over to America from Birmingham, as they were getting press in 1962, I was nine or ten years old. “Love Me Do” was getting played on Radio One I think? By the time we moved over to America I was into American music. The Everly Brothers, some Elvis and, especially, “Jailhouse Rock.” Then the lads followed us over and they were getting their American debut and big break! I was all in!

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Honestly, it was both John and Paul; they were like one person of two!

Have you ever seen them live?

No, I never got to see them live. Louise Harrison came out to the town we lived in as she and my mum had friends in common around 1964.

Have you met any of them?

I’ve met Paul several times over the years. I met George when I was signed to Dreamworks Music, when he introduced himself to me. A lovely man and great wit!

What influence have they had on you?

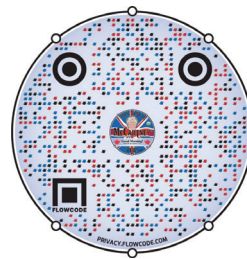
Certainly, if you’re to be a songwriter that’s the bar you need to be going for. As well as achieving diversity in your artistry.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

That is too loaded a question!!! So here goes: a) “Fixing’ a Hole,” and b) “In My Life.”

www.gtommac.com

Watch Gerard’s Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:



Jake Hooker

In the very early days of my marriage to Jim, we paid several visits to *Granada Television* in Manchester. On one of these occasions we met with Muriel Young, who directed a tea time show called *Five O'Clock Club*, which Ruth loved watching.

We made a plan to go visit the show. However, on arrival we found that safety regulations would not permit someone as young as Ruth on the set, so much to her disappointment, she had to watch from the green room.

However, she was delighted to meet the Jake and the other lovely members of *The Arrows*, a very popular pop group. They were quite taken with the little wide-eyed music fan, and made a great fuss over her, so that quite made up for it.



Over the years we all kept in touch and we had the chance to see them perform at other venues. We eventually lost touch when we moved to California. Until, that is, the day when Jake Hooker got in touch with *McCartney Multimedia* to see if we could do business together, which we were happy to do. He was by then a manager, publisher, and entrepreneur. He was handling a few prominent music business acts and needed our guidance to enter them into our iFanz system helping them to spread their music Internationally via *Apple iTunes*.

He had been married and divorced from Lorna Luft, one of Judy Garland's talented daughters. He was happily remarried and living in Malibu.

Jake was born in Haifa, Israel, but his parents moved to the United States while Jake moved to England in the early 1970s. He met up with Alan Merrill, who was already a big star in Japan, and Alan Varney, their drummer. They formed a band called *Streak*. They later changed their name to *The Arrows* and were in the successful management stable of Mickie Most, a darling of the music business at that time. Sort of like Simon Cowell is today.

Alan and Jake published the 1981 song called "I Love Rock and Roll," which was a great success for Joan Jett. It is truly considered a rock classic. The story goes that Alan wrote it, but gave Jake half the writer's credit to settle an outstanding debt. He probably never thought it would become a rock and roll classic.

Jake met and married entertainer Lorna Luft. They had two children together. Her career was in high gear, and they both moved to California so that he could manage her.

Like almost everyone else, Jake was a huge Beatles fan. He continually asked Ruth and me to tell him tales of the early days when he would visit our offices in Playa del Rey. We often frequented *Cantalini's Restaurant* nearby. We went there so many times that we called it 'The Commissary.' It is truly a place of legend. But maybe I will write a separate book about that another time.

Jake passed away in August 2014 at aged 61.

Jonas Tomalty

Jonas is a heartthrob rocker from north of the border. Canada. Not Scotland! In the pre-pandemic days, he would come and visit us often sharing the music and some of his hilarious tales of adventures during life on the road.

He and Martin have spent time laying down some tracks too, which have not yet seen the light of day. But when they do ... look out!

I remember one of those occasions when the late Benny Mardones and his wife, Jane, were visiting, and between the two of them, plus Martin chipping in with his memories, I laughed so hard that I actually fell off the couch. (Stay classy, Ange!).

It should be noted here that when any of our friends have babies, Ruth always crotchets them a blanket, and I am charged with packing them and mailing them to their destinations. Except in one case, when Jonas' wife presented him with their first son and, at the same time, another of our musician friends became a daddy for the first time.



Somehow I got their blankets mixed up and sent the one to Jonas in Canada that should have gone to a local California address and vice versa. Ruth was highly amused (I was NOT) when she got thank you notes from both, saying that the cards attached had a name that did not relate to their newborn. That’s how the truth was uncovered. (Note to self: do up the mail before happy hour). Pink. Blue. What to do?

Jonas is now a solo act, but when we first met him, his act was called *Jonas and The Massive Attraction*. You can find them on YouTube. Their Canadian following was massive too, and they played huge venues to sold-out screaming crowds. (Remind you of anyone?). They have toured Europe extensively and recorded in Hawaii, Nashville and Los Angeles.

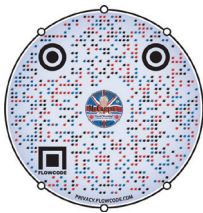
He has since gone on to become a daddy again for the third time on October 17, 2022, and a very loving one, too. He proudly emailed us a picture of his half-hour-old son, Morrison, before he had even opened his eyes. The family is now inundated with crocheted blankies!

And in addition to his musical talents, he became a partner in an upscale restaurant in Montreal, *The Rosewood*, with great food and amazing music.

Oh, and as a side note, he is an incredibly talented handyman. I remind him to bring his toolbelt when he is headed this way, as his ‘to do” list always awaits him. I like a rockstar in a toolbelt.

www.jonastomalty.com

Watch Jonas’ Teaflix interview by scanning the code with your phone:

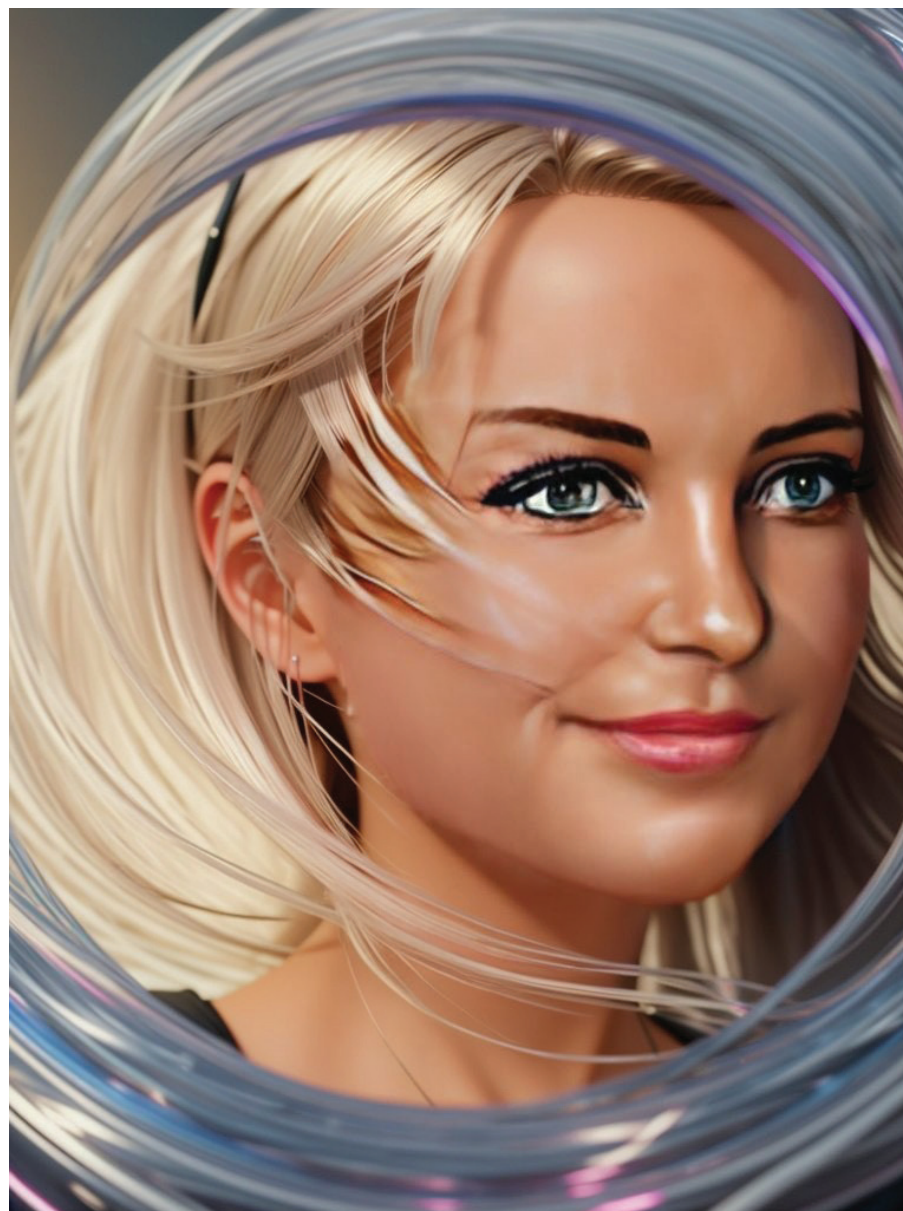


Kim Cooper

This chapter is the exception to the rule. Kim Cooper was a *Beatles* fan well before I ever appeared on the same scene as The Fabs. But I didn't find this out until she became my boss at *RKO Home Video* in Studio City.

When she was a teenager, she and her friends hatched a plan to visit Liverpool to marry a Beatle. Her particular choice was Paul. Just think, if she had reached her goal, we would be related, if only legally.

After they had seen their heroes on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, they began purloining their fathers' loose change from their trouser pockets every night and hiding it until they had enough money to buy *Greyhound* bus tickets from California to New York. The plan was that they would stow away on a Liverpool-bound ship, land jobs at *The Adelphi Hotel* as chambermaids, (They were convinced that the boys must frequent this prominent hotel all the time), roll themselves up in carpets which would somehow be opened in the presence of each of the lads, and make their move. I know, I know ... but after all, they WERE only pre teens.



The big day finally dawned. Kim got herself to the *Greyhound* bus depot only to find she was alone. All of her chums had chickened out. She bought a single one way ticket, boarded the bus, and off she went on her adventure.

She had not reckoned with her schoolteacher's diligence. When Kim was absent that day, this good lady called Kim's mother, only to find she had gone AWOL. Subsequently, her bezzy mates were all quizzed, and one of them broke down, confessing their plan.

After a lot of kerfuffle with the authorities, they tracked her down and estimated that the bus would be approaching Arizona by nightfall. Her agitated papa made arrangements accordingly. Kim's recollection of the events is that when the bus pulled into an Arizona stopping point, the police were waiting for her, and took her off to the pokey to cool off overnight. That night she feasted on hot cocoa in a cell, awaiting the arrival of her father the next morning. I'll bet that was one long night.

When we first learned of this story, Ruth wrote a song about it. I remember a part of the lyric:

"I thought jail was the coldest place
Until I saw my father's face..."

And so that part of our story ends. One duly chastened Kimmy returned home, went back to school, and put her dreams on hold. I recently asked her to answer my famous questions, and they are at the end of this chapter. That should fill in the blanks.

Some time much later on my calendar, I was employed by Kim at RKO Home Video as her personal assistant. My duties included everything from making the ice cubes, to organizing social activities, dealing with over ardent visitors to our offices in Studio City, to our Friday afternoon's staff get-togethers in Kim's office.

When I started working for *RKO Home Video*, Kim and I bonded, and because I was from Liverpool that was why she told me the story of her teenage plot to marry a Beatle.

I was working under a different name then (that's another story for another day), so she didn't know I had any connection to *The Beatles* other than being a Scouser.

Even further down the line, when Kim had become a big mucky muck at *20th Century-Fox*, we worked together on a comedy called *Earth Girls are Easy*. The cast included numerous up and comers who eventually became A-list stars and prominent character actors. Geena Davis, Jim Carrey, Jeff Goldblum, Michael McKean, Daymon Wayans, and even Wayne Brady who was an extra. Angelyne had a cameo in it too. Hands up anyone old enough to remember her on the Billboards around Los Angeles? She was said to be famous for being famous. Her pink Cadillac sat high above many of the City's freeway on and off ramps.

And as recently as 2022, Angelyne was interviewed for TV by "Fireball" Tim Lawrence, who met up with her at a Malibu car rally. Her pink Caddy is still on the scene.

Ruth and I both worked for Kim on *Earth Girls*, and we found a clip recently on YouTube and re-visited the crazy days of our early experiences in the film business.

Over the years, Kim traveled to Australia several times in relation to her work on such blockbusters as *Australia*, *Life of Pi*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*. She told me that when Russell Crowe was hired for a movie, she would be allotted an extra cash budget to smooth things over with hotel managers or bar keepers after the inevitable wreckage that would happen during late night parties with him and his posse.

She worked with Nicole Kidman several times too, and has only happy memories of those times.

Then came her long stint with James Cameron, when she began her journey on the *Avatar* movies, which were an incredible experience, sharing her time between the Manhattan Beach offices and various international locations.

Today she spends much of her time in Hawaii. I was very pleasantly surprised when she and husband Tenny turned up in Playa del Rey to greet me in November 2022 for my 93rd birthday. Boy, did we have some catching up to do.

No need to ask Kim if she was a Beatles fan.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I heard a song on the radio. Then we learned they were coming to America to appear on The Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964. So my girlfriends and I watched them on that show. I convinced my mother to let me go see them at The Hollywood Bowl in August. One of my girlfriends' brothers drove us there when I was only thirteen in August 1964.

Who is your favorite Beatle?

Paul. But I liked them all.

Have you seen them live?

Yes, at the Hollywood Bowl in 1964 and 1965. I saw Paul solo at The Hollywood Bowl in 2010 and Dodger Stadium in 2014.

Have you met any of them?

I met Ringo (and Barbara) at an outdoor furniture store in West LA on Pico. I had gone there at lunchtime from 20th Century Fox to purchase a lounge for my patio. We were the only three people in the store. He was looking at a particular outdoor table and chairs and, as I had that exact set, I told him it was terrific, but to be sure to get the swivel chairs.

What has been their influence on you?

I've enjoyed their music since 1964 and the progression they took from "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" to the White Album and Sgt. Pepper.

What is your Favorite Beatles song?

Hard to pick just one. Simple and Beautiful. Wait! "A Day in the Life." Genius.

So there you have it, folks. You can't accuse me of not having interesting friends.

She spends most of her time in Hawaii, and you can find her on Facebook.

Leo McKern

Leo McKern was an Australian character actor, who was born in Sydney. At the age of 15, he lost an eye in a work-related accident.

He held various jobs before taking up acting. He was an engineering apprentice and joined the Australian Army during *World War II*.

In 1944, he landed his first acting role in Sydney. He moved to England, where his career really took off, mostly in stage roles. His career grew steadily, and had plenty of acting roles both on stage and on radio. He was mainly known for playing Horace Rumpole, in the popular *Rumpole of the Bailey* series on British TV and radio.

Then he was cast as a baddie named Clang in *HELP!* Jim, Ruth and I were in Nassau where *The Beatles* were filming *HELP!* We met many of the cast and crew at *The Balmoral Club* in the evenings, for libations and hilarity. I remember one night when the inevitable subject of his glass eye came up, he threatened to take it



out and drop it into his beer. I decided that was a good time to retire for the night. Our evenings spent together were always hilarious. He was a lovely man and enjoyed a good laugh.

He played a heavy in *HELP!* and whenever he would appear in real life, *The Beatles* would always hiss loudly. He took it all in great part as he was someone who could never quite grasp how he had managed to achieve such success. He just couldn't believe how much people loved him. Bless him, he suffered from paralyzing stage fright. It's amazing just how many big stars do.

During his time in England, he became a regular at *London's Old Vic Theater*, playing lead roles in several prominent productions.

In 1983, he was appointed an Officer of the *Order of Australia* for his services to the performing arts.

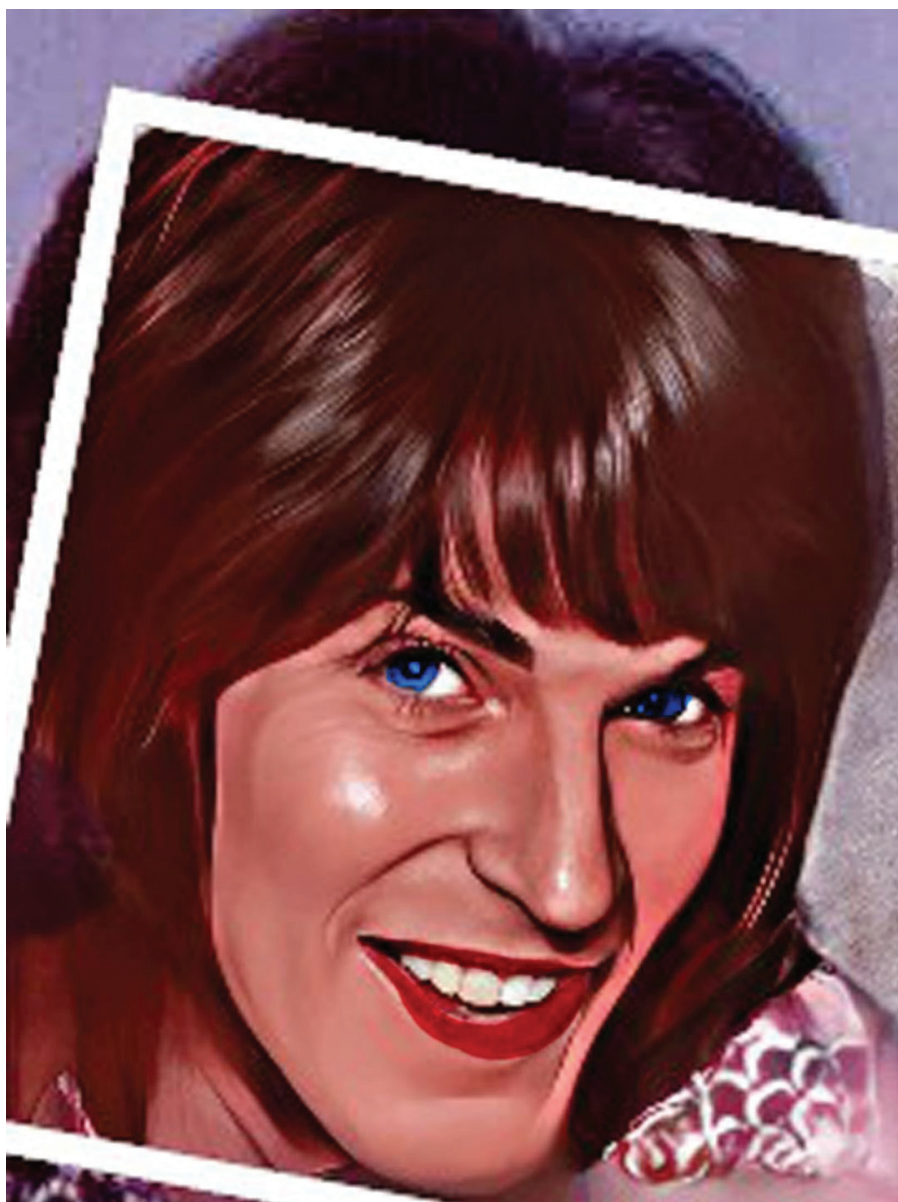
In later life, his health deteriorated and he moved into a nursing home near Bath, in Somerset, in 2002. He was surrounded by his loving wife, Australian Jane Holland, and their two daughters.

Mick Flinn

Mick Flinn was the bass player for *The Mixtures*, the Australian band that gained success in their home country, and then conquered England.

He was first introduced to us by Pete Price when they were appearing at *The Shakespeare Theatre Club* in Liverpool. Pete, as the master of ceremonies, would shunt the acts around on sightseeing trips to Merseyside and The Wirral during the daytime.

Ruth developed a huge crush on Mick, bless her heart. Although a very young pre-teenager, she found him fascinating. As indeed he was, and is to this day. He now lives in the South of England with his lovely wife, Donna and their daughter, Leanne, a successful casting agent. Our friendship has certainly stood the test of time, and we keep in touch through the wonders of the Internet.



Like most young musicians at that time, *The Mixtures* were *Beatles* fans. They enjoyed their visits to spend time with us when Jim would entertain them with tales of Paul's early days, seeking his fame and fortune as a musician.

Jim really took a shine to Mick, too, and they spent many sunny afternoons in the back garden at Rembrandt while I dispensed the usual pots of tea and English goodies.

Readers may remember their biggest hit, "*The Pushbike Song*" which reached No.1 in Australia and other territories, and had some modest success in the U.K. They appeared on a number of British TV shows and toured supper clubs and other entertainment venues.

I remember Mick telling us that he visited a psychic in his native Melbourne. She told him she could see a connection to bicycles, something which would change his life and take him to a far-off land. Turned out that she was on the right track as "*The Pushbike Song*" eventually proved. Another popular hit of theirs was "*In The Summertime*," which was a cover of a Mungo Jerry song.

Mick later joined The New Seekers, but that's another story. One of his bandmates, Marty Kristian, lives close to him in the South of England where they often get together and reminisce about the good old, bad old days.

Later, Mick and wife Donna Jones formed a new band called *Pussyfoot*, which achieved great success in Europe. I seem to remember them being banned by the BBC as Donna's lyrics were considered a little too raunchy for the Brits' delicate ears.

Mick still enjoys playing and raising money for charity in jolly old Britain. And he was kind enough to answer a few of my questions:

How did The Beatles influence you?

I loved all four of *The Beatles*. They were all very special, great characters, and a great Influence on me and my first band in Australia, *The Wild Colonials*. We modelled ourselves on them. I owned the very first *Hofner* Beatles bass in Australia, and had it shipped from Liverpool. That was back in 1963, it cost me 100 quid.

Who was your favourite Beatle?

I suppose Paul was probably my most favourite as I feel I'm very similar to him in some ways, i.e. my birthday is the day before his, and after watching *Get Back*, I behave similarly in rehearsals, pushing the band along. I see many similarities, except when it comes to songwriting and bank accounts. LOL.

Funnily enough, Paul's lovely dad, Jim, was very much like my dad.

Have you ever seen The Beatles perform live?

I never saw The Beatles live, but I waited at Melbourne Airport to see them arrive.

Have you ever met any of The Beatles?

I once met Ringo at a party at Lulu's house, a fun guy. I once met Linda McCartney outside of Abbey Road Studios. When I told her my name was Mick Flinn, she said she knew who I was as my pictures were all over young Ruth's bedroom walls.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

Favourite song? It's too hard to choose. I love so many of them.

Paul Antonelli

Paul Antonelli is a music supervisor, composer and former keyboardist with *Animotion*. We met him when we first came to live in Los Angeles. His work over the past years has been with soaps including *All My Children*, *Passions*, *Days of our Lives*, *General Hospital*, etc.

He has also co-written incidental music for two full-length videos for Prince and

Three Chains O'Gold and *The Beautiful Experience* with GH partner RC Cates.

In his early Hollywood days, he was the head DJ at *The Roxy* on The Sunset Strip.

He has won six Emmys and been nominated for fourteen.



His first foray into music was as keyboardist with Red Zone, who later became *Animotion*. They are still enjoying great success being back on the road since 2022. Paul still follows them with interest and visited them at *The Greek Theatre* in September of 2022.

Paul is a member of a bunch of alphabet soup professional organizations: *ATAS*, *NARAS*, *DGA*, *GMS*, *ASCAP* and the *AFM*. No slouch, this young man. But despite it all, he was NOT a member of *YMCA*!

He and Ruth were married for a minute. They parted amicably and are still the best of friends to this day. He and Martin, (Ruth's current husband) also maintain a great friendship. See - it can be done!

I vividly remember the day they were wed when he insisted that his maid of honor was Floozy, the rag doll who used to live on top of his piano. That raised a few eyebrows at the ceremony.

Carrying on in his colourful fashion, he once visited me in *Daniel Freeman Hospital* in Marina del Rey, where I had just taken on a new titanium knee. His visit was memorable because he was clad in one of my bathing suits and a fetching colourful visor, bearing a huge bouquet of flowers. That gave the nurses something to think about. I recall that it was the day that "Sully" Sullenberger made his monumental landing on the Hudson River. Some of the Nurses crowded into my room to watch it on television.

Paul is good friends with famous songwriter Diane Warren, who took him as her "plus one" to *The White House* as guests of President Obama, a memory which he holds dear.

A very famous lady TV producer, one of his bosses in the early days, accused him of "shredding the tapestry of her life, one thread at a time." That may give you an idea of his ebullient personality. Wherever he is, the party starts when he walks in the room.

His musical tastes cover a wide range, from pop, rock, jazz, classical, film scoring, sourcing of music for the many daytime series (soaps) that he has worked on over the years.

He is, of course, interested in the history of *The Beatles*, and when he and Ruth were married, he asked if he could now be known as Paul McCartney. Er ... no, I don't think so.

His social skills are unparalleled and, at one time, when the Los Angeles party scene was alive and well, he was known as "the thing that wouldn't leave." I have a treasure trove of unpublished (unpublishable) snapshots, which I occasionally threaten him with if he doesn't mend his ways.

Here is his take on The Beatles:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I believe it was in 1964 when I was five years old. I'd follow my mother around the house as she was doing her daily household chores and she always had the radio on. There was such a big hoopla about *The Beatles'* appearance earlier that year on *The Ed Sullivan Show* ... and that was when they first came onto the radar of that little boy brain.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Oh, God ... that's a difficult one to answer. I remember having an attraction to Paul as a small child ... but I developed a special affection for John since his passing when he would come into my personal psychic readings through Arlee Thornhill and give me advice. I think I told you about the first time I called him in. It was during a seance that Arlee held. At the end of the seance, Arlee would go around the room to each person in attendance and you were able to call in a spirit of your choice. Normally, the spirit would be called in and they'd be quite joyous and give a wonderful message to the person who summoned them. Then that person would be able to ask the spirit a question.

When I called John in ... I simply said "John"---knowing that I didn't need to say his last name as well. There was no reply at first. Then Arlee tried a couple more times...and that's when he appeared. He was facing away from me and looking out the window. He didn't come with any message. He simply said rather coldly (at least that's how I perceived it...), "What do you want?" I was DYING inside. I thought I had bothered him greatly. Again, no one knew who I had called in, but I'm sure they were surprised at the rather curt question I received.

I asked him for his inspiration with my music and if there was anything I could do for him. That's when he seemed to soften up. Arlee said, "He's walking toward you and is now placing a tam (a cap) on you." Then she said, "He's taking out a gun...." and, at that point, everyone in the room gasped. Again---they had NO idea whom I had called in. "He's placing the gun under your arm to protect you." I honestly thought I was going to pass out.

Following that seance, John would come into numerous personal readings of mine that I also had through Arlee and would give me advice over the years. You remember the green light bulb, right, Ange??? God, I really have to go into storage and take a look at my notes from my readings over all these years because I'm forgetting so many of the details now.

Have you met any of The Beatles?

Aha!! I came SO CLOSE to meeting Paul when I was Diane Warren's guest at the Obama party at *The White House* back in January of 2017. I was heading downstairs to the bathroom when I saw Paul talking with the Obama girls and a couple of their friends. I thought I wouldn't interrupt the conversation and just hit the loo quickly so I could come back and have a conversation with him about YOU KNOW WHAT!! HAAAAA!!!! (After all, we are brothers-in-law.)

I grazed him as I walked by and was very quick to finish my business in the loo and get right back out to the hallway. I mean, the bathroom was probably five feet from where I had left him! When I got out---he was gone. I found Diane (who also wanted to speak with Paul...) and we cased the whole place. He must've been literally on his way out when I went into the bathroom. I SWEAR I had only been gone for about three minutes.

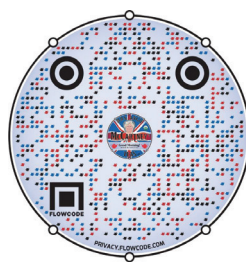
Have The Beatles influenced your life or your career?

I think if you're in the music industry or have any musicality in your soul whatsoever, it's virtually IMPOSSIBLE for them to have NOT been some kind of influence. I feel that they were truly THE UNICORN of bands...that there has never been nor will there ever be another group like them. It's astounding when you think about that, really. I know that they adored and emulated Elvis ... but, for me ... Elvis doesn't even come CLOSE to having the impact on my life that The Beatles did.

Do you have a favorite Beatles song?

Yet ANOTHER difficult question ... I mean, REALLY!! I have always loved their tune "Because" ... but since there's a certain childhood memory of being with my dad in his car during a wonderful snowstorm that's always evoked when I hear this particular song---I'd have to say it's "Penny Lane."

He was of COURSE on Teaflix Tuesdays, so scan the code to check it out!



Rob Shanahan

Like so many of the folks in this book, I first met Rob Shanahan at one of Mark Lapidos' *Fest for Beatles Fans* when we sat together on a Q & A panel, answering a variety of questions from the fans about their heroes and their backstories.

In addition to being a hugely successful show business photographer, Rob is a drummer in his own right and his band, *The Hollywood Stones*, has been on the radar for a number of years.

Rob resides in Venice, California, with his wife (a graphic designer) and their daughter. He lives a full and busy life. He is also a car enthusiast and when I last saw him on the road, he was driving a vintage 1956 Chevy.

Rob has been Ringo Starr's preferred photographer since 2006 and accompanied him to Liverpool to research Ringo's old haunts and childhood homes in preparation for album covers. Rob designed and photographed the covers for Ringo's albums *Postcards from Paradise* and *Y-Not*. He also worked with Ringo on pictures for several DVDs and tour books.



He photographed Ringo and Paul for the Beatles *LOVE* show in Las Vegas, *The Beatles Rock Band* release and the *Beatles 50th Anniversary Celebrations*.

This charming young man takes many photographs for musical instrument makers, including *Paiste* cymbals, and manufacturers *Yamaha* and *Drum Workshop*. These manufacturers sponsor prominent musicians, and they like to give publicity to the fact. He enjoys photographing drummers of course, but there are many other celebrities included in his portfolio.

Rob hosts gallery shows, holds seminars and workshops and produces a Master Class series to help up-and-comers learn the tricks of the photographic trade.

In 2011, he published a book titled *Volume I. Through the Lens of Music, Rob Shanahan*. Ringo wrote the foreword. It's available on amazon.com.

In the meantime, enjoy this exclusive Q & A which I conducted with Rob Shanahan:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

The year I was born, 1966. Music filled our house.

Which of the Beatles have you met?

Paul & Ringo. Also Sir George Martin and his lovely wife Judy, Giles Martin, Dhani, Olivia, and Yoko.

Do you have a favourite Beatle? (silly question in your case I guess).

Yes, silly question.

How have the Beatles influenced your life/career?

Beyond measure.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

Wow, That's like when people ask me my favorite photograph I've ever taken. Impossible question, but I'm going with THE END!

And, dear readers, you will be delighted when you meander through Rob's magnificent photography.

www.robshanahanphotography.com

Sandro Monetti

Sandro Monetti is a lovely, lively Lancashire lad from Blackpool, with a personality fit to fill a stadium. In addition to being an author, he is also a playwright, broadcaster, judge of award shows, a *BAFTA* and *Britweek* aficionado, television personality, and all around spiffing chap. He is also an award-winning journalist.

We first met in 2007 when he interviewed me after a screening of *Across The Universe*. I was more than impressed with his knowledge of all things Beatles related, and just about everything else in the world of entertainment.

Sandro works tirelessly in public relations, promoting and branding not only up-and-coming artists, but established ones as well. He has the respect of all.

He has been my guest on my *TEAFLIX Tuesdays*, and we have done several podcasts together. In early 2022, he introduced us to the lovely Lauren Samuels, who recently moved across the pond from England to throw her hat in the showbiz ring in America.



Considered the ultimate Hollywood insider, Sandro has carried out interviews around the globe with A-listers such as Sylvester Stallone, Al Pacino, George Clooney, et al. He was even privileged to interview (then) Prince Charles with wife Camilla in attendance and had some funny stories to relate of the time he spent with them that day.

We are fortunate that he is now based in Los Angeles, where he can be seen regularly on several channels. He hosts the *BBC Radio's Academy Awards* coverage every year, and was managing editor of the *Los Angeles Business Journal* and *Entity* magazine. He was also the most nominated reporter in the 2022 *National Arts & Entertainment Journalism Awards*.

His smash hit play *Marilyn and Sinatra* wowed audiences on both sides of the pond. His books include best-sellers *Colin Firth: The Man Who Would Be King*; *Mickey Rourke: Wrestling with Demons*, and *Confessions of a Hollywood Insider: My Amusing Encounters With The A-List*.

That is a really fun read, and a great gift item for anyone interested in celebrity gossip. (Go on, you know you are, even if you don't admit it).

And, as if that were not enough, he also works as a media consultant and showbiz expert for TV and radio shows. He teaches interview techniques and created the world's first Bachelor of Arts university degree course in celebrity journalism.

He went on to create the number-one rated Hollywood Tour on Tripadvisor, *The Celebrity Insider Movie Locations Tour of L.A.* with *Tourific Escapes*. You can see them at www.tourificescapes.com.

No slouch is our Sandro. He has written, produced and directed three stage plays, all hits around the world and off-Broadway in New York and in London's West End. My spies tell me he also has more film and TV concepts in development.

Oh, and he is also an advocate for the *United Nations*, and serves on the *Board of the United Nations Association in Beverly Hills*.

In response to my questions, you can read his answers below.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I first became aware of The Beatles in a very different way from most people. It was in a film - but not one of their own. A young Steven Spielberg executive produced, and Robert Zemeckis directed, a charming, low-budget movie in 1978 called *I Wanna Hold Your Hand* re their first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. It made such an impression on me that I sought out the music of this band which had turned the characters into such obsessives - and was immediately hooked myself.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

I love them all equally.

Have you ever seen them live?

I was too young to see *The Beatles* in concert myself, but my mother saw them in our hometown of Blackpool and recalled that the screams were so loud - including her own - that she couldn't hear any of the music. But I'm hoping technology will allow me to see them in a movie called *Tech to the Future* looking at how it's possible to create AI replicas of stars in their heyday and would love to see this kind of vision harnessed so the *AI Beatles* could perform in my own living room one day.

Have you met any of them?

I was such an idiot when I interviewed the great Paul McCartney. Driving to Liverpool to interview him for a British national newspaper, I knew I'd be starstruck in his presence but didn't want to come across like Chris Farley in that famous *Saturday Night Live* sketch where he played an interviewer so overwhelmed to meet a *Beatle* that he could ask nothing but dumb, fawning questions. I wanted Paul to be impressed by my journalistic integrity and, as a result, tried too hard to act like some great interviewer rather than just asking the kind of questions my readers would like to know. This was at the opening of *LIPA (Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts)*, a *Fame*-style academy on the site of his former boyhood school. Macca wanted to make the long and winding road to stardom a little easier for the next generation of talented youngsters and had pumped a million pounds of his own money into the project. Plus, he was occasionally going to be teaching songwriting as part of the curriculum. For the first time ever, my questions had a cynical side to them. I would ask things like: "With all your money and fame, what do you really know about the struggles and dreams of today's youngsters in Liverpool?" Ever the professional, Paul took it all in good

grace and said he and the other teachers hoped to nurture the talent by giving them inside knowledge about aspects of the industry these students maybe could not find elsewhere. I guess he's seen it all in his career and nothing phases him at this point. I really liked him – although I didn't much like myself that day. It's been such a pleasure since to become friends with Angie and Ruth and find that magic, kindness and professionalism run in the family.

What influence have *The Beatles* had on you and your career?

I have spent my whole life chronicling the lives of the famous, as a journalist, author, broadcaster, playwright and filmmaker, and the Beatles have had a huge influence on my life and career. They were the first superstar group – the original and the best – and the way they handled the spotlight with humor was an inspiration and example to many.

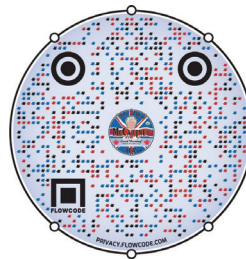
What is your favourite Beatles song?

While “In My Life” makes me cry, and “Octopus’s Garden” makes me laugh, I think the one that moves me most as has my heart is “Across the Universe.”

I started these answers by mentioning an underappreciated movie, and I'll end it the same way – *Across the Universe* was the best use of Beatles music in a film ever, and I hope future generations discover its magic and appreciate both the film and the emotive title track.

www.sandromonetti.com

Watch Sandro's Teaflix interview by scanning this code with your phone:



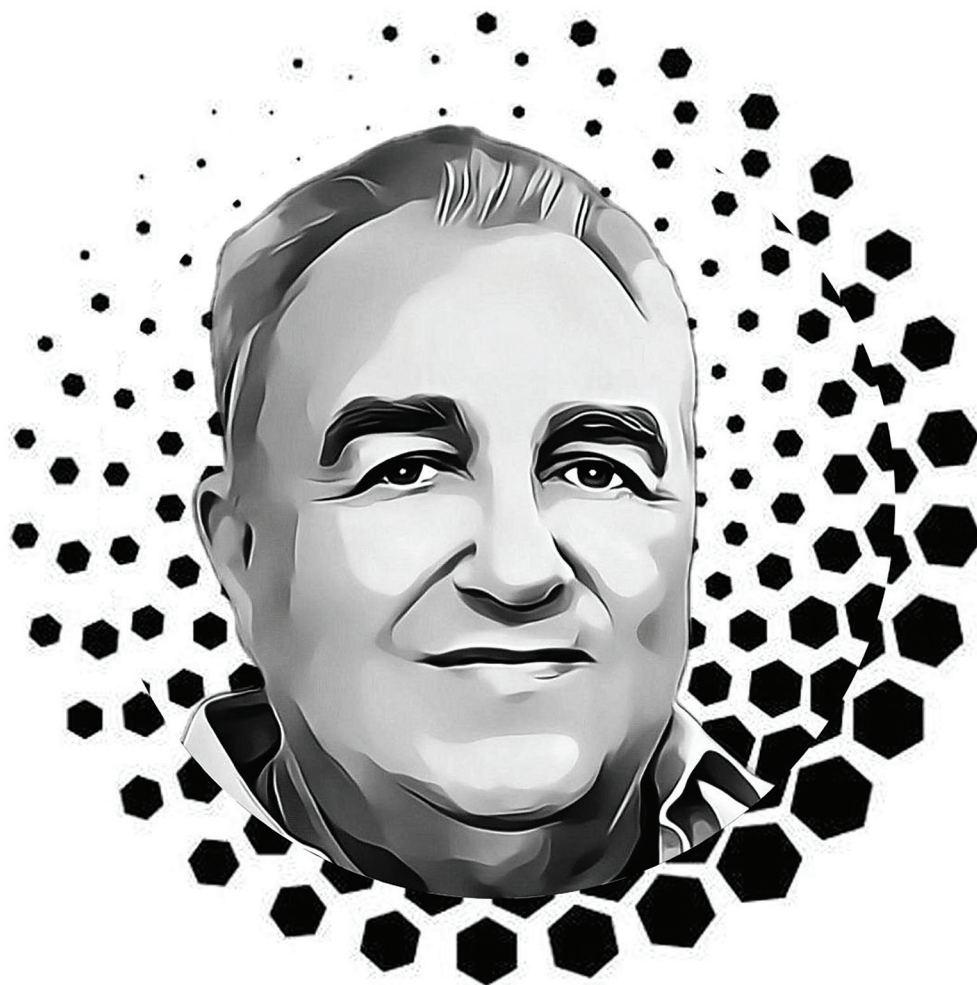
Simon Napier-Bell

Simon Napier-Bell has worn many hats in the music business. One of his plans was to be a producer for The Scaffold, which consisted of our own Mike (McGear) McCartney, Roger McGough and John Gorman.

Simon and his partner, Ray Singer sat at the kitchen table at Rembrandt discussing the nuts and bolts of their upcoming album, and Simon and Roger McGough in particular gave their full attention to the way it should be addressed.

The Scaffold were a varied trio, each with their own particular slant on their material, and Roger wanted to be sure that the chosen songs represented their special brand of humour and satire, that was for many, an acquired taste.

In more recent times since The Scaffold disbanded, Mike has concentrated on photography and authoring books, while Roger is now a well respected poet, author, public speaker and songwriter. And John Gorman branched into television production and related pastimes. Mike and Roger were both honoured by the late Queen Elizabeth II. They still regroup occasionally for special events and charity affairs.



Simon started out in his youth wanting to be a trumpeter in a jazz band, and to this end, he got a job as band boy (aka roadie) with the Johnny Dankworth Band, performing many tasks from humping and setting up the gear, and tearing down and loading the transport with their instruments. Between gigs, he would sit on the floor at the back of the bus, with a knife, honing a hunk of hash into manageable heaps to be rolled up into silver foil saved from chewing gum wrappers. He'd then set it alight and the heat reduced it to more manageable quantities that would be rolled into Rizla papers. This was considered vital to the musicians.

He learned the music business from the bottom up, and his built-in musical talents stood him in great store. At one point, duties extended to being a general gopher, sandwiches, cigarettes, companions, (ahem) and his desire to be a trumpeter in a jazz band warped into a general fascination with all things music and show business related.

I recommend his book *Black Vinyl White Powder*. It has a million stories of his progress through various stages, becoming a record producer, then a manager, culminating in his huge success in getting WHAM! to be the first act from the UK to break through in China in 1985. After that, the world was his oyster. He even wrote a number one hit for Dusty Springfield – *You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*. Plus you will read about many of the famous musicians who were staggering through their days and nights, mostly out of their tiny minds.

And now, all these years later, he is still very active, and when I last heard from him he was off to New Zealand, and is planning to join us on TEAFLIX when he gets back home. That should be a fun session.

For a complete list of Simon's books, see [amazon.com/books](https://www.amazon.com/books).

Steve Tyrell

Steve Tyrell is one of *McCartney Multimedia's* longest running clients and we have shared a great working relationship and friendship for many years.

He truly is a renaissance man. He has spent almost fifty years in the music business and has become a successful singer, songwriter, music supervisor, Grammy-winning record producer and more recently, radio host. He won a Grammy when he worked Sir Rod Stewart 's *Soulbook* in 2009.

He spent time at *Scepter Records* where he was *Head of A & R* and went on to produce B.J. Thomas' "Hooked on a Feeling" and "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head."

He penned "How Do You Talk To Angel" for *The Heights* TV series, "Hold On" for Jamie Walters and then "It's Only Love" for Elvis Presley and B.J. Thomas.



He hit the headlines when he performed “The Way You Look Tonight” in *Father of the Bride*, later following it up with *Father of the Bride II*, and most recently, he had three songs in the Netflix Christmas hit of 2022, *The Noel Diary*.

Steve is no stranger to the *Billboard* Jazz charts. His first album was *A New Standard* and it remained on the charts for over five years.

His success has continued since then, and he is primarily known for performing and recording several *Great American Songbook* albums, working with many great composers including Barry Mann and Cynthia Weill, Carole King, Burt Bacharach, Neil Sedaka and Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller.

He formed a warm bond of friendship with the family of the late Frank Sinatra, whose songs he has recorded with their full support and appreciation. The Sinatra family has long embraced Steve and his music. Together with Quincy Jones, they invited Steve to be the featured performer with the *Hollywood Bowl Orchestra* at the concert when *Frank Sinatra* was inducted into the *Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame*.

Steve was also delighted when he was invited to reprise the same performance at *Carnegie Hall*. This was one of the rare times the family had reached into the vault of original Sinatra arrangements to share them with another artist.

We have frequently seen him perform locally, much to the delight of our family and friends. I can always be sure of an online “hello” from him every November for my birthday. He has also built a following in Italy, having played several winter seasons in Tuscany, where his audiences travel far and wide to see him.

When Don Short passed away, Steve took over the annual residency at *The Carlyle* in New York for several years, where he was visited by numerous celebrities and their families. That impressive list included Bill and Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea, and George W. and Laura Bush and numerous celebrities.

King Charles III (then Prince Charles, Prince of Wales) even specially requested Steve and his band to perform at *Buckingham Palace*. They shared time together following the show which was a great memory.

I asked Steve for his input regarding the Beatles.

When did you first become aware of the Beatles?

It was in 1964 when I first heard “She Loves You.”

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

They’re all great, but Paul McCartney is my favourite all round Beatle. His songwriting and singing are amongst the best of my generation.

Have you met any of the Beatles?

I have met Paul in passing, I can’t recall exactly when. His stepmom, Angie, and step-sister Ruth have worked for me for many years.

Have you ever seen the Beatles perform live in concert?

I was given tickets to see them at their last US tour at Shea Stadium in 1966.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

“Yesterday” is my favourite Beatles song, but there are so many great ones it’s hard to pick just one.

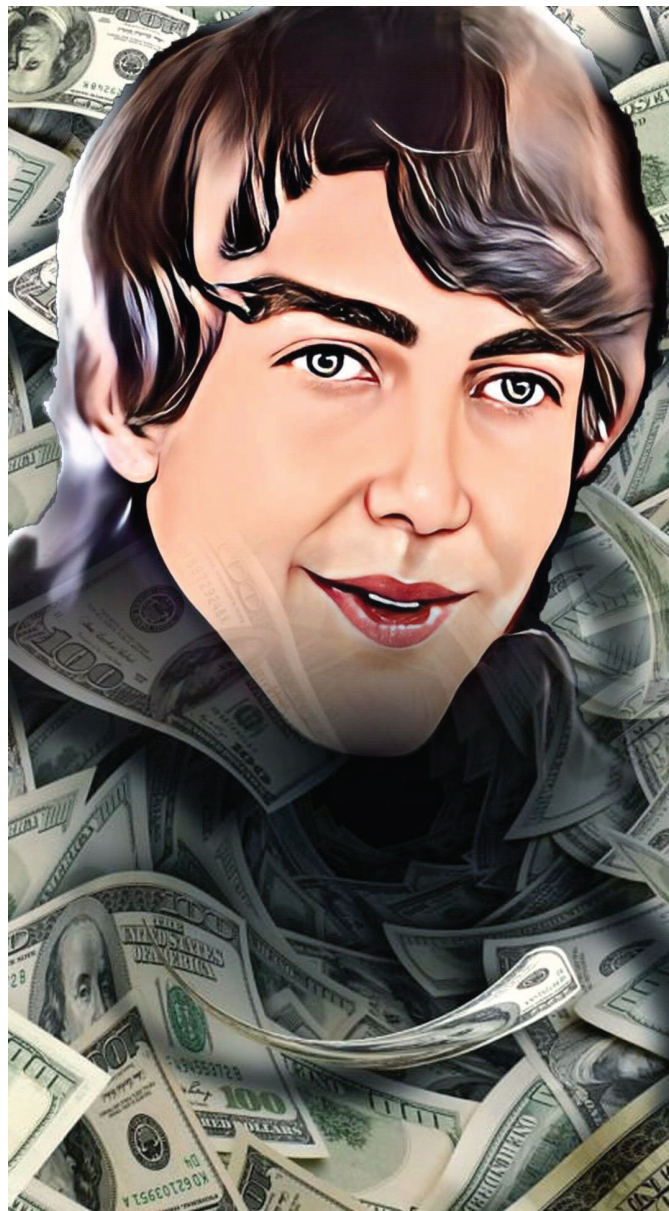
www.stevetyrell.com

The Right Honourable Tara Browne

Socialite Tara Browne was one of Mike and Paul's assorted friends, who, along with his wife, Noreen, spent the night at Rembrandt after a *Scaffold* gig in Liverpool.

The morning after I was preparing my usual mountain of scrambled eggs, bacon, Heinz baked beans, fried bread, etc. (no vegetarians or vegans in those days), when the doorbell rang. I found a telegraph boy on the doorstep who handed me a golden envelope addressed to: The Rt. Honourable Tara Browne. I laughed, thinking it was just one of their pranks and took it into the living room to give to our guest. I jokingly remarked about how it was addressed. Imagine my surprise when he said, "Oh yes, that would be me." Oops!

I raised my eyebrows at Mike, who nodded, confirming that it was indeed a Rt. Honourable guest who was about to sit at our kitchen table and join in our very working class breakfast. Tara was the heir to the *Guinness* fortune, and I couldn't quite believe that he was such an unassuming, well-mannered young man. His father was *Dominick Geoffrey Edward Browne, 4th Baron Oranmore and Browne, 2nd Baron Mereworth* (21 October 1901 – 7 August 2002), a British peer and legislator.



In conversation with his wife Noreen, I asked her if they had any children. She nonchalantly replied, “Yes, we have two boys, one is Dorian and ...” she trailed off and said to Tara, “What’s the other one’s name?” I promise you, it’s the truth. But hey, it was in “those days.” It was eventually confirmed that the other child’s name was Julian.

Tara was with Paul the night they rode their mopeds from Remmbrandt over to cousin Bette and Mike’s place in Bebington, resulting in Paul having a spill. He was visited by Dr. Pip Jones who stitched up his lip in the late evening hours.

Tara was killed in a car crash in London in December 1966. He was with his girlfriend, model Suki Poiter (who later dated Rolling Stone Brian Jones). Tara’s death inspired John Lennon to write “A Day in the Life.”

But we all know how this kind of information can be embellished, especially when it relates to somebody famous.

There was a long drawn custody battle for the upbringing of the boys, and I understand their grandmother finished up winning that one.

Just one of many interesting recollections of evenings at the casa.

The Speakmans

If you are from Britain, you will no doubt be familiar with psychotherapists Nik and Eva Speakman. They regularly appear on ITV morning shows and run events around the country to help people conquer their phobias.

Although I met them only a few years ago through an English relative, we really clicked. We had so much in common ranging from our shared sense of humour, to our outlook on life and work ethic. Oh, and, of course, a common love for *The Beatles*.

Whenever they come over to America, they spend as much time as possible with Ruth, Martin and me. We are almost joined at the hip.

Their daughter Olivia, (Liv) and son Hunter are the lucky offspring of loving and understanding parents. Their outlook on life and aspirations for their futures are an inspiration. If only all parents raised their children the same way, the world would be a much better place.



Our mutual interest in *The Beatles* came to light the first time they visited us and when I began to write this book. I asked Eva for her answers to my usual questions, which you will find at the end of this chapter.

They have worked together for over 20 years, successfully treating peoples' phobias, fears, eating disorders, PTSD, etc., including yours truly. They helped me with my fear of water a couple of years ago by a) talking to me about when and how it all began, then b) reasoning with me as to why I still carried this fear, and c) how to shed it. We finished up in the swimming pool of my next-door neighbour to verify the results of their success. I will be forever grateful to them.

They have published several books, which you can find on amazon.com and amazon.co.uk. They contain a wealth of information and tips to address many anxieties. They are incredibly funny, optimistic, good conversationalists, foodies and animal lovers. Our times together always leave us in a great frame of mind, having laughed our way through the entire session.

In her book, *Your Life Can Be Fantastic*, Eva writes about her young self, a successful real estate sales lady. Before she met Nik, her previous romantic connection had been with a young man who would sometimes beat her and constantly tell her she was "hopeless" and "not worth anything." This eventually became her belief and she was left without any self-confidence. Fortunately, she was still living at home with her parents.

Then after meeting Nik, her life changed and they were totally in tune. They lived together for five years before marrying. They were so loving that people used to describe them as "Paul and Linda." Many of her friends would say "I'm looking for a Nik." They married in Florida, on a beach that Nik had previously visited and which had been part of his dream for the future.

Eva had worked in a bar, wrestling with drinking too much, smoking a lot, and trying to keep up with the guys. After meeting Nik, her values changed. She stopped smoking, lost weight, and changed her eating and drinking habits.

Their lives turned around taking over a derelict church in England and starting a health club. They had both suffered much ill health in their childhood, and this change in their lives became permanent. It led them to their goal of becoming life coaches, which they successfully did.

Eva was born in Poland and when they first moved to England, she could not speak a lick of English. That in turn led to her being bullied at school.

Her attitude changed when *Margaret Thatcher* became England's first female *Prime Minister*. Eva realised that if Mrs. Thatcher, who was a grammar school girl at a time when women were downtrodden (and I can attest to that), could attain that position, ANYTHING was possible for women.

Another woman who influenced Eva was Mother Teresa, who became known to the world for her work in India, caring for the sick and dying. Another true inspiration. It's no wonder Eva has such a backbone.

Nik too was a sickly child and spent much time away from school. This resulted in him being bullied at school until one day, he decided to take matters into his own hands and fight back. The bullies finally gave in and left him alone.

His life began to change when he discovered Arnold Schwarzenegger, who became Nik's hero and whom Nik followed avidly through his rise as a bodybuilder, an actor and, finally, as Governor of California. Nik and Eva write of their setbacks only to show the reader that you can literally overcome anything, and that the past is history.

Whenever I am having a bit of a down day, I reach for my Speakmans' books, flick open at any page, and can always find something to pull me back to reality (if only they could teach me to hate chocolate).

They have recently filmed a UK reality show, which they did for charity. It began airing in April 2023. It is the most remarkable story and if I had not heard it from their lips, I would never have believed it. A real eye-opener, which included a trip to Liverpool. You will no doubt find it via Google or YouTube.

You can find them online at: nikandeva.com and on Facebook where each of them has a page.

Eva took time out of their busy schedule to answer a few questions.

Who is your favourite Beatle?

I didn't really have a favourite Beatle. I was introduced to the Beatles music in 1985 when I was 16 years of age, so it was their music I knew as opposed to them individually.

Have you ever seen them perform live?

Sadly no, as they had broken up many years before I became a fan of their music. A Beatles record, however, "Twist and Shout," would be my karaoke song of choice.

Have seen The Beatles perform live?

I haven't met any of The Beatles. However, back in 1986 after visiting all the Liverpool sites and The Cavern Club, I went on a mission to discover the grave of Stuart Sutcliffe. We visited his grave and left flowers.

What Influence Have The Beatles Had On You?

Before becoming a Beatles fan, I was only interested in modern pop music. However, The Beatles opened up my interest to all genres of music, past and present.

What Is Your Favourite Beatles Song?

Undoubtedly "Blackbird" is my absolute favourite Beatles song.

Val Camilletti

Val of *Val's Valhalla* in Oak Park, Chicago has been a thriving business for over fifty years. One of those lovely old places which soldiers on in the community spirit, and welcomes musicians who play in their storefront window to amuse the clients while they comb through the enormous range of vintage vinyls, frequented by retired rockers, faded flower children, tenacious tourists and curious collectors who spend hours wandering down memory lanes of music of all types.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Val Camilletti one rainy Saturday afternoon when we were in town to play a *Behind The Beatles* show in a local venue.

A visit to the bathroom in this venerable establishment is like a visit to a *Hollywood* museum, the main focus being on *Elvis*, who smiles down on you while you complete your ablutions.



Val, who passed away in July 2018 at the age of 78, was active until the end. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer, she decided to forego treatment and just to carry on living until she couldn't. She soldiered on for another two years and refused to give in to the illness.

She supported many causes, helping and guiding young gay people in the days when it was not so acceptable. She was an avid golfer, supporter of local charities, an animal activist, and was always on the hunt for old vinyl, resulting in the most amazing collection.

Val came to see our *Behind The Beatles* show at the Arcada Theatre Club in St. John's, and joined us backstage afterwards, where she was the life of the party.

In her youth, she worked for *CBS Records* in Chicago, and one of her tasks was to pick up four young musicians from Liverpool when they flew in. Because of the uproar they caused wherever they landed, the location was kept secret, and when she arrived at the first airport, she phoned her boss for the eta, and was told they had been diverted to another airfield, so off she trotted again. This turned out to be quite a night, and it was the wee small hours before she actually picked them up and took them to their hotel. John Lennon asked if she was coming to see their gig the following night, and her answer was a resounding "not on your life." John was quite taken aback, until he discovered that it was because she had no wish to sit in a packed stadium while little girls wet their panties, screamed, and drowned out the music. The boys found this one of the most novel reasons for missing a show that they had ever heard.

She did, however, have other opportunities to meet up with them and become one of their inner circle.

The locals would say that she was a walking encyclopaedia of music, from *The Beatles* to *Beethoven*, from *Stones* to Stravinsky, and from *Mozart* to *Marilyn Manson*. She loved to spend time with her customers, helping them find their favourites, and always having an anecdote to match their chosen records.

She introduced me to *Terri Hemmett*, who is known and loved by *Beatles* fans, many of whom had met Terri at Mark Lapidos' *Fest for Beatles Fans* events. A wonderful character and teller of tales, she never met anyone she didn't like.

Val will long be remembered in Oak Park. Her zest for life was infectious and I never saw her without a smile.

I have some footage of time we spent together when we filmed her for my project *Here's A Story* (a work in progress).

<https://valshallarecords.com>

Victor Spinetti

Victor Spinetti was a veteran actor whose career got a major boost by appearing in three Beatles' movies: *A Hard Day's Night*, *HELP!* and *The Magical Mystery Tour*.

He also had the honour of appearing in an Elvis Presley movie, *Double Trouble*, which was released in 1967.

The boys loved him. He was so professional, so funny, and could make the most ordinary line seem hysterical with just one look. It was always an uplifting time once he stepped foot on the set.

His stellar career started in radio and on stage. When The Beatles invited Victor to be in their first movie and he asked why, Ringo replied, "Because me Mum has a crush on you and she won't come to see the picture if you're not in it." That settled it. From then on, he was a fixture.



The last time I saw Victor was when we were on a panel, along with Louise Harrison, Pauline Sutcliffe, Gerry Marsden, Neil Innes and Ruth, at a *Fest for Beatles Fans*.

Something Neil said tickled Louise's funny bone, and she dissolved into fits of laughter, which in turn had us all with a fit of the giggles. You know, like you do in church, and the more they "shush" you, the harder you laugh. The poor moderator fought a losing battle when he tried to rein us in.

Victor was the kind of person, like Derek Taylor, who could read the obituaries and have you rolling on the floor.

He was born above a fish and chip shop in Cwm, South Wales. He rose to impressive heights in the acting profession, but remained a very private person to the end. His memory – and his timeless wit – will live on.

Victorspinetti.com

DeeJays

Pete Price

I first met Pete Price when our neighbour Gill Rowlands brought him to meet us at Rembrandt in the early 1960s. He was the compere at *The Shakespeare Theatre* in Liverpool.

He was wearing a full-length fox fur coat, platform-soled over-the-knee boots, a flamboyant frilly shirt, and a massive topaz ring. I thought Jim might do a double take but he was quite at ease with him, and found Pete quite interesting. One thing you could always rely on with Jim was his ability to adapt, keep an open mind, and embrace change. He was truly fond of Pete.

By degrees, Pete became a regular afternoon tea visitor, and would bring various celebrities who were appearing at “*The Shakey*” to meet “Paul McCartney’s father.” Yeah, I know. But you just got used to it. It certainly made for some interesting gatherings, ranging from The Mixtures to The New Seekers, to writers, to film-makers, etc. If only we had had the camera rolling in those days, we’d have been able to launch our own channel. Recently, I have become Facebook friends with Marty Kristian, formerly of The New Seekers, who lives in the South of England, close to Mick Flinn of The Mixtures. Two lovely Aussie chaps.



Pete's book, *Name Dropper*, is just that! He vows he has written another one to be published after he pops off. It will be about the men in his life. (This reminds me of Mae West, who used to say, "It's not the men in your life, it's the life in your men.")

Although Ruth was very young, she and Pete hit it off immediately. Their friendship is as strong as ever today. For some years Ruth did a spot on his Liverpool radio show until after a number of years, he apologetically let her know that the late-night spot was more suited for moi, as an elder, and she graciously handed the baton to me.

Pete's radio guests have ranged from law enforcement officers, journalists, politicians, socially aware people, and artists of every stripe. At one time, he had a phone-in segment, which resulted in some hilarious and some downright raunchy calls until it was decided by the powers that be at the radio station to rein them in and move to a more sedate pre-planned talk show, plus a quiet hour, playing music requested by listeners.

When I launched my first book *My Long and Winding Road* in 2013 at *The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall*, Pete was master of ceremonies at the two-night extravaganza.

Pete moved on from Radio City to a new Liverpool radio station a couple of years ago. It was called LiverpoolLive24/7. After two years there, he recently made another change to working with several TV and Radio news shows, plus several podcasts, which are currently attracting extensive followers.

He is also in demand to host many charitable and social events, not just in Liverpool, but around the globe. I am planning for him to be my guest once more on TEAFLIX Tuesdays as soon as his schedule permits.

Meantime, I see him frequently on various TV news programmes, and in his many charity appearances throughout the UK.

www.peteprice.com

He can also be seen discussing the news headlines on Sky News UK regularly. He usually announces it on his Facebook page in advance. Truly a legend in his own lunchbox. All we are saying is "Give Pete a Chance."

And on the subject of the Fabs, his comments are:

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

I first became aware of them as a teenager going to the YMCA Hoylake when I paid 2/6 pence to see them. I loved their rawness.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Pete Best.

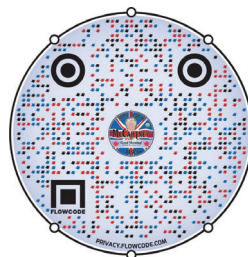
Have you met any of them?

All of them.

Do you have a favourite Beatles song?

"The Long and Winding Road."

Pete was on a very early iteration of Facebook Live's Teaflix Tuesday...scan to watch us catch up about the old days!



Richard Oliff

Richard Oliff is a prolific radio man, starting with the BBC to numerous other regional radio stations such as Radio Harborough, where I first met him.

I had watched an amusing act on English TV called Four Poofs and a Piano. I did a little research and discovered they were going to be guests on Richard's show.

I reached out to Richard, who promised to call me when they were on the air. However, due to some snafu, the group never reached the station that day. It was, however, the beginning of a long and fruitful friendship with Richard, who is a big Paul and McGear fan.



For a time, he and I had a weekly talk show called Dick's Domestics, where I would supply him with tips and tricks. I did this by scouring the newspapers and researching all sorts of topics, some serious, some silly, but mostly silly.

After a time, he moved to another area down south where he currently lives and works with his fiancée, Ros Argent, whose brother is Rod Argent of The Zombies.

Richard's achievements and adventures are far too numerous to list, but I urge you to look at his Wiki page. You'll be astonished at just how much this lovely man has done.

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Oliff-15>

Also attached at the end of this chapter is an audio piece with Paul talking about how he and Ruth "discovered" and reinvented "Golden Slumbers."

Richard has made the potentially famous mistake of telling us where he lives in the Bournemouth area of England, and extending us an open invitation to visit. Be careful what you wish for, Richard. You might open your front door one day and find three bedraggled politically weary folks fresh (or stale) from California.

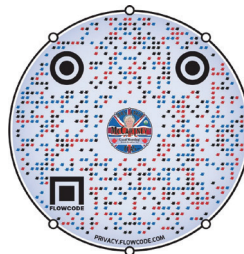
Last time we were all together was when he and Ros attended the launch of my first book *My Long and Winding Road* at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on January 31, 2013. But we chat frequently and the time just rolls away.

Mike's firstborn daughter, Benna, and his son Sonny have also been guests on Richard's show.

Sonny also helped Richard celebrate his 60th birthday in late 2022 by making him the subject of a photoshoot in London, when he met him at St. Pancras Station and photographed him around the city.

And he then took him to see his Uncle Paul at the O2 that evening. A pretty memorable birthday by the sound of it.

Also memorable is this interview he found where Paul talks about Ruth's role in Golden Slumbers becoming the only "cover" tune on Abbey Road. Scan the code to listen.



And...here are Richard's answers to my questionnaire:

When did you first become aware of the Beatles?

About 1963. My sister's boyfriend would come to our house armed with one or two records by this group called The Beatles. They'd play them incessantly on the Dansette record player. I was hooked at the age of 8!

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

John.

Have you ever seen the Beatles live in concert?

As the Beatles, No. However, a neighbour of ours had been to see them in concert in Northampton with his then-girlfriend. She'd asked him to go to Campbell Road Police station, where the boys were being protected, to see if he could get their autographs. They were signed from the back of a police van on a torn-out page from a book. When he returned to the theatre everyone had gone inside, complete with his girlfriend and their tickets. The following day I was in our garden with my mum and dad and he handed a piece of paper to me over the hedge.

Have you met any of the Beatles?

I have met Paul on two separate occasions. Once with Linda at a film premiere and at the UK premier of A Concert For George when he was with his heavily pregnant second wife, Heather. I've also interviewed Pete Best on my radio show.

Also, Benna McCartney, who is Mike's daughter. And Josh, Mike's photographer son.

What influence have the Beatles had on your life/career?

Immense. I've been broadcasting on British radio for over 30 years and, even today, when I hear or play a Beatles record, it conjures up almost every detail of my youth.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

My best friend Roy and I bought "Hey Jude" on its first day of release. Wow: that label and that song! We'd play it over and over ... wonderful memories. Sadly, Roy passed away in 1990, and "Hey Jude" was played at his funeral as the curtains closed. "I played the right song, didn't I, Rich? Did we get it right?" Roy's father had asked me. "Yes, Johnny, you did." I said, "It was his favourite song." So, yes, to this day, "Hey Jude" remains my favourite Beatles song.

Family

Amy Robbins

Amy Robbins is another talented daughter of Bette and Mike Robbins. Sister of Ted, Kate, Jane, and Emma. She has successfully pursued a career in acting, ranging from Shakespeare to soaps, to TV comedies, you name it, Amy has done it.

She is perhaps best known for her portrayal of Dr. Jill Whitehead in the Brit series, *The Royal*. Prior to that, she played Police Sergeant Rachel James in the BBC drama *Casualty*.

You can find some lovely clips of her on YouTube. She works with her real-life husband on TV, and really loves the whole setup. Whenever possible, she takes her kids to work with her, and it all works great. She is the spitting image of her mum, and I once heard her describe the Robbins family as the “Scouse Osmonds” or the “Scouse Partridge Family.” Needless to say, the sense of humour is built-in.



Her profile on IMDB.com will attest to the fact that she has appeared in literally dozens of movies, and possesses a terrific range of capabilities. She is very much in demand.

She has appeared in such TV series as *Emmerdale*, *EastEnders*, *Holby City*, *World's End*, *Where The Heart Is*, *Happiness*, *My Hero*, *Heartbeat*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *The Slammers*, *Doctors*, *People Like Us*, *Hollyoaks* and *Noah's Ark*.

And I believe that somewhere in the dim distant past, there was a show on TV filmed in Manchester which contained the entire Robbins family. Now why didn't THAT become as big as *The Kardashians*? (with real talent, and a lorra lorra laughs.)

It must be difficult not to be in show business when you are born into this amazing family. And they are all devoted to one another, not a trace of jealousy amongst them, only the desire to see their siblings do well. Their warmth and affection at family gatherings show this vividly.

Imagine one of them saying that they wanted to be an accountant or a plumber? They would be laughed out of the Brownies.

I have often thought that, in a perfect world, there should be a *Robbins Channel* on TV. They could cover the whole range from acting, to making people laugh, to composing and performing music (after all, didn't Kate once appear in *The Eurovision Song Contest*?), to sculpting, to painting, to baking. Who could ask for anything more?

Benna McCartney

Benna McCartney is the eldest child of Mike McGear McCartney and was Jim McCartney's first grandchild. It made him so happy to be a grandfather. Her biological mother, Angie (Fishwick) McCartney (yes, there were two of us), and Mike had the most unusual honeymoon, which included me and Ruth.

The original plan was for Jim to be with us on the trip. On the day of departure, Jim announced that my mum, (Edie), was on her way to stay with him. He had felt that his advancing arthritis made him uncomfortable flying, and he had decided to exclude himself from the trip. It was so like Jim to have kept up the pretense, (even packing a bag), until the last minute when I was unable to change the plans. Chris McNally, our friendly taxi driver, was almost at the front door when Jim broke the news. I was stunned.



And so off we went to Kandersteg in Austria to stay at the *Schloss Leonstein*. It was a charming little place up in the alps. To say that it was a somewhat unusual honeymoon is putting it mildly. I mean, who goes on honeymoon with their mother-in-law? But I guess Angie didn't have a say in the matter.

One immediate reaction was that it was the first time I had ever seen a duvet (outside of the movie *The Sound of Music* - does that count?). Delightful light, fluffy down-filled quilts covered us whilst we slept. Oh, and the smell of the morning coffee and pastries. There was nothing quite like it. The place was like something out of a fairytale. Even cows with bells round their necks and we saw and heard people yodeling and wearing dirndls. Ruth and I were truly two gawking tourists.

Our adventures during that trip included a trip to a reputedly haunted castle where we experienced the most horrendous thunder and lightning storm, made extra scary as Angie (McGear) and I were in the toilets when all the power went out.

But enough of the fun stuff. Suffice it to say that when Benna was born on December 22, 1968, she filled all of our hearts with love. I am always happy when she addresses me as her "Groovy Granny." I know I am only a step-granny but it's the nearest I ever got, and as I never knew any grandparents of my own, so at least I got a look-in.

Ruth's recollection is that Benna was the first baby she had ever held in her arms. She has always had a special affinity towards her since that memorable moment.

Benna's mum, Angie, and I got on like a house on fire. She was a great cook and hostess, and taught me the ropes in many ways. She had a fantastic sense of humour and we had some great times together.

Due to the vagaries of life over the ensuing years, we all became separated, and it was only a couple of years ago that we got in touch with Benna again via Facebook. She was planning a trip to California with Dave Manion, then her partner, and now her husband, his daughter, Em, and her son, Kya.

Ruth and I drove to Los Angeles Airport (without their knowledge), to await their arrival. We had a picnic basket in the back of the car to greet them, but their flight was so heavily delayed that by the time we finally greeted them, Ruth and I had consumed the vino, just to keep ourselves cheerful. But we saved them the chicken wings and some other tasty delights.

And what a reunion it was. They went off to their hotel in Santa Monica and joined us at the casa here in Playa del Rey the following day, where we really updated one another on what had happened (both fact and fiction) over the ensuing years.

Benna now lives in the South of England where she pursues her interest in music. She is quite the artist, singing and playing guitar, and also heading up an award-winning business, assisting people to improve their lives, make inroads into future careers, and generally improve their self-esteem and ambitions. She and Dave tied the knot on September 6, 2021, and were joined by both of their lovely kids. She has also contributed some tracks to one of Martin's albums, along with Ruth and me, making it a real family album.

You will find some wedding photographs on Benna's Facebook page.

Here is a quote from her promotional material relating to her business. This demonstrates what a wonderful, grounded young lady she is.

So why Life-Purpose Coaching?

To live your dreams. Whatever they are, I will help, encourage and inspire you until you are living them. Sometimes, we all need a helping hand to get to where we would truly like to be in life. My supportive, no-stone-unturned approach provides just that. As individuals, we have enormous power over ourselves and our lives, but sometimes we're not aware of it. Occasionally we give that power away. Yet you can control your life, you're in charge. You make the decisions. You can be fulfilled and happy. You deserve to be – we all do. You can allow yourself to 'feel the fear and do it anyway' (title of the well-known, wonderfully powerful book by Susan Jeffers) – knowing you will have support every step of the way

It's wonderful to be in regular contact, and we are hopeful that we can all be together again in the not-too-distant future, and you can see Benna on Facebook.

Breaking news: Benna and her singing partner Max have a date as my guests on TEAFLIX Tuesdays on December 5th 2023, to talk about their record release on 8th. Watch this space!

Bette and Mike Robbins

The Robbins family has played a large part in the second half of our lives. For starters, I was a widow with a four-year-old daughter, Ruth, struggling to keep my head above water and living in a one-bedroom flat in Kirby, outside of Liverpool. We had been evicted from the employer-owned house we had lived in when Eddie, my first husband, was killed in an auto accident in February 1962.

Things were pretty bleak in those days. The government earnings rule was five pounds weekly, and, if I earned more than that, a matching amount was deducted from my Widow's Pension. Ruth had had a kidney removed in May '64, and was a very fragile little person. Very quiet and loving. She is still very loving, but as for quiet - I mean, PULEEZE!

Then in mid-1964, my sister Joan was in a shop close to her home in Norris Green, Liverpool, when a man rushed in, asking for directions to *Broad Lane Cemetery*. He said he was late for a funeral. My sister spoke up, offering directions, and he interrupted her by saying, "Wait a minute ... Your name isn't Angela is it?" She told him "no" but that she had a sister of that name. She evidently sounded just like me. As he was in such a fluster because of being late and lost, he thrust a piece of paper at her with his telephone number, asking that I get in touch.

He was Mike Robbins, husband of Bette Robbins, my old friend from the *Butlin's Holiday Camp* days. We had lost touch for many years. I duly contacted Bette, who invited us to where she was living at her Aunty Milly's house in Bebington, across the water from Liverpool.



We organized it, and had a rare old get-together. Their daughter, Kate, was a similar age to Ruth, so, in no time, the two girls disappeared upstairs to get into the dressing-up box, lace curtains, feather boas, and all that fun stuff that kids love. I often think back to that day and wonder if Kate was the inspiration for Ruth wanting to get into the business of entertaining, as they have both continued down that path throughout their lives.

Anyway, unbeknownst to me, Bette had in mind to maybe play matchmaker between moi and her Uncle Jim. I barely remembered meeting him, his wife Mary, and their little boys, Paul and Michael, when they used to visit her many moons ago.

Of course, this all came to pass, and voila! On November 24, 1964, I became the second Mrs. Jim McCartney.

Bette and Mike met at *Butlins Holiday Camp* in Pwllheli, North Wales, which is where I met them too. Bette fell madly in love with Mike, and cried all over me on the train journey home at the end of our week's holiday.

Their association blossomed and eventually they were married. Bette (Liz), even worked at *Butlin's* later as a Tannoy announcer, (a bluecoat) for a time.

In addition to the talented Kate, they had a lovely son, Ted, also in the entertainment biz, where he still remains today. He does a variety of things from being a studio warm-up man in television, to acting jobs in movies and TV series, to radio shows, even including pantomime in Liverpool with our own Pete Price. He runs a radio show out of Northern Lancashire, where he is a very popular figure.

You will find a separate chapter about him. He also has a lovely daughter, Molly, who runs a business called *Molly's Cakes*.

Bette and Mike also had three more girls, Amy, Emma, and Jane (co-creator of the Brian Epstein statue in Liverpool). You can read about them in separate chapters.

Sadly, Bette and Mike are no longer with us, but their combined talents live on through their children and grandchildren.

Ruth told me that when she met Ricky Gervais at a *Golden Globes* event in Los Angeles. She was introduced as Paul McCartney's step-sister, instead of asking her the usual questions, his first question was: "If you are related to Molly Robbins, (Ted's daughter), can you get me a discount on one of her magnificent cakes?" That sure makes a change. And Molly's fame has crossed the pond now, too. We have recently seen her, together with her mum on some of the American Food Network's TV shows.

The talents of the Robbins family are unparalleled. Many more of them are to be found throughout this book.

Drake's Drum

Although Drake's Drum was not a person but a horse, he still had a face, one that I fondly remember. He was a birthday gift from Paul for his dad's 62nd birthday and was introduced to the family in an unusual way.

Following the London premiere of *A Hard Day's Night*, there was an after party at the *Dorchester Hotel*. As the clock struck midnight on July 7, it became Jim's birthday. Paul presented him with a flat brown paper parcel with a card tucked inside. It read: "Happy Birthday, Dad." Jim opened it, and found a painting of a horse. He looked up at Paul and said, "It's very nice son, thanks very much." Paul laughed and said, "It's not just a picture dad. I've bought you the bloody horse and it's running at Aintree in *The Hylton Plate*. *The Hylton Plate* was the race immediately before the famed *Grand National Steeplechase*.

This was an incredible thrill for Jim, who loved horses and horse racing. Even though he had never had the means, Jim loved to study form and watch racing on TV when his health prevented him getting out and about. Drakey had, up until then, been stabled in Yorkshire, with trainer Colonel Lyde.



After some discussion, Drake's Drum was finally moved to *Crossley's Stables* in Heswall, very close to our house. We visited him regularly at the stables less than two miles away. Jim would take Drakey carrots, and I would stand beside him. I was nervous, never having been that close to a horse before. I know now that an animal senses when someone is afraid of them, and will capitalize on that fact. I had a butcher boy brown suede cap and a matching coat, and I thought I was the bees knees in this outfit. But I vividly remember the day that Drakey leaned forward from his horse box and bit the button off my cap. I never did find it - he probably swallowed it - along with his carrots.

Due to the advancement of Jim's arthritis, these visits became fewer and fewer. Colin Crossley would exercise Drakey on the beach at Heswall. One day he suffered a sprain, (the horse not Colin), having stumbled in the damp sand. He was never fit enough to race after this incident. In due time, Paul suggested that we re-stable Drakey down south so that he and Linda could take care of him since it was beyond Jim's capability to visit him regularly.

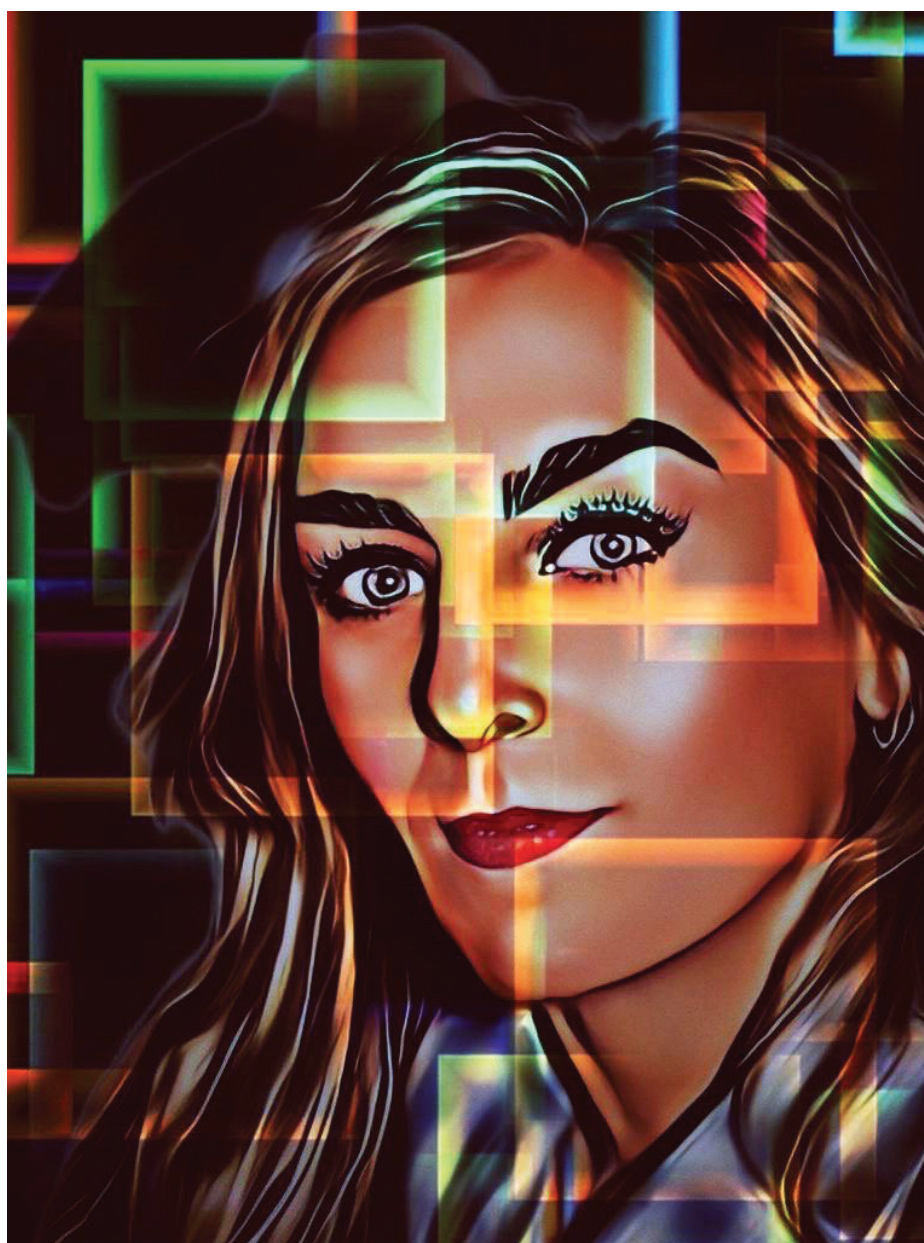
It was a sad day when we went to Crossley's Farm to watch him being loaded into a travelling horse box, to be moved to Surrey where he spent time until Paul and Linda decided to move him up to Scotland. He ended his days in the *Mull of Kintyre*. Paul's gift to his dad gave him such great joy.

Heather (See) McCartney

We first met young Heather McCartney when Paul and Linda brought her to stay with us at Rembrandt. It was our first meeting with his new wife and step-daughter.

She was a lively little girl, never still, always asking lots of questions, crazy about animals, and constantly drawing pictures of horses. She presented me with one, which read: "horses, horses, where would we be without horses?"

Heather and Ruth hit it off right away, and out came the dressing up trunk. The two of them were off upstairs to dress up and come downstairs wearing gowns to give us a fashion show and a little concert. It must have been a great relief to Linda, not only to meet her new in-laws, but to see her little daughter fitting into the family so well.



Paul and Linda were “horsey” people, and Paul wanted to know how they could go riding locally. Jim took them to meet Colin Crossley at our local stables where they had been taking care of Drake’s Drum since we brought him down from Yorkshire, where he had originally been stabled with Colonel Lyde.

Paul very generously offered to buy Ruth a pony. However, she was more of a dressing up kid than an outdoorsy one, particularly when she learned that it would be up to her to groom the pony, attend to its toiletry requirements. She declined with thanks.

Although the kids were so opposite in their main interests, their bond was immediate and indestructible.

Heather had obviously lived such a different life from Ruth. Linda, and her first husband, Melvyn See (Heather’s dad), had split up when Heather was just a baby. Linda’s pursuits as a photographer took her on many journeys. Soon after she met Paul and they decided to make a life together, Heather became a resident of England with a very different lifestyle.

They would stay with us on their way to and from the farm in Scotland. They always had a gaggle of animals in their wake, be it dogs, chickens, or whatever was the flavour of the month.

Linda’s style of parenting was very different from mine, which occasionally led to the odd raising of an eyebrow. We agreed to differ on that score.

After Jim died and our life took a different turn. I sadly did not have much contact with Linda. But years later when Ruth was in London with Ken Barker filming some locations, they briefly met Linda in the parking lot at Abbey Road Studios. Linda was very cordial with Ruth but had to cut their conversation short when Paul came out and was ready to leave.

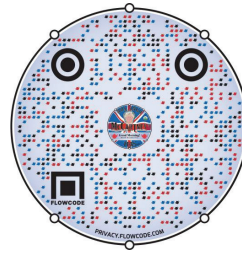
Heather has chosen to live her life out of the spotlight and for a time was seen in the media when she launched a line of ceramics that she had designed and created. I often think of Heather and hope that life is treating her right. She certainly deserves it.

Jane Robbins

Jane Robbins is another member of the all-singing, all-dancing Robbins family. She is a sculptress, whose most recent co-creation is a statue of Brian Epstein. It was unveiled in Liverpool on August 27, 2022, and is located on the Whitechapel site where the NEMS record store used to be. Jane worked with Andy Edwards on this long-awaited project and it is spectacular. If you're off to Liverpool any time soon, make sure you put it on your list.



Among her other works is a lovely statue of Linda McCartney. It's displayed on Hall Street in Campbeltown, Scotland, the garden created by friends of the late, lovely Linda, whose ashes are scattered nearby. Donated by Paul, it sits in a community garden within a sheltered space designed as part of *Burnet's 19th Century Scots Renaissance Building*. It's a quiet haven for rest and contemplation. Scan the code below to see all the results for this lovely image:



Also in the field of entertainment, Jane created a bust of the late beloved Ken Dodd. I have devoted an entire chapter to Sir Ken and his exploits in this book.

Nowadays, Jane heads up sculpture workshops at various educational establishments. She also runs playgroups for seniors in care homes and hospitals. And she regularly exhibits her work at galleries and holds summer sculpture showings throughout the UK.

She creates her resin casts at her studio in Cheshire, and her work is cast at Castle Foundry in North Wales.

She too favours her late mum, my dear friend Bette. Through Jane, I get to hold on to a small piece of the good ol' days. Thanks Cuz!

<https://janerobbinssculpture.co.uk/>

Louise Harrison, Sr.

Louise Harrison was a vibrant woman, full of fun, a love of life, and had a great affection for the fans. She would invite them in, feed them, send them away with souvenirs, and lots of great memories. They loved her in return. Her husband Harry preferred to remain in the background, although he too was hugely proud of George.

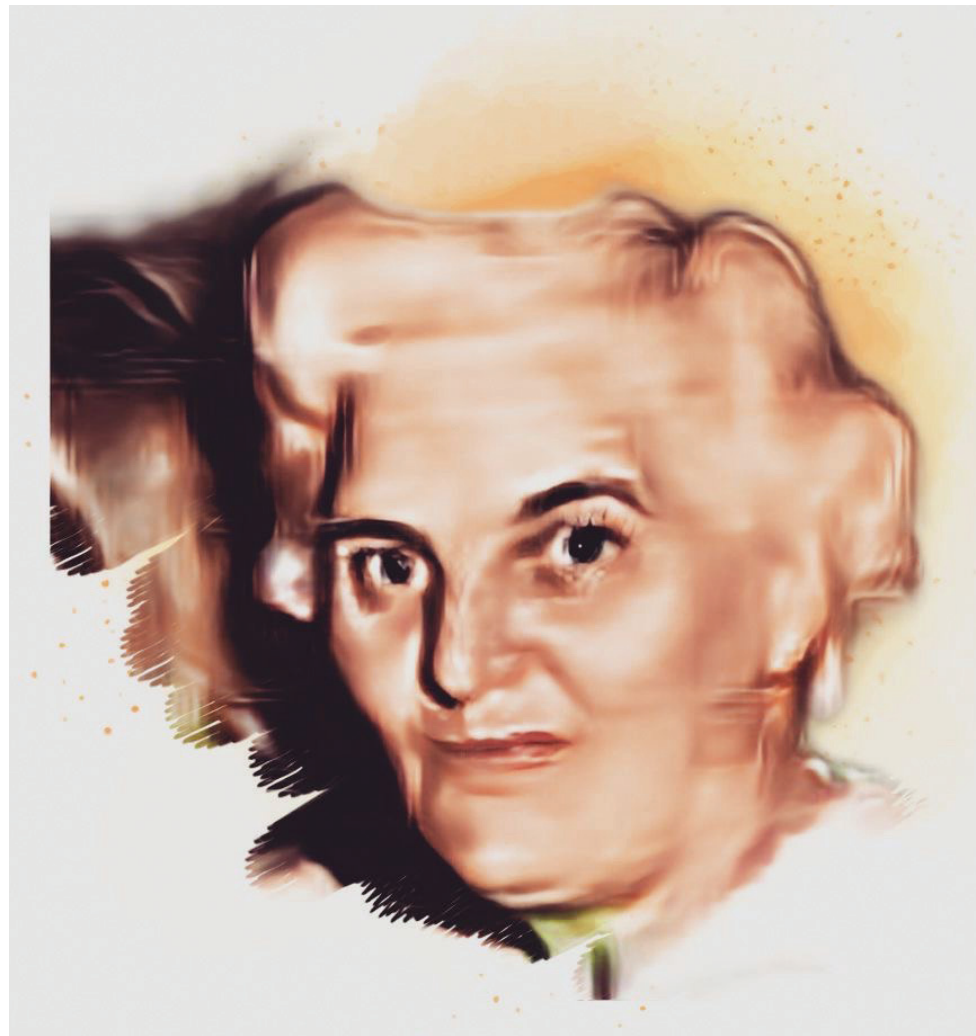
They would occasionally visit us at Rembrandt. Jim and Harry usually puttered around in the garden and the greenhouse, whilst Louise, Ruth and I would get in the kitchen and chinwag over copious amounts of tea.

George also became interested in the film business via his friend Eric Idle, and financially backed the Monty Python gang in a couple of movies. As time went by, his Production Company, *HandMaid Films*, expanded and produced numerous movies.

Louise didn't live long enough to witness many of George's other successes, including *The Travelling Wilburys*, but she went to her grave knowing how much the world loved her son and appreciated his musical genius.

Jim was not well enough to attend her funeral, but sent me as his representative. It was a small but reflective affair that included George and Patti Harrison.

A lovely lady, gone far too soon at the early age of 59. Her husband, Harry died a few years later of cancer.



Kate Robbins

Kate Robbins is the daughter of Bette and Mike Robbins, who introduced me to their uncle, Jim McCartney.

Kate has three sisters: Amy, Emma and Jane. She is also the sister of broadcaster Ted Robbins, all of whom I write about separately. She was married to musician Keith Attack, who had a very amicable divorce in 2008. Her daughter, Amy Attack, is a famous British actress. I guess it runs in the family (like wooden legs). Her daughter Martha is a PR guru, and her son George is a musician and TV researcher.

After my sister Joan's chance meeting with Mike Robbins in 1964, we all got in touch after many years. Ruth and I visited them in Bebington, where they were staying with Aunty Milly, (who was "Incredibly silly" according to Mike's *Lily The Pink*).

Kate and Ruth hit it off immediately and raced for the dressing-up box. It was all downhill from there.



Like Ruth, Kate attended *West Kirby Grammar School for Girls*, and sang in the choir. Both cousins participated in the *Llangollen Music Festival* one year, and Jim and I turned out to witness this epic event in the Valleys of North Wales.

Kate's early foray into the music business included working with Cilla Black, writing songs for her. They formed a great Scouse-related bond.

She went on to have an amazing career in music, film and television. You can find a list of her achievements on [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0442454/). There was even a reality show about the Robbins family. Move over Kardashians.

Kate frequently pops up on several of the social media platforms, charming us with her funnies, keeping us informed of her many forays into show business.

You will find many of her adventures on YouTube, you won't be disappointed.

[Katerobbins.com](https://www.katerobbins.com)

Ted Robbins

Ted Robbins has enjoyed a varied career in the entertainment business for a number of years. He has been a warm-up man on *BBC* and *Granada TV* for many entertainers, has completed a range of appearances as a stand-up comedian, recorded children's audiobooks, played parts in movies and commercials, has starred in Pantomime in Liverpool and other British cities. He continues to work extensively on many radio and TV projects. He is also one of the offspring of Bette and Mike Robbins, whom you will know by now.

Ted had a successful run in the popular TV series in England, *Phoenix Nights*. On opening night of the stage version of the show in Manchester, he suffered a heart attack. At first, the audience thought it was part of the script until they realized that this was no joke. He was successfully carted off to the hospital and thankfully, made a complete recovery. Talk about opening day jitters!

His daughter is also very creative and runs *Molly's Creative Cakes* up in Lancashire.



In more recent times, tragedy struck again when he was overcome by smoke inhalation. It happened when their house and Molly's studio facility were destroyed by fire.

With typical British stiff upper lippishness, he and Judy picked themselves and built it all back. Molly then took on separate shop premises, which you can see on Molly's Facebook page.

You can't keep a good man down.

Go Teddles! That's a good boy.

Musical Family

Billy Hatton

Billy Hatton was a lovely, funny guy. Good musician, great cook, dear friend, and someone that I miss very much. His band, The Fourmost, was part of the Brian Epstein stable for management and they were regulars at the Cavern Club. They were wonderful fellow Scousers, who were a big part of the Liverpool beat scene.

We met during the early days of my marriage to Jim McCartney, the halcyon Beatles days. Most of our happy times were spent over dinner, a few bevvies, a lot of jokes and yarn swapping.

Billy and Jim had a lot in common with their love of music, their sense of humour, and the odd recipe or two washed down with a drop of the hard stuff. The two of them used to get in the kitchen at Rembrandt and I was banned until it was time to do the dishes.



Billy had a great flair for comedy. When they played clubs in Liverpool like *The Wookie Hollow*, they did a number called “With These Hands.” Billy used a pair of false arms that kept extending and growing longer with every verse. It was hilarious.

He was so thrilled when *The Fourmost* eventually appeared at the *London Palladium*. It was a big moment for them.

When they no longer played together as a group, Billy transitioned, like working as a chef on a privately owned yacht. I wish I had kept the wonderful letters he wrote me from those trips.

Billy was one of the last people to see Jim alive when he visited us at our Beverly Drive bungalow in Heswall. Paul and Linda and the kids were there at the time too, and it was a bittersweet gathering.

The last time I saw Billy was when he joined us at the *Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall* for the launch of my first book, *My Long and Winding Road*, in January 2013. He and Martin sloped off to the Philharmonic Pub across the street a couple of times and had great fun together.

Fortunately, there are many video clips of him and the band on YouTube.ou can also see more of them by clicking the attached QR code. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7myQ2bOHEo>

Roag Best

Roag Best is the half-brother of Pete Best. One of the sons of Mona Best, he grew up in the famous *Casbah Coffee Club*, which is preparing to re-open as a bed and breakfast in Hayman's Green, West Derby, Liverpool. His father was Neil Aspinall.

Roag has been working tirelessly on this project, having completely refurbished the old property, bringing it up to date. With travel restrictions lifted from the COVID-19 lockdowns, he is optimistic about the future of this iconic property. Travelling fans are going to love the atmosphere. The original club still displays the paintings that the Beatles did in their early days. Mona insisted that they help decorate the place, as they were rehearsing their band there for free.

Cynthia Powell painted an outline of John's frame in the basement, which has been preserved and can still be viewed by visitors. Roag is also the head honcho of the famed Liverpool Beatles Museum on Mathew Street. It is a wonderful place covering five floors and has been designated as an English Heritage Grade II building.



You will want to spend hours examining all the wonderful artefacts on display, and there is an extensive gift shop too, where you can spend your little hearts out. Roag is around frequently, and always happy to chat and pose for photographs with visitors. Tell him I sent you! You will leave there with a mind full of memories.

Liverpool Beatles Museum



He is constantly adding new pieces to the museum and evidently has plenty more to be included when he has time. It is a firm favourite with tourists who delight in photographing so many treasures for their personal collections. Leave yourself plenty of time when you visit, as there is so much to see.

Roag and his half-brother Pete are very close and spend much time together. Pete continues to appear with his band, but family is a big part of his life, as is his extended Beatles family.

I am looking forward to my next trip to Liverpool and meandering through Roag's wonderful tribute to Liverpool's beloved sons.

Thanks Roag, for the great job you have done. You will be helping countless Beatles fans to cement their memories. Wishing you good health and the strength to keep going countless hours in your quest.

Warmest wishes.
Angie

Producers

Dale Penner

We first met award-winning producer/mixer/engineer Dale Penner via Barry Coffing, our old friend and business associate, who runs *WEGETMusic* and *MusicSupervisor.com*, along with the *Springboard Music Festivals*, based in Houston, TX. Dale hails from Canada but frequently ventures south of the border to attend various functions.

From Iconic Bands Like Loverboy and Nickelback to Tik-Tok Sensations SM6 and Audio Post Mixing and Sound Design for Indie Films, Dale is both a Juno Award Winner and Gospel Award Nominee and has spent his career working all aspects of the music business

Growing up in the small town (population less than 1,000) of Plum Coulee, Manitoba, Penner took piano and trumpet lessons (his mom was a piano teacher) but had a greater passion for the overall sounds of his favourite recordings, including those by Lucinda Williams and anything produced by Mutt Lange (AC/DC, Foreigner, Def Leppard). He hung around his friends who were in bands and frequently trekked the hour or so north to Winnipeg to see AC/DC, Rush and Heart, among others.



Others on his all-time favourite concert list now include Roger Waters and Bruno Mars. At 19, he got his first job in the audio world selling equipment for Western Sound, and when they went into receivership a year and a half later, he saved his ten months of unemployment insurance and went to study at the Recording Workshop in Chillicothe, Ohio.

After finishing the two-month program, he hightailed it out to Vancouver, where he did the proverbial “beating down the doors” at local studios and scored his first learn on the job gig at Mushroom Studios, where he had the chance to assist British engineer and record producer David Tickle. While still the low man on the totem pole there, Penner got a chance to assist on the Loverboy “Top Gun” track when the main engineer wasn’t able to come in one day.

After working at Mushroom for a number of years, he became a freelance engineer and producer, mostly working on sessions at Little Mountain Sound, where the legendary Bruce Fairbairn and Bob Rock helmed sessions for the likes of Aerosmith and Bon Jovi. Pre-Nickelback, he built his resume with the aforementioned Econoline Crush and the Matthew Good Band. Before setting up his Paradise Alley Productions in his home base of Winnipeg, he lived and worked in Toronto for seven years and travelled extensively in the States working with various artists.

“The aspect of my career that I’m most proud of is the way I have evolved and not only kept up with but embraced new technology to stay cutting edge in all my work both with artists and bands and in my TV and film projects,” says Penner. “I came up in an era where we were recording on tape and have now had my own Pro Tools rig in my studio for 20 years. I bring to every project a unique mix of experience and innovation and am fully in touch with the music being made now. Thanks to remote hookups, it’s also great to be able to work with artists anywhere in the world in real-time.

“The most gratifying thing is being able to work with and develop relationships with so many different artists over the years,” he adds. “Recording projects are not like widgets. You’re actually creating art that will hopefully touch and influence countless lives and endure. You’re getting together with groups of creatives and, without any preconceived notions, helping bring their incredible visions to life.”

In the late 90s, three years before the Alberta based band led by Chad Kroeger hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 with their breakthrough, decade-defining hit “How You Remind Me” and about a decade before Billboard declared them the most successful rock band of the 2000s, Penner produced The State, which laid the groundwork for Nickelback to become a six-time Grammy-nominated, 12 time Juno Award-winning artist – and one of Canada’s most commercially successful bands ever.

Originally released independently in 1998, The State achieved mainstream success once Penner and his management in Los Angeles shopped their agreement with the band to Roadrunner Records, which signed them for a re-release in 2000. Both the lead single “Leader of Men” and the third single “Breathe” hit the top ten on the Billboard Mainstream Rock chart.

“I kind of discovered them when they had a record out in Canada called Curb that had sold a few thousand copies,” says Penner, whose home base for years had been between Vancouver and Toronto. “Their manager sent me a demo of three songs, and I immediately saw great potential. Looking back, it’s reassuring to know that I had the insight to see something there. I knew they were going places. It was also very cool to be driving down the street hearing a song I produced and know that people were out there jamming to it. That kind of thing validates everything I’m doing.

“I’m grateful that Nickelback’s success opened the door for me to work with so many other amazing bands and artists, but more importantly I have great personal memories of working with and hanging out with them. So when they’re maligned for being too commercial or supposedly for every song sounding the same, I can look past that partly because I know how hard they worked to get where they are. I helped them raise the \$2000 or whatever they needed to do the video for ‘Leader of Men’ which took place in Chad’s house and featured a woman in a nurse’s uniform that we hired because she had done a fire breathing act at Burning Man.”

In addition to Nickelback, Penner’s worked over the years with several other mainstream pop household names, including Loverboy (his very first engineering session at Mushroom Studios in Vancouver, for their Top Gun soundtrack song and Top 15 hit “Heaven in Your Eyes”), k.d. lang and Michael McDonald. Back when he was engineering regularly, he also contributed to Jamie Walters/The Heights’ #1 hit “How Do You Talk to An Angel.” Over the years, even as he’s worked with countless artists in the U.S. and Europe, the producer has also racked up an impressive series of Juno Award-winning and nominated projects by top Canadian artists Holly McNarland (whose album *Stuff* also earned him P.M.I.A.’s Producer of the Year), Jonas & The Massive Attraction and Econoline Crush. He also produced the debut album of future Juno Award winners, alt-rockers the Matthew Good Band. Some of the U.S.-based musicians and bands he has worked with are Boston’s The Winefield (for Priority Records), The Red King (Sony Publishing), Pixies guitarist Joey Santiago and most recently, emerging Nashville

artist Darby Shaun and tracks for King Cole ft. Xavier Keyes and GEIST’s “Book of Shadows”, the 2nd in the music/video/multimedia trilogy by our own Martin Nethercutt and McCartney Studios in LA.

Here are his Q&As

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

When I was a young teenager, I heard “Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da.” I

Who is/was your favourite Beatle?

John Lennon.

Have you ever met any of The Beatles?

No.

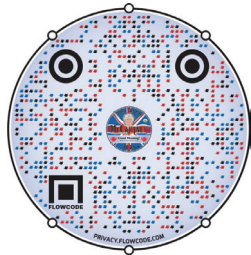
Have The Beatles influenced your career/life?

Yes, as a music producer I listen to them for creative ideas and inspiration. And when I’m having a tough day I put the top down on my Porsche and crank up “Helter Skelter.”

What is your favourite Beatles song?

That’s tough ... “Let it Be” and ”Hey Jude.”

Dale was also a guest on Teaflix Tuesdays, scan the code to watch.



Otto D'Agnolo

We have known award-winning music producer Otto D'Agnolo for many years. We originally worked together in Arizona when we did Beatles-related shows for Kerry Dunne and Reed Glick of R Entertainment.

On another occasion, Ruth worked alongside Otto when they were judges at the Phoenix heat of *American Idol* along with legends Glen Campbell and Sam Moore.

He recently was our guest on TEAFLIX Tuesdays when he brought us up to date with the many things he has been doing over the past few years.

Currently, he is mainly occupied as the creator of “The Recording Artist,” a new web-based venture which gives unsigned bands the opportunity to win time in a recording studio. Otto organizes and produces these bands live on the Internet and offers them guidance on many aspects of the music business.

<https://therecordingartist.com>



In the recent past, he has also had a very successful one-man stage show dedicated to John Lennon, which is different from other tribute shows in that he appears as himself, talks about some of John's creations, and gradually dons clothing, wigs, etc. He does this in full view of the audience, leading them through various aspects of John's life and career. A unique presentation.

<https://ottod.com>

He is also an accomplished songwriter, arranger, musician, vocalist and all round talented young man. And I think he may have one of those Dorian Gray pictures in the attic!

Give yourself a treat, check him out at the above links.

He wrote a very interesting book: *The Music Business is on Fire*, which is out of print right now, but you may strike lucky and find a used copy on EBay or one of the other second hand booksellers. Just Google away and see what turns up.

When did you first become aware of the Beatles?

I must have been nine or ten years old the first time I recall being really focused on The Beatles. WLS in Chicago was playing their music for hours at a time on a particular "Beatles Weekend." Being a Pisces with a natural predilection for swimming against the current, it was that weekend I decided that I wouldn't be a Beatles fan simply because everyone was. However, when I turned thirteen and was in the eighth grade, my godparents gave me my first LP. It was *Ram* by Paul McCartney. That record impacted my life in a number of ways, including setting me on a path to collecting all of The Beatles' albums starting at the beginning. A couple of years of allowance money later, my little brother and I had purchased every one of The Beatles' albums and we never stopped playing them.

Who was/is your favourite Beatle?

In the beginning it was Paul. He seemed to be a good kid, funny, cute, talented and a great screamer (Little Richard style). He probably represented everything I imagined myself to one day be. In my later teens, I began to find John more interesting and from then on I would say I no longer had a favourite. By the time I reached thirty years old, George Harrison became my favourite "post-Beatles style Beatle." His style of writing, playing and production struck a chord with me. He's the only member of the Beatles represented in my record collection by everything he released. I've got it all.

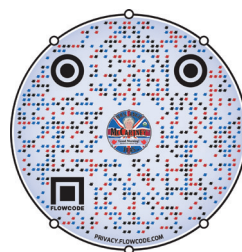
I have many friends who have met members of the Beatles, but the only Beatle I ever met was the fifth one – Billy Preston. Maybe that doesn't really count but that's as close as my life has brought me to meeting them personally.

Due to my love of Beatles' music, their look and vibe, I jumped at the chance to play guitar, join a band and gig out. It seemed like the only thing to do. I remember telling my mother that my life was over on my twentieth birthday. She asked me what I meant. I responded "My band is nowhere and by this age John Lennon had conquered the world!" She calmed me down and helped me reset my life's expectations. I went on to make a career as a recording engineer for the next 40 years, often referencing Beatles' records when I worked. In my fifties, I was approached by a music director who created shows for casinos. He had heard one of my records and saw my look and asked why I wasn't doing a John Lennon tribute show. To make a long story short, he put it together and I began playing casinos on and off for a number of years.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

Oh, I couldn't just choose one. "She Said, She Said", "Everybody's Got Something to Hide Except Me And My Monkey," and "Glass Onion." Really, there are so many favourites that it depends on my mood at the moment. What an incredible catalogue.

Watch Otto's Teaflix interview by scanning this code with your phone:



Support Team

Alf Bicknell

Alf Bicknell was The Beatles' chauffeur for most of their active days in the business. He really knew how to negotiate that limo when trouble was at hand, which was frequent. He dealt with hoards of fans who would rock the car from side to side, climb on the roof, on the bonnet, and even try to pry the doors open. And heaven help him if he left the trunk open for a few minutes whilst loading the luggage and gear. These little rascals would even try to hide in there.

I remember one occasion when The Beatles were being honored at a celebratory breakfast at The Dorchester Hotel in London. It was an event connected with the Dick James Publishing Company, and held around the Christmas holiday when many of the participants were suffering almighty hangovers.

Alf picked up Jim, Ruth, and me at our hotel, and already had on board the person who was to emcee the show. This guy was chit-chatting with little Ruth, and asked if she knew any jokes. Being the ham that she was, she trotted out one about a very rich Middle Eastern man who told the contractor to build him a fine mansion with a statue in every room.



He went off on his travels and came back for the unveiling. He was ceremoniously shown through the property, which had huge marble statues in every room. At the end of the tour when the builder asked if he was satisfied, he said that he was, but he just wondered why there were all these gargantuan statues. When the builder explained that this was what he had requested, he quickly came back with, “No, that’s not what I meant.” He put his hand up to his ear, and with a telephone-like gesture, said, “What I meant was that I wanted a, HELLO, STAT YOU?’ device in every room.”

Our companion thought this was hilarious. Anyway, when the proceedings got underway, and the emcee was introducing everyone, he decided to bring little Ruth into the picture. He asked her to stand up on her chair and tell the guests her joke. This she did and received a round of applause at the end. Not a very good joke, but from such a diminutive little soul, it was very well received. I often wonder if that’s what got her started.

Paul was not in very good form that morning and asked the waiter for cornflakes and milk. Everyone else was eating from a very upmarket menu, kedgerree, quail eggs, all sorts of fancy stuff. I can only imagine the comments the waiter made when he went to the kitchen to get Paul his bowl of cereal.

That was the day that I saw Alf Bicknell in action. Somehow, word of the Beatles’ presence at The Dorchester had got out and by the time the affair ended, there were hundreds of screaming fans in Park Lane. We made our exit via the kitchen but still they found us. Alf guided Ruth down to the floor of the car and threw a blanket over her. We were really scared when the hysterical crowd started rocking the car, but somehow Alf managed to get us out of there in one piece.

There was another narrow escape when they played the Hollywood Bowl in 1964. However, despite Alf’s considerable skill, they couldn’t make it so he brought the boys back to the outbuildings and hid them away below ground until he could organize an ambulance to get them out of there safely. Yes, it was not all beer and skittles being the driver for the Beatles. Although Alf seemed to love it, he was a real friend to the boys when it came to getting them out of tight spots.

The safety of his boys was paramount.

You can find him on YouTube.

www.alfbicknell.com

Dougie Millings

Although he originally hailed from Manchester, Dougie Millings was a celebrity tailor in London. Brian Epstein invited him to design the famous gray collarless suits, which became a landmark look when the boys first achieved worldwide fame. And when they went to Buckingham Palace, he made them morning suits for the occasion.

Dougie designed many other of their clothes and later branched out as tailor to many other celebrities. They included Tommy Steele, Tom Jones, Billy Fury, Rex Harrison, and Steve McQueen. Dougie was not without his Northern sense of humour said, “Keith Moon died in one of my suits. And he hadn’t even paid for it.” I wonder if he was buried in it?

His creations are valuable collectors items all around the world. And to think that when Brian Epstein first visited him, he had never heard of The Beatles. How times have changed. Brian asked him to create something different for them, and so the grey collarless jackets were born.



This style was later copied and is still, to this day, used by many of The Beatles' tribute bands. He enjoyed his time with the lads and even had a little cameo appearance in the movie *HELP!* *which* he treasured.

I was thrilled to visit his workshop when Mal Evans took Ruth and I there when on one of his many errands. Long after the grey collarless suits were retired he continued to make many more clothes for them, and Paul had him create some of the first Wings outfits when he started his after-Beatles band. And by that time, his fame had spread to many more influential show biz clients.

Sadly, Dougie left us in 2001. His son Gordon took over the family business. Gordon later retired but then got back into the business with another famous brand called Dashing Tweeds. The Millings name certainly broke the mould of the rather stodgy world of bespoke trailers.

Jack Oliver

Jack Oliver is a fellow Brit who has been involved with *The Beatles* since the early days. He now lives in the States where he has carved out a fascinating career in the world of music and theatre.

Jack began his career in the music industry at Chappell Music Publishing on Bond Street, London.

He originally joined *Apple Corps* in London in 1956 where he originally worked with Derek Taylor and eventually became head of Apple Records. During this time, he also managed Mary Hopkin who was being groomed by Paul.

After the demise of *The Beatles*, Jack formed a partnership with Peter Asher, and together they embarked on a variety of productions, including concerts and tours for a range of artists including The Eagles, James Taylor, Carole King, Cat Stevens and many others.

In 1994 he became personal advisor to *Academy Award* winner Nicolas Cage. He was involved in the management of Cage's production companies - *Saturn Productions* and *Saturn Films*. He worked on *Shadow of the Vampire* and *The Life of David Gale*. He continued in this position until 2001.

He then began writing and producing which keeps him busy at his California home base. His work ethic stands him in good stead. Being British, he has that streak of dedication and single mindedness that keeps him surging forward. You never quite know what he will introduce next.

We last chatted when we ran into one another in Los Angeles and took the opportunity to catch up on what had been happening over the ensuing time.

Jack, as ever, was up to eyes in several projects, and seemingly never having enough time to himself, but he seems to live by the old motto: "If you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life."



The Tributes

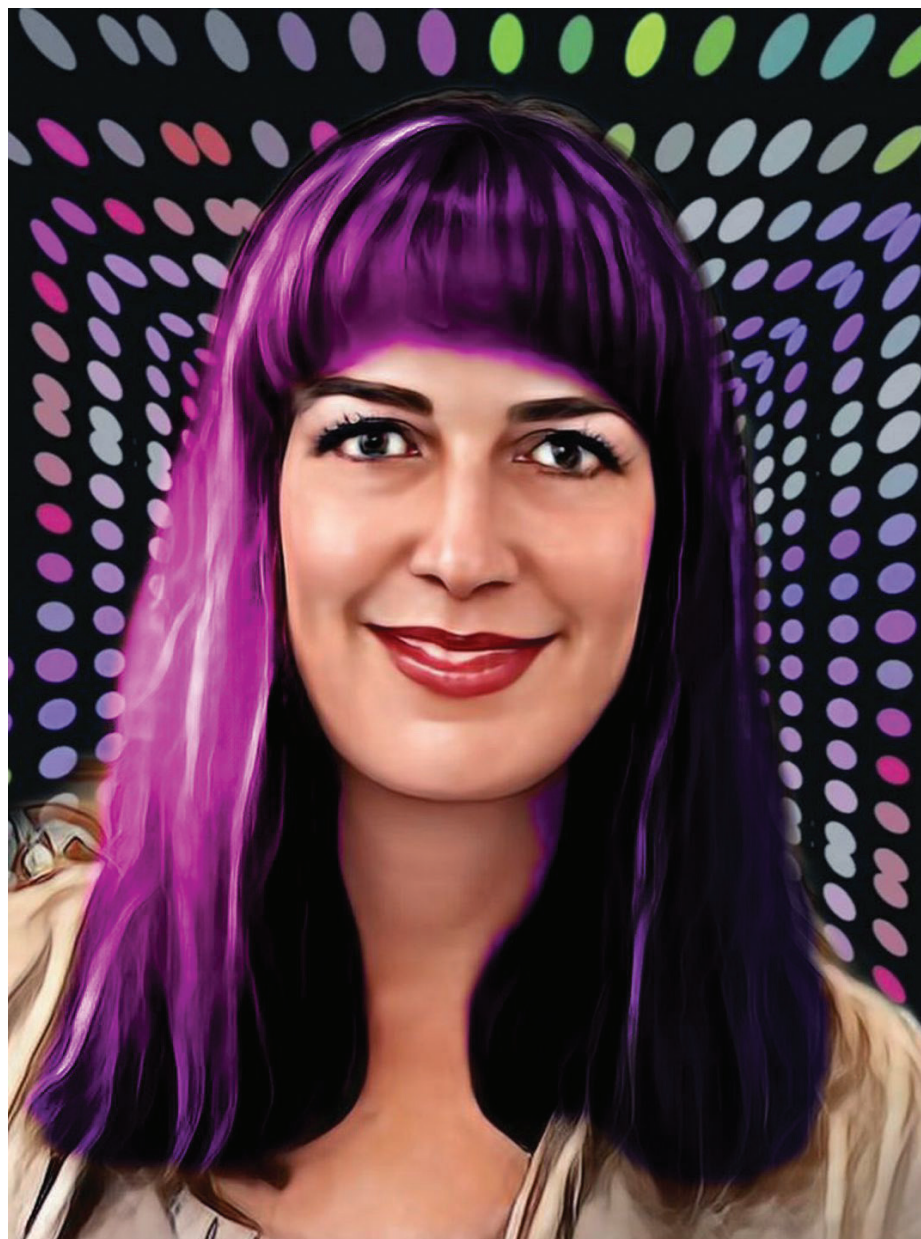
Camilla Deakin

Camilla Deakin heads *Lupus Films* in England. They created *Ethel & Ernest*, the animated movie which contained music by both Sir Paul and his father, Jim McCartney. It was produced by the late Roger Mainwood, and he and Camilla made us most welcome when we met at the *Palm Springs The International Film Festival*.

Writer Raymond Briggs created the story based on his childhood during *World War II* in London. It is a heartwarming story, simple, nostalgic, and gentle.

Paul was asked to write the music to go over the end credits, and when he went to the studios during production, he thought of a song his dad used to play when Paul was a kid and suggested that it might be suitable for inclusion. Paul's music, "*In the Blink of an Eye*" can be heard over the end credits of the movie.

Paul couldn't remember the middle eight, so he called Jim in England who played it to him over the phone, and he and Linda recorded it in a Nashville studio, along with Floyd Kramer and Chet Atkins. They titled it, "*Walking in the Park With Eloise*" and billed themselves as *The Country Hams*.



When Paul next came to visit his dad, he brought a publishing contract. Jim was so thrilled that at this late stage in his life he had become a published songwriter. A copy of that contract is one of my prized possessions.

During the making of *Ethel & Ernest*, there was a scene where Ethel and Ernest went on a date to a dance hall. At Paul's suggestion, his dad's song was played in the background. It was, of course, re-recorded for this purpose.

I learned from a Facebook friend that the movie was due to be screened at *The Palm Springs International Film Festival*, which we arranged to attend. It was very moving for me, not only to watch this delightful film, but to hear both father and son playing on the same soundtrack.

It had its debut at the *60th BFI Film Festival* in December 2017, and its US debut at the *NuArt Cinema in Santa Monica* in December 2017. We attended both.

It is regularly repeated by the *BBC* in England during the Christmas holidays.

www.ethelanderneest.com

www.lupusfilms.com

Camilla kindly answered some of our interview questions which you'll find below.

When did you first become aware of The Beatles?

Before I was born my mother and father went to see the Beatles play live at the Finsbury Park Astoria in London. This was in their early days before they broke America, in 1963.

Do you have a favourite Beatle?

Paul.

Did you ever see the Beatles live in concert? If yes, where and when?

I never saw the Beatles live but I have seen Paul McCartney live and he was fantastic.

Have you met any of them? If yes, whom and what was the story?

I have met Paul McCartney once. We asked if he would provide a song for our animated feature film *Ethel & Ernest*. Not only did he write a song for our film, *In The Blink of an Eye*, but he also allowed us to use a marvellous song by his father, James McCartney, called *Walking in the Park with Eloise*. We went to see Paul at his office in Soho Square to discuss the film. I was accompanied by the author of the book on which it was based, Raymond Briggs, and by the director Roger Mainwood. Paul and Raymond got on really well because they were both grammar school boys and also both their fathers had been auxiliary firemen during the second World War. Paul was extremely friendly and enthusiastic about our film and all of Raymond's books. He couldn't have been nicer!

What influence have they had on your life/career?

I have always loved the music of the Beatles as a fan. I am inspired that those ordinary guys from Liverpool went on to conquer the world and be the most successful band of all time, and that is incredibly inspiring.

What is your favourite Beatles song?

My favourite Beatles song is "Blackbird."

Joe Stefanelli

Joe Stefanelli has been a friend for many years. When we met, he was very active as John Lennon in the tribute band called *The Moptops*.

We went to see them at *The Sherlock Holmes Pub* in the San Fernando Valley. Ruth and I were absolutely taken with him because he seemed so real. We met up after the show and started a long friendship.

The Moptops were among the not so many Tribute bands then - now there are hundreds, some great, some not so much. And worldwide too, in many languages.

Joe really resembles John Lennon and without any plastic surgery. He has a great head of dark hair which he can style to match the various stages of John's over the years.



He got into the entertainment business by accident. A friend invited him to sit in on some music sessions with Duncan Faure, who had been the lead singer in *The Bay City Rollers*. Shortly after that, Duncan and Ian Mitchell, another alumnus of TBCR, decided to reincarnate a type of *Bay City Roller* tribute band and go on the road again. Originally, Duncan wanted Joe to play bass, although Joe was only experienced with an acoustic guitar. But it only took him two weeks of hard slog to get up to speed on bass, and off they went.

They enjoyed moderate success. Joe auditioned for various Beatles Tribute Bands in 1992 but didn't find anything that quite suited his ideas. So he decided to form his own group, *The Moptops*. They soon enjoyed huge success, and played such venues as *Candlestick Park* and *Dodger Stadium*.

The Moptops appeared in Arizona at the *Encanterra Festival*, along with Ruth, Martin, and I, performing in a "Behind The Beatles" evening, where they were a smash.

I remember Cynthia Lennon watching him and was moved to tears. She thought he was so like John.

When casting for the movie *Forrest Gump* was in progress, Joe was approached by director Robert Zemeckis to be the voice of John Lennon. If you haven't seen it, I recommend you find it online and listen out for Joe's voiceover performance.

Joe had me work with *The Moptops* as a vocal coach when they filmed a pilot at *The Elks Lodge* in Playa del Rey some time ago. I was pretty tough on them, but they appreciated the help. A real Scouse accent is not that easy to do.

After chatting with Joe recently, he sent me the following text which I will copy in its entirety as I know you will find it fascinating:

From Joe Stefanelli:

"I had just started the *Moptops Beatles Tribute Band* with my friend Tim McDougall in October of 1992. We acquired an agent, Jeff Patterson in the early part of 1993. *The Moptops'* star was rising at an incredible rate. By the summer of 1993 *The Moptops* were performing two to three times a week locally and beginning to perform at corporate events as well. Our notoriety was rising as well as our price tag. In July of '93 our agent got a call summoning me to a film audition at *Raleigh Studios* in Hollywood to portray John Lennon.

I had no idea what the film was or who was going to be in it. To me, this was just another audition that I was going on as an actor. I had been in SAG for a while and enjoyed some minor success as an actor in industrial short films. But this audition was the first one as a crossover to my Beatle career.

So naturally I went in as the young "Hard Day's Night" version of John Lennon. I didn't wear my Black 'Ed Sullivan' suit. I more or less dressed in an outfit reminiscent of what John wore in the film *HELP!* I remember arriving at Raleigh studios to find many of my Beatle colleagues there also trying out for the part.

There wasn't much to the audition really. They sat me in front of a camera and asked me to say specific lines in my English accent. I had already decided to arrive 'in character' so to speak, so I never dropped my accent the entire time I was there until the audition was over and they were finished with me. Apparently, I decided wisely.

In the following months I heard nothing from anyone about this audition and quite frankly, I forgot all about it. It wasn't until November of '93 that a call came into my agent informing him that I had indeed won the part of John Lennon. All hell broke loose at that point. I was getting calls from agents all over Hollywood wanting to represent me. My agent was also getting calls from Paramount about agents calling them claiming they represented me. All of a sudden everybody wanted me. Oh Brother! It was then I found out that Tom Hanks was starring in this film with Robert Zemeckis directing. This really blindsided me. I thought to myself ..."Wow...this is no industrial film."

I was then called down to the old Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard for a fitting. The Ambassador closed its doors in 1989 and Paramount was apparently using its rather large ballrooms as a wardrobe location. I was fitted in white slacks and a green army shirt. The exact outfit John Lennon was wearing at a television interview with Yoko Ono on the Dick Cavett show on May 11th, 1972. I was also provided with a copy of the script.

I still had no idea what this film was about. I remember sitting down and sincerely wanting to read every word of the script to make certain I understood what the film was about so that I would be fully prepared when I got to Paramount. I began to read the script and for some reason I just wasn't getting it. In fact, I fell asleep reading it. So, I just decided to concentrate on my part.

So now, my big shooting day arrives. December 8th 1993. That's right, the anniversary of John Lennon's demise. I couldn't help but think that it had to be more than just pure coincidence. My call time was 10:30 a.m. I was there at 10. It was a bright picture postcard of a sunny day in Hollywood. I remember crossing Gower Street towards a pre designated Paramount entrance, looking up and to my left I could see the Hollywood sign so clearly and I'm thinking "Is this actually happening to me?"

I arrived in one of the big Paramount studio "barns" (as I call them) and I saw the set for the Dick Cavett show perfectly recreated with three chairs, One chair for me, One for Tom Hanks, and one for Dick Cavett. At the moment, there were three strangers occupying those chairs who were our "stand ins" who were being used for lighting the scene. Just then I recognized my stand in. He was one of my Beatle colleagues, Joe Gallo. Apparently he too read for the Lennon part and got the job as my stand in. It was good to see him.

All of a sudden I was greeted by an assistant director who introduced me to a lady 'dialect coach' that they had assigned to me. My apologies, I can't remember their names. After the introductions were made, I was led over to the make-up trailer. As we were walking over, Robert Zemeckis popped out from behind one of the cameras and introduced himself very informally "Hi I'm Bob Zemeckis" I shook his hand and said to him. "Mr Zemeckis It's a pleasure to meet you and I'm thrilled to be here. I'm a big fan of your work. Thank you for having me." And he replied: "Nice to meet you too, Call me Bob. I'll see you in makeup" and he walked away.

I have to add that I was incredibly nervous the entire time just getting into that place and Bob's informality immediately helped me begin to relax. So I got into the make-up trailer where there were three barber style chairs lined up, one of which to my right was occupied by Dick Cavett. Dick looked up at me and held out his hand and said "Hi, Dick Cavett." I shook his hand and said "Joe Stefanelli, nice to meet you."

He did not have to tell me who he was even though he was older now, he still looked like himself and that voice of his was unmistakable since I had grown up watching his show during the seventies. I had told myself before the shooting day arrived to act like I belonged there and to not appear star struck. It was a bit overwhelming as one might imagine but I was doing a good job.

Before I could sit in one of the chairs, Tom Hanks walked in. Feeling more comfortable, this time I took the initiative. I introduced myself and held out my hand. "Joe Stefanelli". He said "Tom Hanks". I said "Yeah I think I've seen you before". Tom laughed and then said to me, "you look very familiar to me - have we ever worked together before?" I was really struck by this comment thinking to myself *he's got to be kidding me*. Apparently he was not kidding. I just replied, "No, I don't think we have."

Then we both sat down in the make-up chairs. Just the three of us, Tom Hanks, me in the middle and Dick Cavett to my right. The three of us talked together like we had known each other for years. Just three guys at work. We talked about football and sports in general while the make-up people worked on us. Then Zemeckis came in and was looking at my hair and made some suggestions of how he wanted me to look. I also showed him different John Lennon glasses that I used in my Beatles show and he picked out the ones he wanted.

They had also come in with this specific and apparently rare army patch that John Lennon was wearing I think under his left breast pocket of his army shirt. They had to send somebody to Riverside to get this patch and they paid nearly \$300 for it. I remember that they didn't want to sew it on, they merely attached it with safety pins.

So one by 1:00 p.m. we were done with make-up and wardrobe and we began to move on to the Dick Cavett set where I ran into Gary Sinese who was filming a flashback scene in a different section of the studio. I got to visit with him. He was very nice. Obviously, I didn't get to spend a lot of time with Gary since we didn't have any scenes together.

Finally - the big moment arrives. Dick Cavett, Tom Hanks, and I take our places on the set. Now I'm getting really nervous again. Because it hits me that I'm on stage opposite Tom Hanks and Dick Cavett acting in a major motion picture. What the hell am I doing here? I remember thinking to myself at that very moment "somebody's going to find out that I don't belong here and throw me out."

Just then, there's Zemeckis in his director's chair surrounded by thirty or forty people, light technicians, sound technicians, boom operators etc. all of whom were focused on the three of us. Tom, Dick and Joe. (No sign of Harry!).

All of a sudden somebody yells “QUIET!”....”SPEED”.... a guy runs in front of the camera lens with a clapper board..”DICK CAVETT....TAKE ONE” Then Zemeckis says. “AND...ACTION!

I absolutely froze with fear inside myself but I didn’t let it show. Dick Cavett began with his introduction of Forrest Gump, and away we go. Now you have to remember that I did not understand what this movie was about and I was utterly unprepared for the goofy character that is Forrest Gump. So when Tom Hanks went into his line “Well in China ...they ain’t got nothing at all.” I almost laughed right in Tom’s face. But I didn’t. I said all my lines correctly and we got to the end of the scene. I remember, It seemed like an eternity to me while I was waiting to hear Zemeckis, or anybody else for that matter, yell “CUT!”.

Zemeckis finally yelled “cut”. And the whole crew busted out laughing including Tom Hanks who yelled “This is the stupidest scene that I’ve ever heard of.” Boy, did I breathe a big sigh of relief. That first take was the hardest. We began running the scene a few more times and it got a lot easier and a lot more creative because we all started to relax and have some fun with it. Zemeckis really let us just act. I even felt comfortable enough to throw in a few ad libs.

I was very conscious of the fact that Zemeckis wasn’t really directing me or telling me anything so I took that as a good sign that I was doing it right... I would occasionally look over at my dialect coach because she wasn’t telling me anything either. She would just give me the thumbs up. So...Okay.

At one point between takes I mentioned to Tom that today was the anniversary day that John Lennon was killed. Tom told Dick then told Bob and word circulated through the cast and crew. Everybody got real quiet and thoughtful.

After a few more takes, to my surprise Zemeckis came over to my chair and said that he didn’t feel the scene was working as well as it could, and did I have any suggestions? Did “I” have any suggestions? I couldn’t believe it. Well I was more than happy to oblige him.

I’m very proud to say that “Bob” used my suggestions and one of my variations is what ended up in the final cut of the film, including my ad libs.

It took three days to shoot this scene. They were beginning to work with green screen and blue screen special effects compositing. Zemeckis wasn’t sure whether or not he was going to go with impersonators or all blue/green screen special effects to resurrect people of history.

Tom ,Dick and I worked together for 3 days and we actually got to be quite friendly. We would all have lunches and dinners together and Tom even invited me into his trailer one day for a drink. His trailer was a hell of a lot nicer than mine of course. Everybody was very nice and very pleasant to work with.

In the end though, after all the fuss about my hair, my wardrobe and the \$300 army patch, it would all be for naught. For it would only be my voice that would make it to the film. I only wish I had some of the footage where I was actually there.

However, I was invited to the preview of Forrest Gump at the Directors Guild in Hollywood, and I ran into my dialect coach there and she made it a point to tell me that of all the impersonators that they hired, I was the only one that made it into the film and that Bob really loved what I did.

That was very nice indeed to hear.

Thanks Joe! What a great ‘behind the scenes’ story!

Angie

And in the end ...

I hope you enjoyed There Are Faces I Remember. I had so much fun wandering down memory lane and I trust you discovered some of your favorites. And the ties that bind us all are The Beatles and their humour, their music, and for making Liverpool and all its wonderful scousers such a warm place to visit and to share memories.

And when the the dust settles, I will make a donation to the Linda McCartney Breast Cancer Centre in Liverpool. Remember, you will have made that possible.

Ruth, Martin and I have worked together to make this book enjoyable (we hope) and fun for young and old – from wrinklies to wokeys!

Warmly,
Angie



Angie McCartney
♥ for MC

