

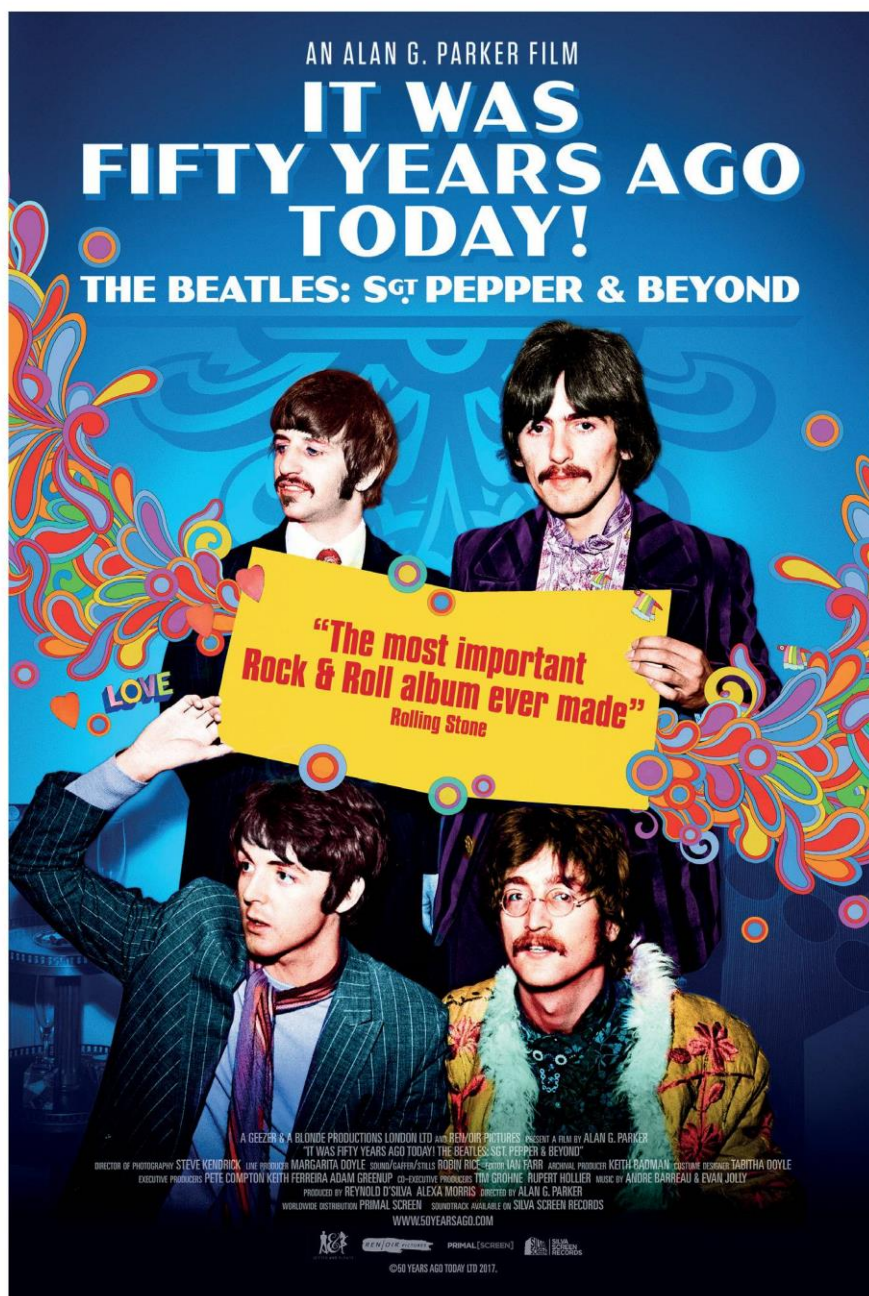


REN/OIR PICTURES

A GEEZER & A BLONDE and REN/OIR PICTURES production

IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY! THE BEATLES: SGT PEPPER & BEYOND

From the Emmy nominated director of MONTY PYTHON: ALMOST THE TRUTH
A FILM BY ALAN G. PARKER



RUNTIME : 114 MINUTES

For all interviews, assets and info please contact:
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SYNOPSIS

On 1st June, 1967 The Beatles released their ground-breaking studio album, SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND. Described by Rolling Stone magazine as "The most important rock & roll album ever made...", it left an indelible mark on the 60s and went on to become one of the biggest selling records of all time.

IT WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY! THE BEATLES: SGT. PEPPER & BEYOND examines the twelve months (Aug 1966-Aug 1967) that would arguably be the most crucial in the band's career, a year in which they stopped being the world's number one touring band and instead became the world's most innovative recording artists, pushing the boundaries of what could be achieved in the studio.

Unable to hear themselves perform and mired by controversy, the band decided to stop touring in August 1966. What followed was a period of extreme creativity and rebirth during which they embraced Swinging London, the 'avant garde', LSD and the advent of the Summer Of Love. The result was the creation of their new alter ego, Sgt. Pepper, with the desire to create a pop music first, the concept album.

A devoted fan since the age of nine, the film's director Alan G. Parker has set out to explore this period by filming interviews with former employees, fellow musicians, family member and journalists, all of whom were there at the time. These stories are in turn supported by a vast array of impressive archival footage, much of it not seen since first transmission.

The result is a detailed examination of why the band stopped touring, how the album was conceived and its recording at EMI's Abbey Road Studios, its lyrics, the creation of its sleeve and finally its release. All this is set against a background of the band's changing relationship with their manager, Brian Epstein and the tragedy of his death, the creation of Apple and the powerful influence of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The Beatles aren't a rock n' roll band, they are a force of nature, and they've been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember! – I've wanted to make this film since I was 9 years old!!!"

DIRECTOR – Alan G. Parker

Alan G Parker started out his career in the music industry at the age of 20, following a few years as a band manager/promoter in a remote part of Lancashire! He moved to London in 1985 where over a period of almost 20 years he was, at one time or another, a press officer, a writer (18 books published to date) and the project co-ordinator in back catalogue at EMI Records, working with artists like; Stiff Little

Fingers, Buzzcocks, The Stranglers, Sex Pistols, Slade, The Ramones, Blondie, Big Country, The Alarm, The Who, Whitesnake, UFO, The Mighty Wah!, Spear of Destiny/Theatre of Hate, Terrorvision, The Almighty, Monty Python, The Carry On Team, UFO, Saxon, Whitesnake & The Jam.

During his later years at the label Parker also became a staff member at ICE magazine with his own column 'The Gimmick' while also contributing to other 'lads' magazines.

In 2001 he travelled to New York with Director Don Letts and Producer Martin Baker (son of actor Stanley), while on US soil they witnessed 9/11 first hand, made a documentary about the NYC underground scene and Parker made some big career choices. Upon returning to London he left EMI behind and joined forces with both Letts and Baker as a researcher the three of them completed two more full length documentary movies including the critically acclaimed 'All Mod Cons: The Jam' (Universal Music) via a company they jointly owned named Diamond Films Ltd. Parker directed his first feature length documentary 'Never Mind the Sex Pistols' for 2 Entertain/BBC 3 in 2005. Since then his critically acclaimed and hugely successful 'Who Killed Nancy' (Soda Pictures) saw him carry off the BBC Radio 6 best new Director of 2009. 'Rebel Truce: The Story of The Clash' (Eagle Entertainment) was named best documentary of 2007 by Time Out magazine. While his next cinema release 'Monty Python: Almost the Truth' (Eagle Rock Entertainment/IFC) saw him nominated Stateside for an Emmy. 'Hello Quo: The Official Status Quo Story' was his third film for the big screen and opened in the UK in October 2012. He is one half of the company A Geezer & A Blonde Productions London Ltd, along with Producer Alexa Morris.

INTERVIEWEES

Pete Best

Known to his female fans as 'mean, moody and magnificent', Pete took the drum seat for The Beatles in August 1960 at the request of Paul McCartney. For the next two years he endured the struggle for the band to find success, living in rough conditions for their stints playing in Hamburg and their constant set-backs in trying to get a recording contract. In circumstances that have never been fully explained Pete was sacked from the group in August 1962 on the verge of their major breakthrough. In the film he reveals his secret connection with the Sgt. Pepper album.

Tony Bramwell

Liverpudlian Tony is integral to the Beatles story. He grew up with the band and went on to work with Brian Epstein at NEMS and then graduated to head Apple Films then later becoming CEO of Apple Records. His memoir Magical Mystery Tours – My Life With The Beatles is one of the most popular books amongst fans and followers of the band. Paul McCartney is on record as saying, "If you want to know anything about

the Beatles ask Tony Bramwell, he remembers more than I do". Tony gives a surprising account in the film about what the recording sessions for Sgt. Pepper were really like.

Hunter Davies

The prolific Sunday Times journalist, author and broadcaster is the only authorised biographer of The Beatles. With unlimited access to the group throughout the period which the film covers he is a fund of delightful first hand stories not least about the situation when a Beatle discovers he has no money to pay a restaurant bill.

Simon Napier-Bell

Author and rock manager though sometimes also composer, record producer, film maker and public speaker. Co-writer of Dusty Springfield's number one smash You Don't Have To Say You Love Me he has also managed The Yardbirds, Ultravox, T-Rex, Japan, Asia, Candi Staton and Wham! Simon was very much at the epicentre of the music business in the summer of 1967 and provides extensive background to Brian Epstein's sad decline and subsequent death.

Ray Connolly

The journalist , author and screenwriter had major success in the 1970s with his two hit films, That'll Be The Day and Stardust, which captured perfectly the rise and downfall of a pop star. Unlike most Beatle writers he was heavily involved with the group in the studio years and recorded many interviews with them. He provides an in-depth fascinating eye-witness account of the period

Bill Harry

In 1958 Bill was a fellow student alongside his friend John Lennon at Liverpool College Of Art alongside Paul McCartney and George Harrison who attended the Liverpool Institute in the same building. He became a pivotal figure in the cities' music scene in 1961 when he launched the Mersey Beat newspaper. He is the author of numerous books about the group.

Philip Norman

Having interviewed the group many times throughout the 1960s, the author and journalist provides first-hand accounts of their incredible story. Published in 1981, his ground-breaking biography *Shout!* gave for the first time intimate and revealing details of The Beatles story and has been followed by a succession of definitive books about music stars with acclaimed individual biographies of both John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Julia Baird

Julia is the younger half-sister of John Lennon, the eldest daughter of John's mother Julia Lennon and John 'Bobby' Albert Dykins. A tenacious guardian regarding the truth of her brother's early life, her book, *Imagine This*, set the record straight on many unknown areas of her family's extraordinary story.

Steve Turner

A wide-ranging author of books on popular music, his 1994 tome, *A Hard Day's Write: The Stories Behind Every Beatles Song* is an immaculately researched background to one of the greatest musical catalogues of the 20th century. His recently published *Beatles '66: The Revolutionary Year* has been widely praised and in the film he provides an illuminating overview of the events leading up to Sgt. Pepper.

Freda Kelly

One of the most loyal employees of The Beatles, Freda was the group's fan club secretary for a period of 11 years from 1962. Her modesty and discreetness was highly valued by the group and unlike many others she has never set out to profit from her insider knowledge.

Barbara O'Donnell

Barbara was at the centremost of The Beatle world as a secretary to Brian Epstein and later working for Apple. This is her first ever interview about her life at this time and she contributes one of the most revealing anecdotes in the film.

Steve Diggle

Formed in 1976, the Buzzcocks were at the forefront of the UK punk rock scene and last year celebrated their 40th anniversary with a major tour. Guitarist Steve has been a Beatles' fan since the age of seven and has vivid memories of the 1960s and the evolution of their music.

Jenny Boyd

As the sister-in-law of George Harrison, her sibling Pattie having married him in 1966, Jenny was closely involved with the group during the period. A successful model, she embraced a spiritual awakening and travelled with the Beatles to India to learn from the Maharishi. Whilst there Donovan wrote his everlasting song tribute to her, the sixties anthem, Jennifer Juniper.

Tony Crane & Billy Kinsley (The Merseybeats)

In 2017 The Merseybeats celebrate 56 years together since their formation making them one of the longest running bands in pop music history. Regulars at the Cavern Club in Liverpool with the Beatles they achieved a string of top 40 hits in 1964 and 1965.

Andy Peebles

Beginning his career as a club DJ, Andy joined Radio 1 in the 1970s and was a regular presenter of Top Of The Pops. His interview with John Lennon in December 1980, two days before his death was one of the last conducted by the former Beatle.

PRODUCER – Reynold D'Silva

Reynold D'Silva is the founder of Silva Screen Music Group, an independent British company which counts Silva Screen Records, one of the world's leading film music labels, as its flagship asset, releasing over 600 film soundtracks in its thirty year history. The label portfolio includes SO Recordings and Silva Classics.

The company has created a unique catalogue of award-winning recordings of the greatest hits of film and television which are marketed worldwide through various media and have been heard in many adverts across the globe for brands such as Nike, Burger King, HSBC and Bulgari amongst others.

An avid music fan and lapsed bass player, D'Silva has forty years of across the board music industry experience. He is a shareholder, and or, director of several international music related companies in the UK, USA, France and India ranging from recorded music and publishing, artist discovery, artist management / agency, royalty software and live events.

Ren/oir Pictures is his latest venture producing Fifty Years Ago Today! – The Beatles: Sgt Pepper & Beyond and is an Executive Producer on General Magic - a film about a company that has been described as the most important company to come out of Silicon Valley no one has heard about! In pre-production is The Ultimate Rock Pad, the story of the apartment at 34 Montagu Square, central London, whose occupants in the 1960s included Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon and Yoko Ono and where classic songs such as, "Eleanor Rigby", "Tomorrow Never Knows", "Don't Let Me down", "I've Got A Feeling", "Oh My Love", "The Wind Cries Mary" and "Purple Haze" are associated with.

PRODUCER – Alexa Morris

Alexa Morris is an outstanding film producer based in London, United Kingdom. Alexa first came to the attention of Alan G Parker in the summer of 2008 having been brought on board by recommendation of acclaimed film producer Martin Baker (son of Bafta award winning actor Sir Stanley Baker) to oversee the licensing on the movie Monty Python Almost the truth. Miss Morris' lateral thinking and pragmatic approach have made her a reliable go to source for leading industry individuals. Her specialities include international PDV offsets and tax credits to ensure every production she undertakes utilises all of it's resources making projects extremely viable and attractive for investors.

In 2010 she co-founded A Geezer & A Blonde Productions with Alan G Parker. Collectively they have successfully established themselves within the industry, with a library of financially successful films, which have also received critical acclaim and excellent reviews. While managing to maintain their independence with view to future plans of expanding the A Geezer & A Blonde brand into a studio they have managed to cultivate excellent relationships with some of Hollywood's best known studios and TV networks as well as popular online streaming services for distribution.

COMPOSERS

The lavish score featured in the film was composed by Andre Barreau (Sliding Doors, Dangerous Parking and Evan Jolly (co-composer The Crown/Hacksaw Ridge) and recorded in both London and Prague utilising The City Of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra.

ARCHIVAL PRODUCER – Keith Badman

Keith Badman is a FOCAL International Award-Nominated Archive Footage Researcher, as well as an author, historian and journalist. A long-time columnist for Record Collector magazine, he has assisted in archive searches for DVD, Blu-ray & TV releases by the Rock Gods, The Beatles and Queen (the last being, The Great Pretender, the official 2012 documentary on the group's lead singer, Freddie Mercury).

Enlisted for archive assistance by BBC, Channel 4, Granada ITV and Yorkshire ITV in the UK and Rhino, Delilah and VH-1 in America, he is also responsible (or partly so) for twelve music books; the subjects of these ranges from The Beatles and Rolling Stones to the Small Faces and Cavern club. His definitive, 2004 book on America's legendary Beach Boys was even endorsed by the band's illustrious leader, Brian Wilson.

What was his last major literary case, you ask? The mysterious death of screen legend, Marilyn Monroe is your answer. For many years he hunted down and studied practically every piece of surviving information about her demise. The result? He was finally able to unequivocally answer the five-decade old question of how exactly the actress died.

Self-employed in the publishing / music / entertainment industry for over two decades now, Keith has built a strong reputation on his incisive, in-depth, ground-breaking research. If you're looking for that elusive lost film or trying to solve a baffling entertainment-related mystery, he is your man. He didn't obtain the "Columbo of the entertainment world" tag for nothing, you know!

CREDITS

Cast:

John Lennon
Paul McCartney
George Harrison
Ringo Starr
Brian Epstein
Pete Best
Tony Bramwell
Hunter Davies
Simon Napier-Bell
Ray Connolly
Bill Harry
Philip Norman

Julia Baird
Steve Turner
Freda Kelly
Barbara O'Donnell
Steve Diggle
Jenny Boyd
Tony Crane & Billy Kinsley (The Merseybeats)
Andy Peebles
Andre Barreau & Neil Harrison (The Bootleg Beatles)

And Introducing; Alexa as Lovely Rita
Pretty Nurse Selling Poppies (Penny Lane)
& Graveside Mourner

Production Team for A Geezer & A Blonde Productions London Ltd/It Was 50 Years Ago Today Ltd:

Alan G Parker – Director
Reynold D'Silva - Producer
Alexa Morris - Producer

Steve Kendrick - Director Of Photography
Margarita Doyle - Line Producer
Robin Rice - Sound/Gaffer/STILLS
Ian Farr - Editor
Keith Badman - Researcher
Tabitha Doyle - Costume Designer
Pete Compton, Keith Ferreira, Adam Greenup - Executive Producers
Andre Barreau, Evan Jolly - Composers
Tim Grohne & Rupert Hollier - Co-Executive Producers
FOZ – Poster image design
Runner – Anton Klymchuck

Written by Alan G Parker

Camera Equipment & Lights - VMI TV
Sound Equipment - Richmond Film Services
Costumes - Angels
Production Insurance - Integro Entertainment

Archive:

ITN Source
Pathe News
Getty Images
Rex Features
Tracks Ltd
Mirror Pix

Wazee

Production Team for Timeline TV Ltd:

Dan Piggot - Dubbing Mixer
Dan Sollis – VFX Artist
Trevor Brown - Colourist
Sion Roberts - Online Editor
Post Producer - Billie Craven

With thanks to:

The Bootleg Beatles
David Parker
Paul Hillier
David Mason @ Mr Fish Tailoring (www.masonandsons.com)
Darry Gates, Hannah Binns and all @ Diamond Jacks Tattoo Studio (London)
Jon, Bill & Dave @ Cavern City Tours (Liverpool)
Jen Duncan & All The Staff @ The Hard Days Night Hotel (Liverpool)
34 Montagu Square - The Home Of John Lennon (London)
The Soho Hotel (London)
The Bag O' Nails (London)
The Scotch Of St James (London)
Dave Milner and all @The Beatles Story (Liverpool)
Tape Nightclub (London)
Brian & Dave @ The Titanic Hotel (Liverpool)
Mark and all @ The Sanctum Hotel (London)
Jon 'Macca' McCaughey - The 5th Beatle
Roag Best @ The Casbah (Liverpool)
Paul Wayne and all @ Tracks
Rupert Hollier @ Metropolis Studios (London)
Simon 'Lightspeed' Binns
Pat and all @ The Spice Of Life (London)
David Pearson - Mr Parker's Bag Man
Steve Holmes and all @ London Beatles Day
Ryan Blakemore
George Penn Morris @ A Geezer And A Blonde Productions London Ltd
Little Over Lane Acupuncture
Ksenia Klymchuk
Phil's Warriors
Anna Purdy @ Altered Images
Keeley Scanlon @ KMS
Nicola Platt

Sgt Pepper Tableau images filmed at 'The Beatles Story' in Liverpool with kind permission.... Great Britain's number 1 Beatles themed museum, for more information and opening times www.beatlesstory.com

Music composed by Andre Barreau and Evan Jolly

**Orchestrated and conducted by Evan Jolly
Published by Silva Screen Music (Publishers) Ltd.**

**Performed by London Music Works
Vocals, Guitars, Bass Guitar and Keyboards - Andre Barreau
Keyboards and Mellophone - Evan Jolly
Bass Guitar - David Catlin Birch
Drums - John Prynn
Sitar - Jonathan Mayer**

**Violins - Tom Piggot-Smith, Rustom Pomeroy, Marianne Haynes, Sophie Lockett
Violas - Francis Kefford, Fiona Leggat
Cellos - Rob Lewis, Nerys Richards**

**Recorded at Angel Studios, London by Gary Thomas
ProTools engineer - Christopher James**

**Additional recording
The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra
Leader - Lucie Svehlova
Recorded at Smecky Music Studio, Prague
Recording engineer - Jan Holzner
Translator/Assistant to Conductor: Stanja Vomackova
Orchestra Contractor: James Fitzpatrick for Tadlow Music Ltd**

Score produced and mixed by Andre Barreau and Evan Jolly at The Park Studios, Brighton

**Featuring samples from Mechanical Marches – The Marengi Fairground Organ and Praise Indeed by The Louisiana Jazzmen courtesy of Soundline Records – Silva Screen Records Ltd Copyright 2001
Shree Krishna Moksha Keertan - Hare Krishna Krishna Hare Hare from the album 'Moksha Shri Krishna (2005) sung and composed by Jagjit Singh; Published by Saregama India Ltd/Saregama PLC**

Soundtrack available on Silva Screen Records

Pete Compton - Coordination for 50 Years Ago Today Ltd / Ren/oir Pictures

Worldwide sales co-ordination – Tim Grohne, Primal Screen