



THE BEATLES



- Probably the most popular, influential and enduring rock group of all time
- The Beatles almost single-handedly reshaped rock 'n' roll from throwaway singles by faceless stars to an artistic medium with recognizable images and idols.

What musical instruments did they play?



John Lennon played
rhythm guitar

Ringo Starr
played the drums



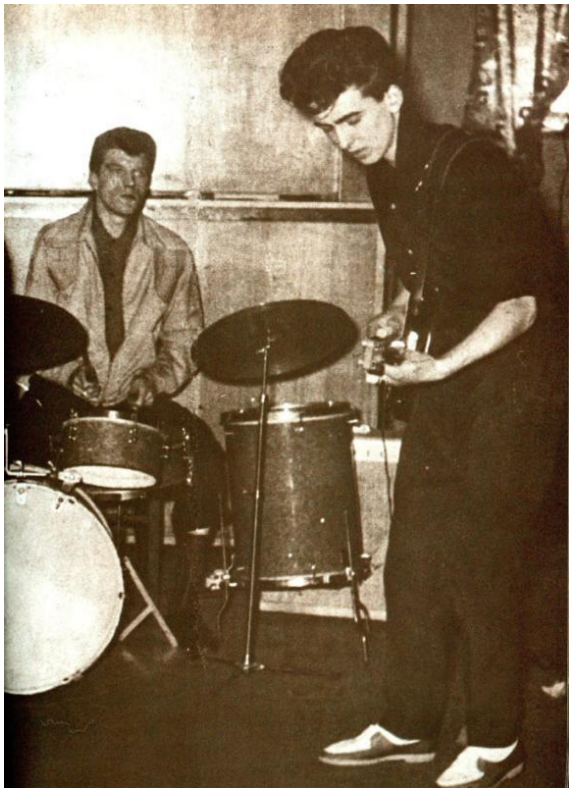
Paul McCartney played the bass.



George
Harrison
played the
lead guitar

Early Beetles (Beatles)

John Lennon bought a guitar in March 1957 and formed a group called the Quarrymen, named after his high school, Quarry Bank. Stu Sutcliffe suggested the name Beetles.



After briefly using the name “Silver Beatles”, the group decided on just “Beatles”. In 1961 Sutcliffe quit the band to pursue an art career. He died of a brain hemorrhage the following year.

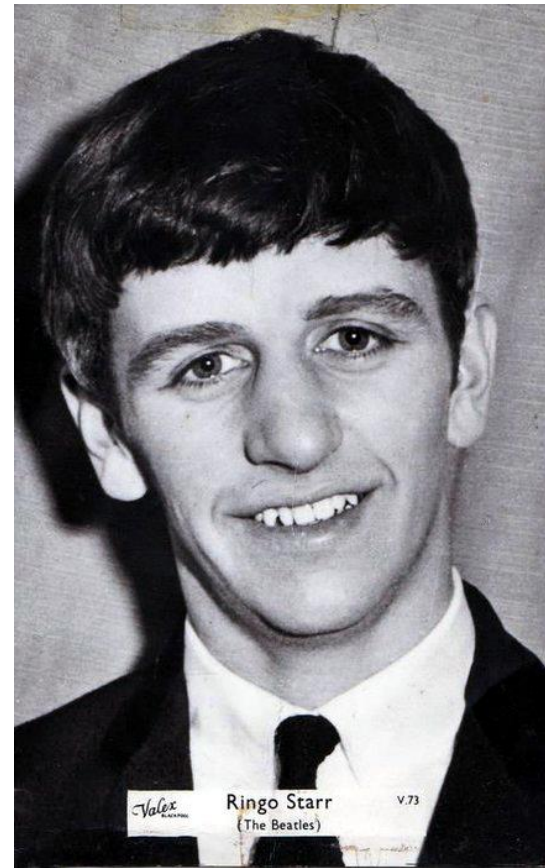
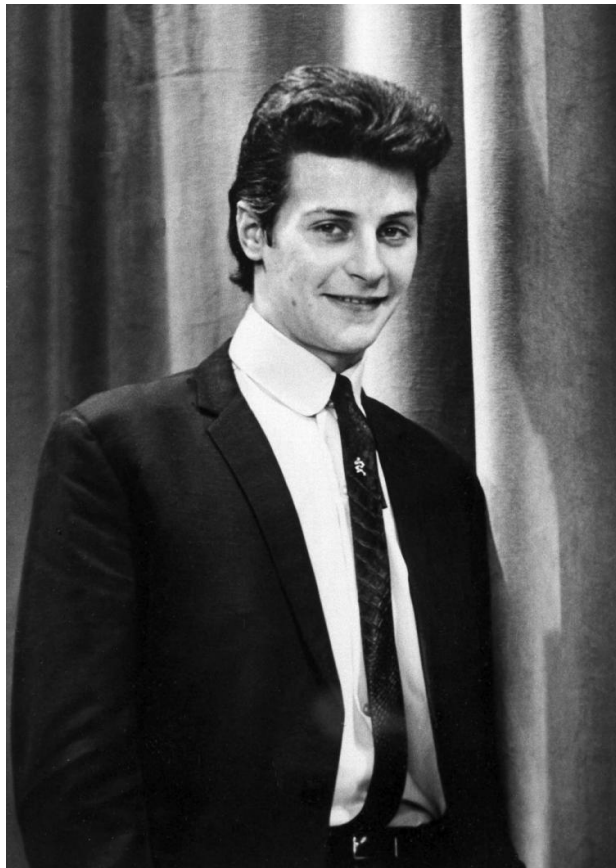


The Quarrymen circa 1957



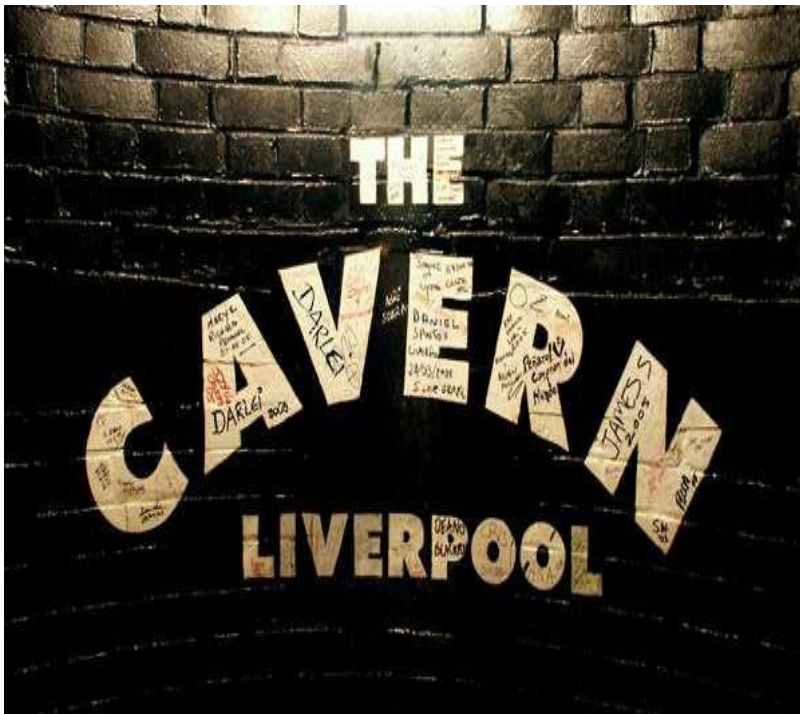
- Liverpool record store owner Brian Epstein had become the band's manager, and quickly began trying to find them a record contract.
- On January 1, 1962 the Beatles auditioned for Decca Records. The group was rejected.

Out with Pete, Here comes Ringo



Where did they start performing?

They started performing at “The Cavern Club”, in Liverpool, The U.K. Then, in Hamburg, Germany.



Early UK Success

- 1963 *Please Please Me* & *With the Beatles* were released in the UK and the Beatles had success.
- Started a string of 11 #1 albums in the UK
- [“She Loves You”](#) fastest selling single



Following a 3-weekend stint on the Ed Sullivan show (viewed by over 73 million people), the Beatles popularity in America skyrocketed.



During the week of April 4, 1964, the Beatles set a record that is likely never to be broken when they occupied all five of the top positions on Billboard's Top Pop Singles chart, with "Can't Buy Me Love" at Number One.





To capitalize on their incredible popularity, the Fab Four were made the stars of a comedy film, [*A Hard Days Night*](#), which, surprisingly, earned good reviews and, not surprisingly, spawned a hit soundtrack album.



On their first North American tour, the group performed 25 stadium dates in the U.S. and Canada, with the same reaction in every location.

HELP!





In 1965 the band appeared in a second movie, the James Bond spoof *Help!*, which also spawned a soundtrack album.

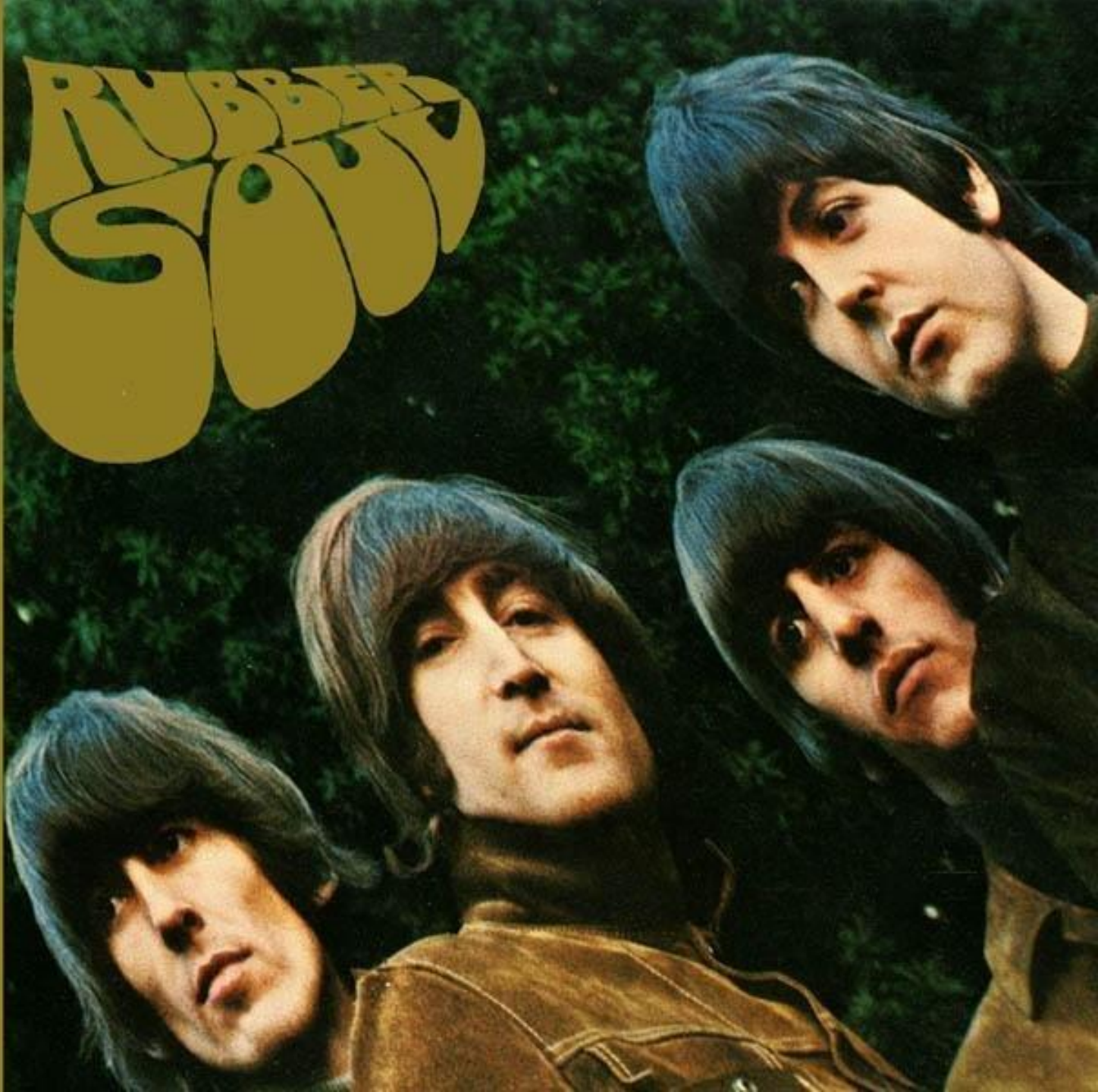


Live at Shea Stadium - 1963

The Beatles began to take their music more seriously, shifting from covers and upbeat pop love songs to more introspective, experimental material, highlighted on December 1965's *Rubber Soul*.



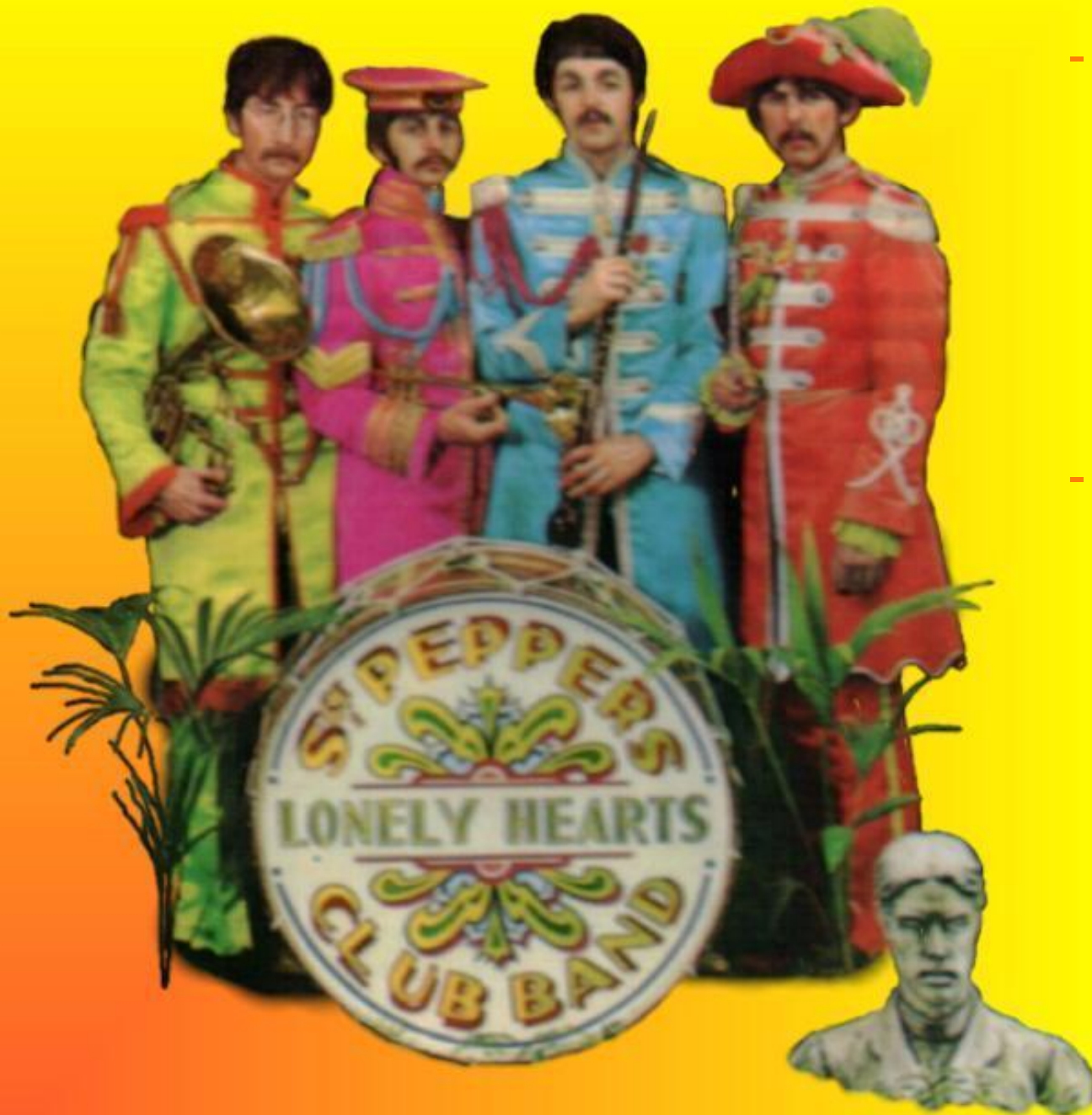
The Beatles'
music bridged
social and
musical
barriers



Dynamic Duo



Lennon & McCartney shared songwriting credits for most of the Beatles songs.



- *Rubber Soul* started a string of records that would change the sound of Rock and Roll
- *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* would be a groundbreaking record showing up at #1 on most "greatest records of all time" lists.



Sgt. Pepper was a landmark recording, using extra instruments and sound effects.



After Sgt. Pepper, the Beatles began to splinter in ways that were, at first, subtle but that gradually grew more pronounced.



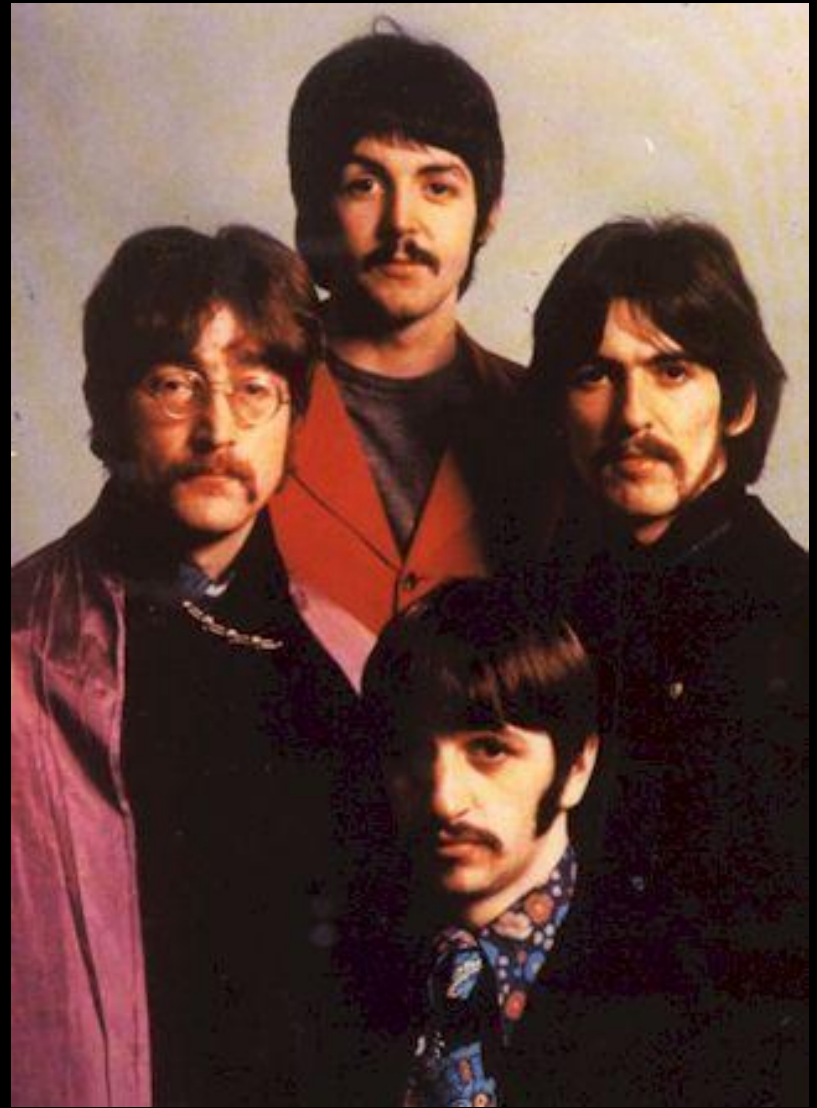
Brian Epstein died in 1967 at the age of 32 from a sleeping pills overdose.

Marks the beginning of the end of The Beatles

On Epstein's Death

- Brian Epstein was dead ... Paul and George were in complete shock. I don't think it could have been worse if they had heard that their own fathers had dropped dead ... Brian had found them, believed in them, molded them, turned them into millionaires, and made them famous the world over ... We knew that life would never be the same again.
- – [Pattie Boyd](#), wife of George Harrison

The release of the TV film
Magical Mystery Tour,
which earned the
Beatles some of their
first negative reviews;

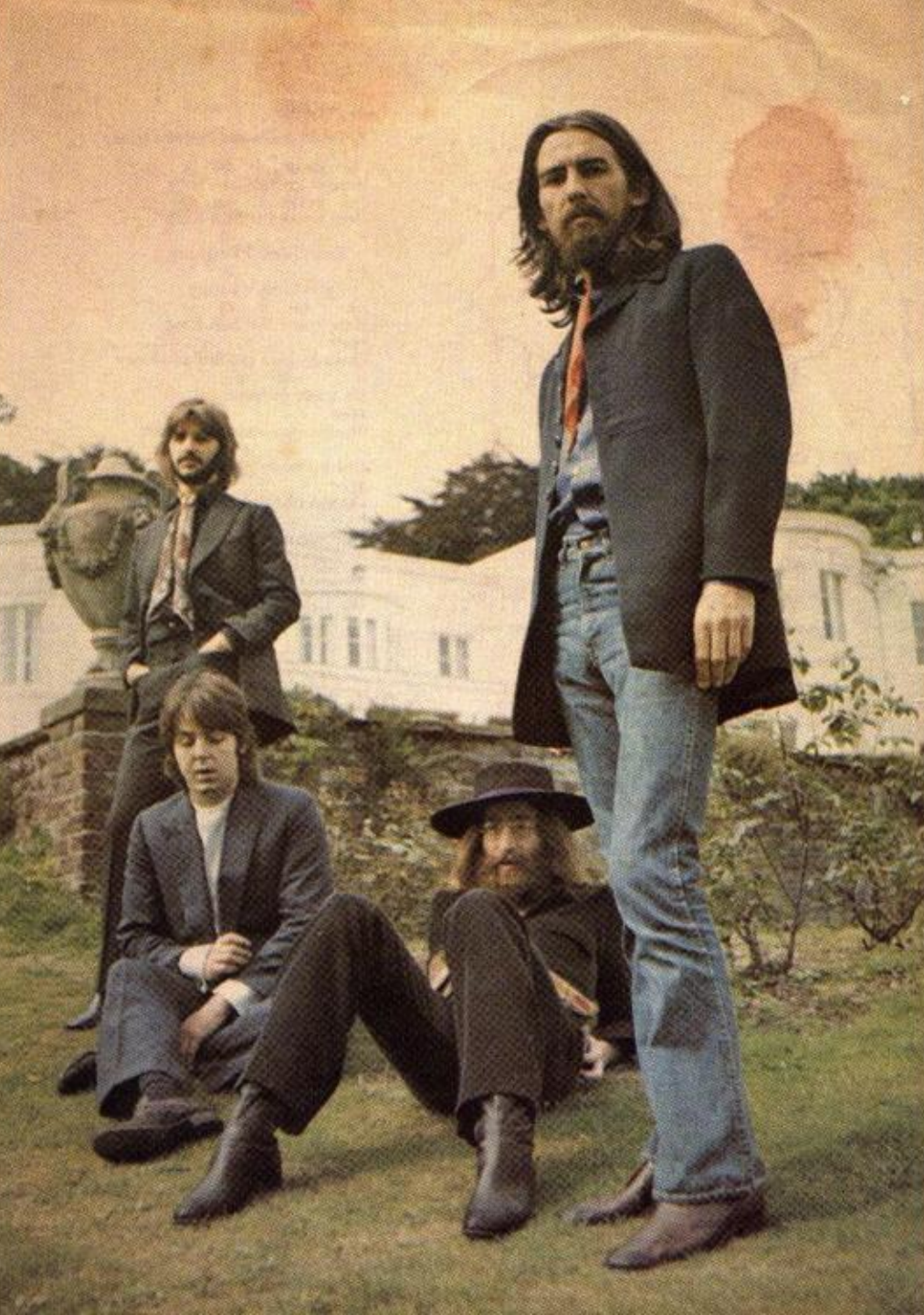




3. A trip to India to meditate with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

4. And the formation of Apple Corps, their own media company that was incredibly mishandled.





Sessions were filled with tension as members of the group stormed out periodically and often failed to record together, turning in tracks recorded independently.

By early 1970 each of the four Beatles was working on a solo album, but each publicly denied rumors of a split.



Though conflict continued to plague the group, the Beatles came together and exited on a high note, uniting in the summer of 1969 to record their swan song, Abbey Road, though it was released before Let It Be, which was saved for the last album because of the upcoming film in the spring of 1970.



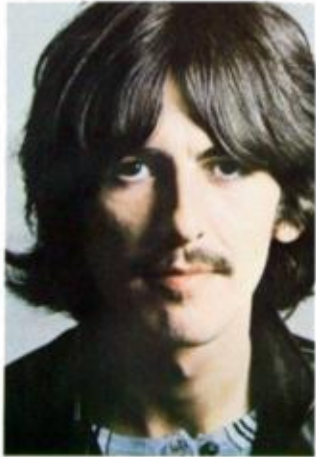
This famous album cover for “Abbey Road” is said to be a representation of Paul's funeral procession. Lennon is the priest (dressed in white), Ringo, the funeral director (in black), McCartney represents the corpse (bare feet, closed eyes, holding a cigarette, and walking out of step with the others), and Harrison the grave digger (denim working clothes). Additionally, McCartney's cigarette is in his right hand; the "real" Paul is left-handed.

The Beatles Break-Up

The Beatles broke up in 1970.
Paul McCartney was the first one to leave the
band.



Then, they decided to follow their own paths.
They had hits and flops. But they never were so
successfull as when they were together.

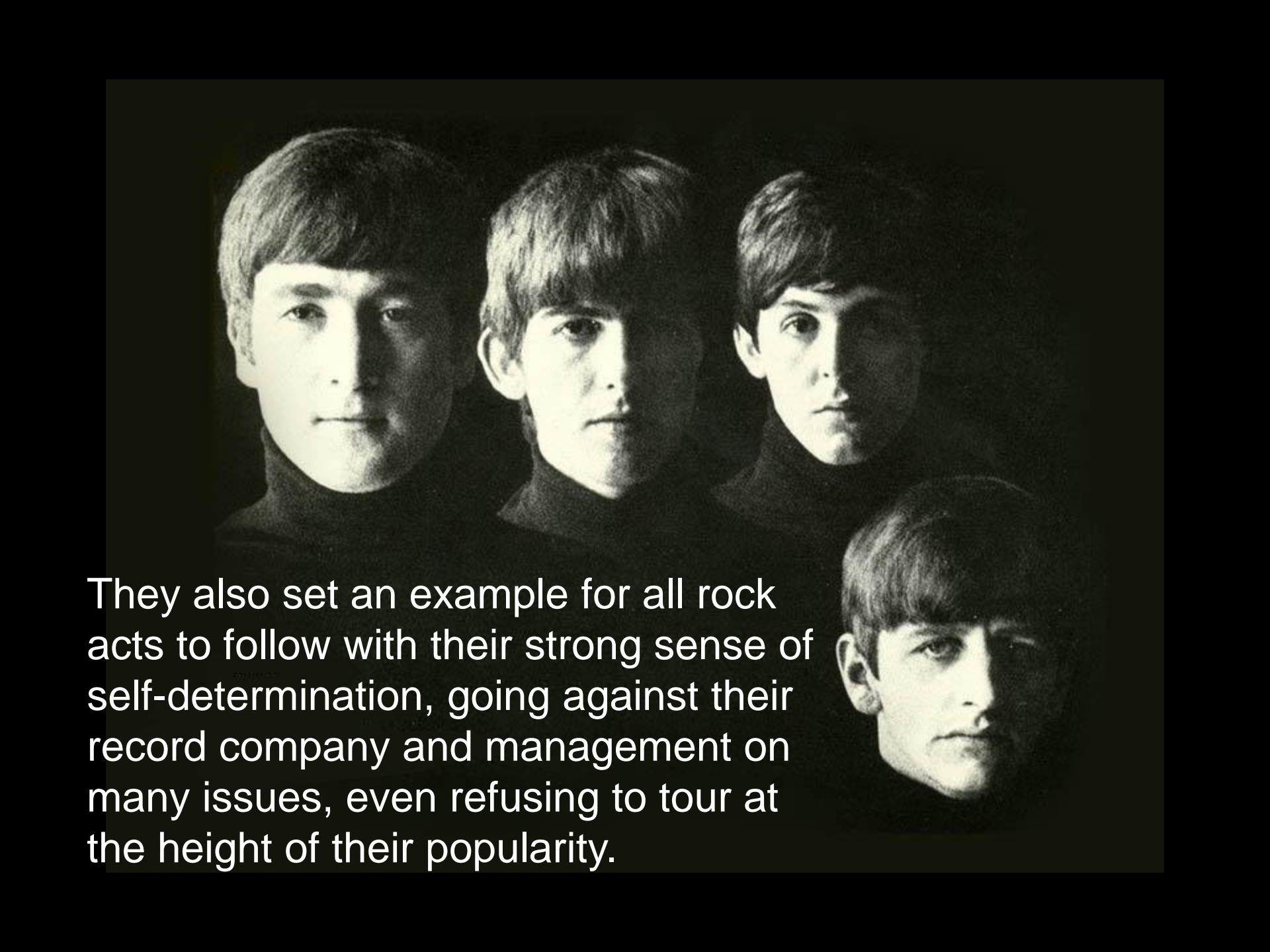


All 4 Beatles went on to have successful solo careers.

**THE
BEATLES**



The Beatles placed the emphasis on a group, rather than a single individual (like Frank Sinatra or Elvis).



They also set an example for all rock acts to follow with their strong sense of self-determination, going against their record company and management on many issues, even refusing to tour at the height of their popularity.



Of course, their countless hit singles have become modern-day folk songs, covered by hundreds of individuals and groups and inspiring countless more, and have sold more copies than those of any other band in history.

The impact of the Beatles upon popular music cannot be overstated; they revolutionized the music industry and touched the lives of all who heard them in deep and fundamental ways.

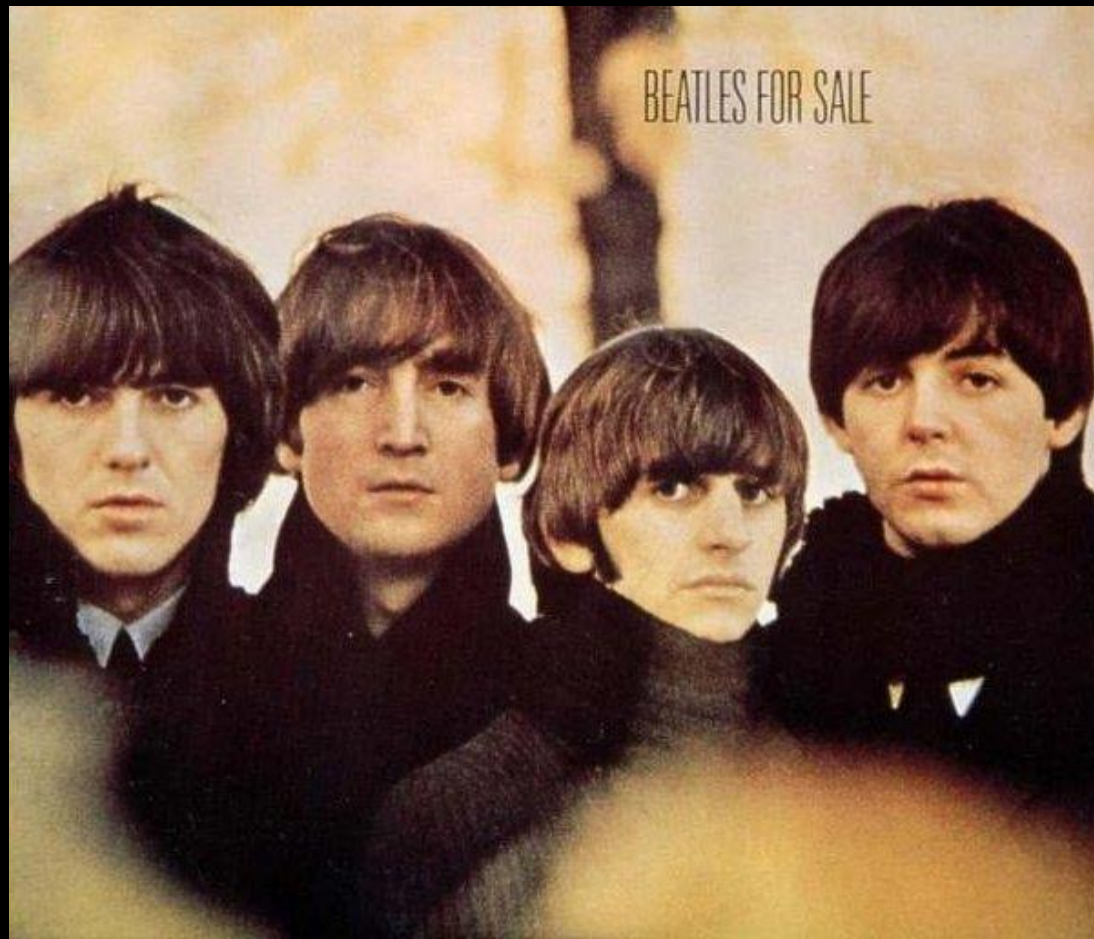


The Beatles / 1967-1970





Even adults typically given to scorning rock and roll as worthless "kid's stuff" were forced to concede that there was substance and quick-witted cleverness in their music.



The Beatles' upbeat melodies, playful personalities and mop-topped charisma were just the tonic needed by a nation left reeling by the senseless assassination of its young president, John F. Kennedy, barely two months earlier.



Without exaggeration, they transfixed and transformed the world as we knew it.

The Beatles

George Harrison died the 29th of November because of 2001 of a lung cancer.



The 8th of December of 1980, when John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono arrived home from a party, he was killed by Mark Chapman, a fan, in front of their house (Dakota Building). Mark got on his knees and shot 5 times (missing the first one) to Lennon with a gun (revolver).

Ringo Starr is still alive.

Paul McCartney is still alive