

Berriff's Beatles Experience...

Further to the disclosure of our photographer's identity, we thought you might like to know a little more about his experiences with The Beatles.

Paul has very vivid memories, particularly of one of the gigs, 29th November, Huddersfield ABC Cinema. 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' had just been released that day – it became their best ever selling single and their first American hit.

He would spend an hour or two backstage with the band before they went on stage and remembers them being "great to be around, very funny".

He recalls how Paul McCartney, his 'main man', would always take an interest in the girlfriends he would take along with him. John Lennon, he says, "seemed quieter than the other three - not in the background, but not as forthcoming as the others".

After shooting both posed and 'off the cuff' images of the band behind the scenes, he would

then position himself right next to the stage to capture them in action, "I was more or less on the stage with them, so I got the full force of their music - it was superb".

Straight after their performances, they would be whisked off by the police in a 'black maria' prison van, to protect them from the hoards of screaming fans!



Capturing the Images

Paul knows exactly how lucky he was to photograph The Beatles; by the end of '65 they had all but stopped touring the UK and opportunities to capture images of the band became restricted to official photographers.

He also had the fortune, during those early years at the height of Beatlemania, to be part of the 'inner circle', taking pictures for the teenage page of the Yorkshire Evening Post while The Beatles were recording at Abbey Road.

The Beatles Hidden Gallery collection was captured using Berriff's natural skill as a photographer; as he says

"I used no special lighting, just exposure techniques – these days, an assistant would carry in lights to use. I would under-expose their faces so that the background would look dark; this method produced some of the fabulous black portraits".

He took the images using 2 old film cameras - a Rolleiflex and a 35mm Nikon camera, the latter of which he still uses to this day.



Have you taken the Beatles quiz yet?

See web site for details

RELEASE DATES ANNOUNCED!

We are now pleased to announce the confirmed release dates of The Beatles Hidden Gallery collection! The collection as a whole will first be unveiled in a restricted access exhibition at **The Menier Gallery**, London on Tuesday **27th April 2010**. The exhibition will then be open to the public from 28th April to the 1st May.

"We thought that if we lasted for two to three years that would be fantastic." Ringo Starr

LOOK OUT FOR OUR COMPETITION WHERE YOU COULD WIN VIP TICKETS TO THE LAUNCH NIGHT! SEE THEM FIRST...