

THE  
BEATLES  
HIDDEN★GALLERY  
EXHIBITION



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*Paul Bennett*

**05.06.1963**  
**The Odeon Cinema, Leeds**



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## The Beatles Hidden Gallery shares some first-hand memories of the photographed concerts.



We've managed to find a fan who attended a Beatles concert at the Gaumont Theatre in Doncaster, during the same period that the Hidden Gallery photographs were taken.



### Read Mary Goldthorpe's 'eye witness' account of her Beatles experience...

“The ticket cost around 10 shillings, which was half of my weekly spending money – but it was well worth it.”

“They were good looking lads and they were so different from anything before. They changed the face of young popular culture and their songs were so catchy.”

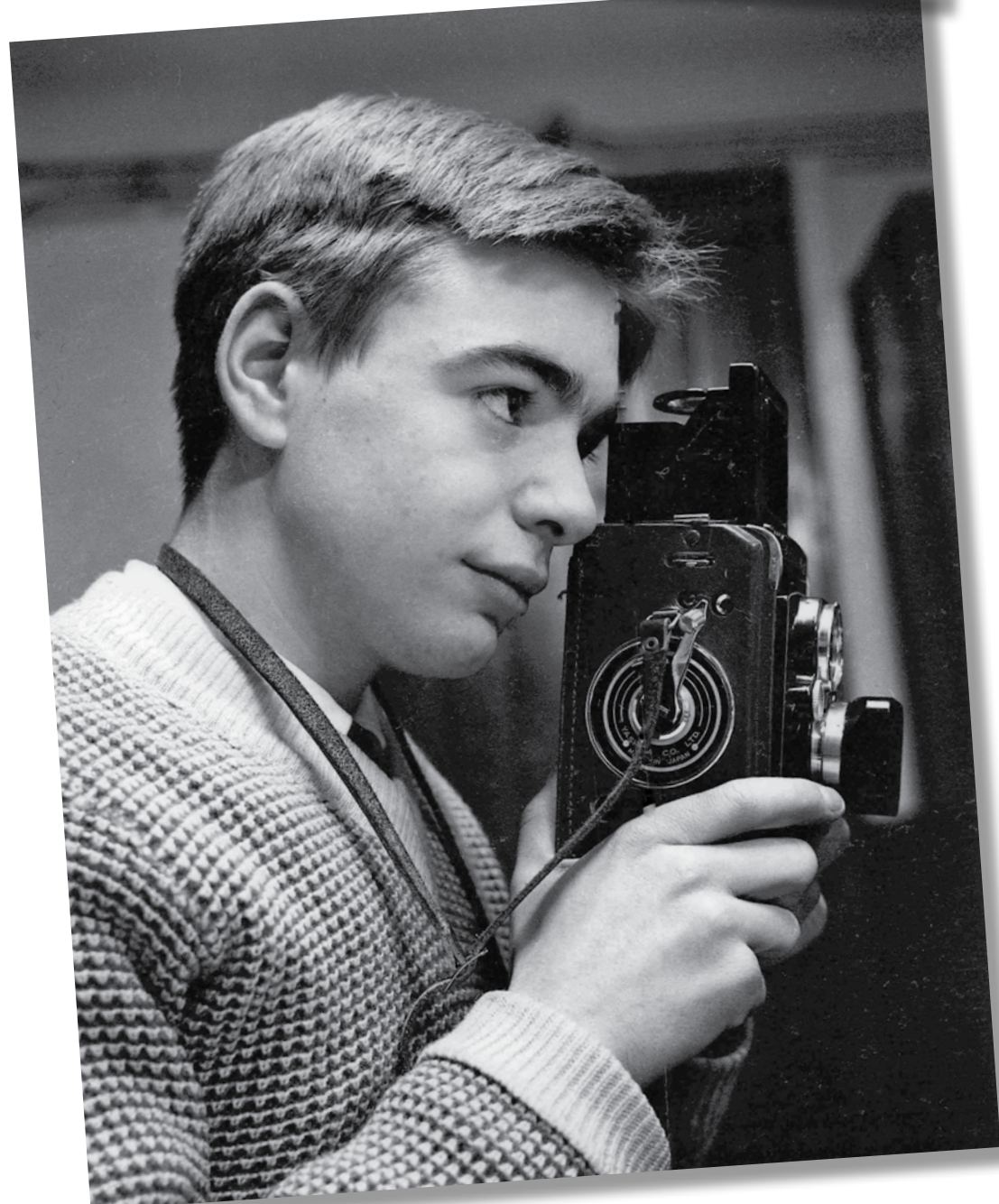
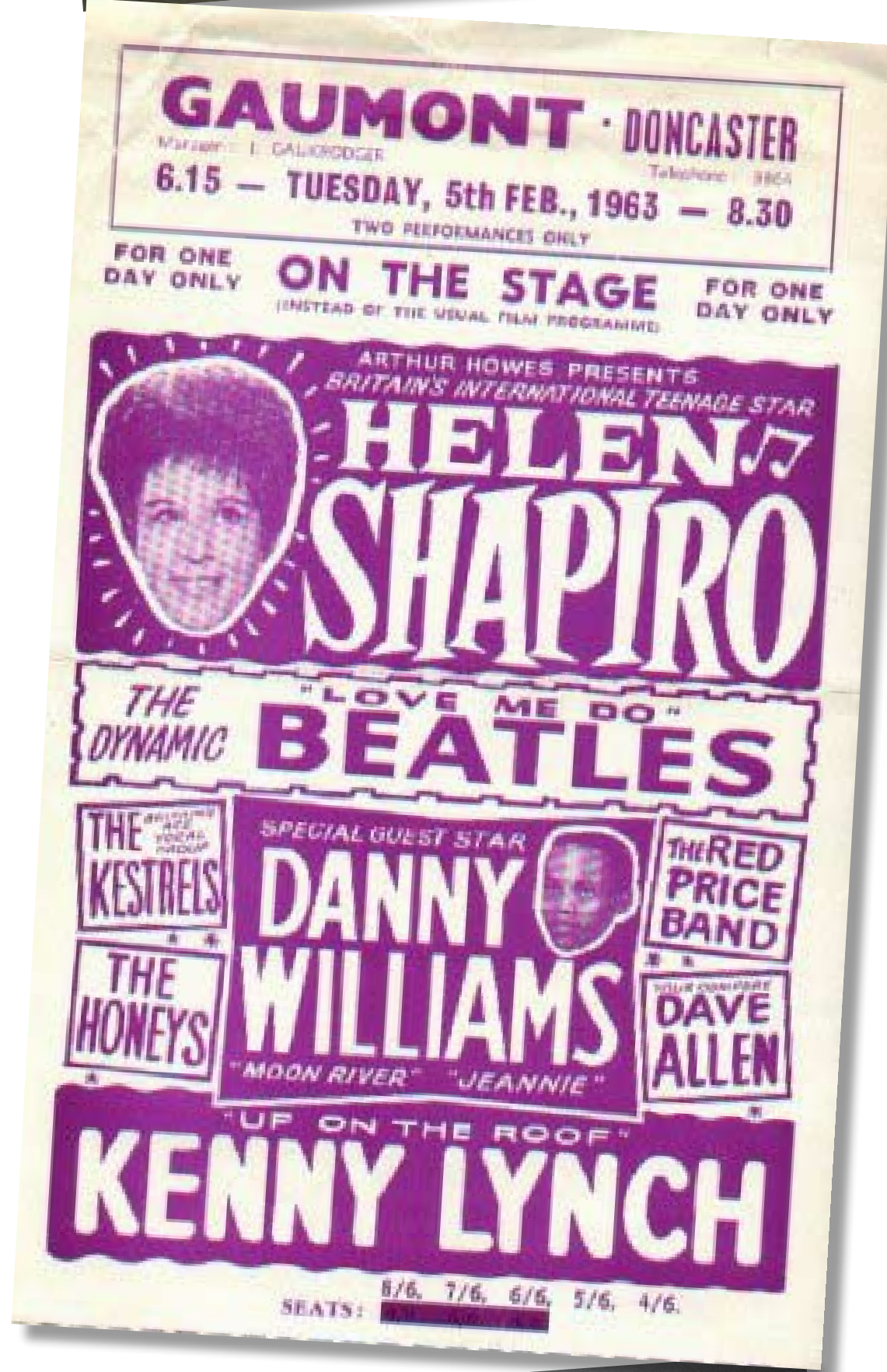
“I remember looking up at them on the stage - the atmosphere was electric.”

### Paul, the photographer, recalls his personal highlight from his time with The Beatles...

At one of the gigs, **29th November 1963 at Huddersfield ABC Cinema**, 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' had just been released.

Paul recalls the privilege of a 'private audience with The Beatles:

“During the afternoon, and prior to the evening show, Paul and George came onto the stage and rehearsed their new single over and over again. I sat in the auditorium watching them with my girlfriend; we were the only people there. This was the most exciting and memorable moment of my time with them. Even though it's 47 years ago, and difficult to remember what I was doing on most days back then, I can still recall vividly that historic afternoon.”





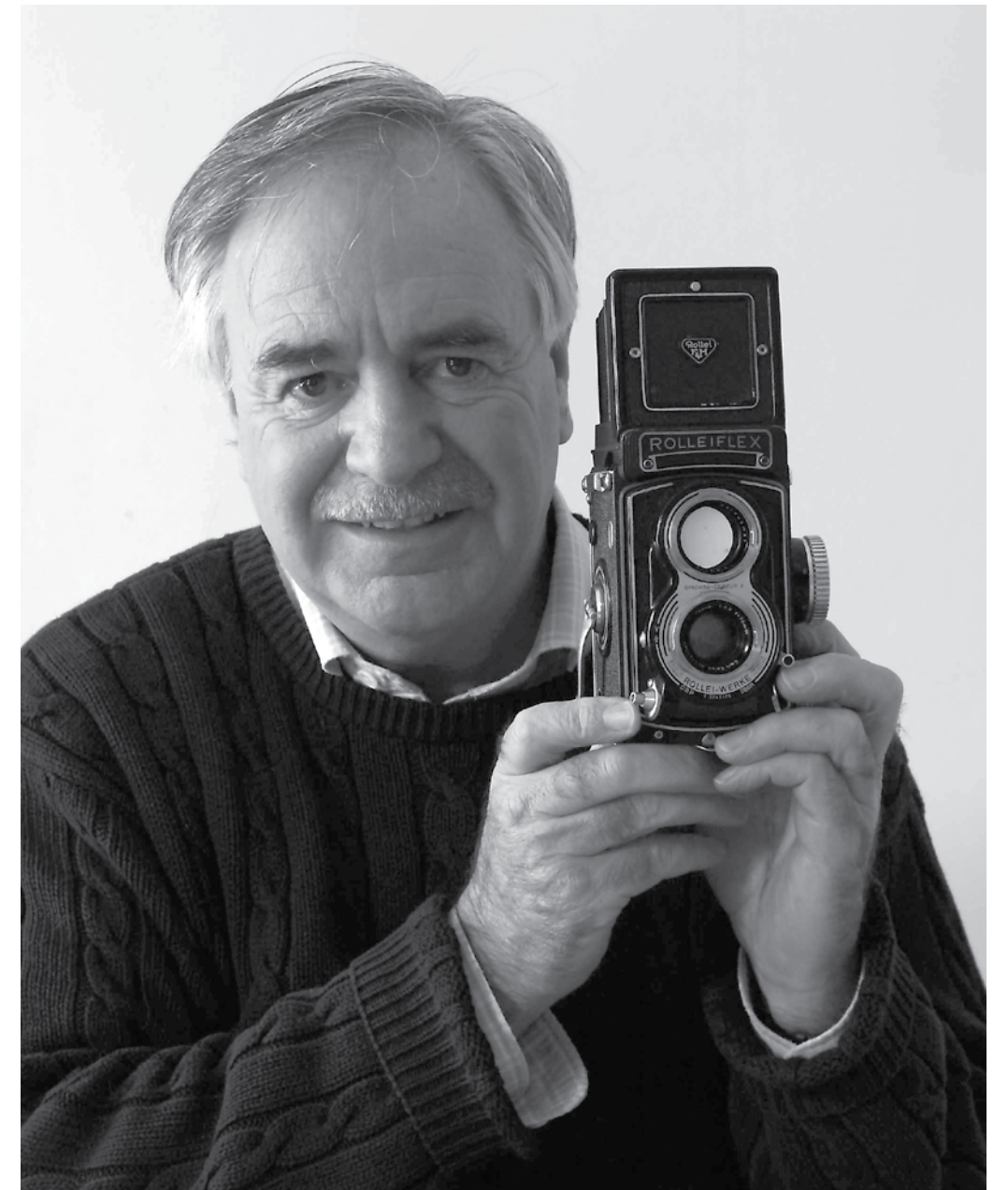
## Mystery man behind the unseen images of The Beatles

**Now recognised as one of the UK's leading documentary makers,**

he has won international critical acclaim for his varied work resulting in over 17 awards, including a British Academy Award (BAFTA).

Although working as an editorial assistant at the Yorkshire Evening

Post at the time, Berriff was already showing signs of following in his father's footsteps as a press photographer. Showing great initiative, he took it upon himself to build relationships with the owners of the local cinemas, creating a major opportunity for himself which would lead to the release, nearly 50 years later, of some of his greatest work in still photography.



### Paul Berriff.

“After work, I would put on my best suit and meet the manager of the Odeon in Leeds and would ask ‘can I go backstage with my camera?’”

This tenacity led him to his fantastic opportunity with The Beatles. Although, as he stresses, he was not an official photographer, he took photos of many of the big names from the 60s, including The Rolling Stones, Roy Orbison, Marianne Faithfull, Cilla Black, The Searchers and The Hollies, to name just a few. In later years, he was to work with some of the world's biggest acts, including Queen.

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Speaking of his time working with The Beatles, he says, “At that time they were just coming on stream. They did value their media image, so they were happy to pose for cameramen. They did all kinds of crazy things, like playing at trains” (a reference to one of the limited edition shots).

Berriff, like most youngsters of the time, relished the up and coming music phenomenon and built a good rapport with the Beatles backstage, especially Paul McCartney, who was his favourite, both to talk to and to photograph.

“They always came to say hello when they saw me...they were all very friendly”, he says, “Sometimes they would pose for me, but most of the time I would just take the pictures off the cuff so to speak, when they were just acting about”.

## BABY IT'S YOU!

Along with his pictures of The Beatles, Paul Berriff also captured some fabulous crowd scenes of the screaming fans outside of the venues!

One of these images, taken at the Leeds Odeon, is now live on the website; we've even added a magnifying function so that you can take a closer look!





## 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.

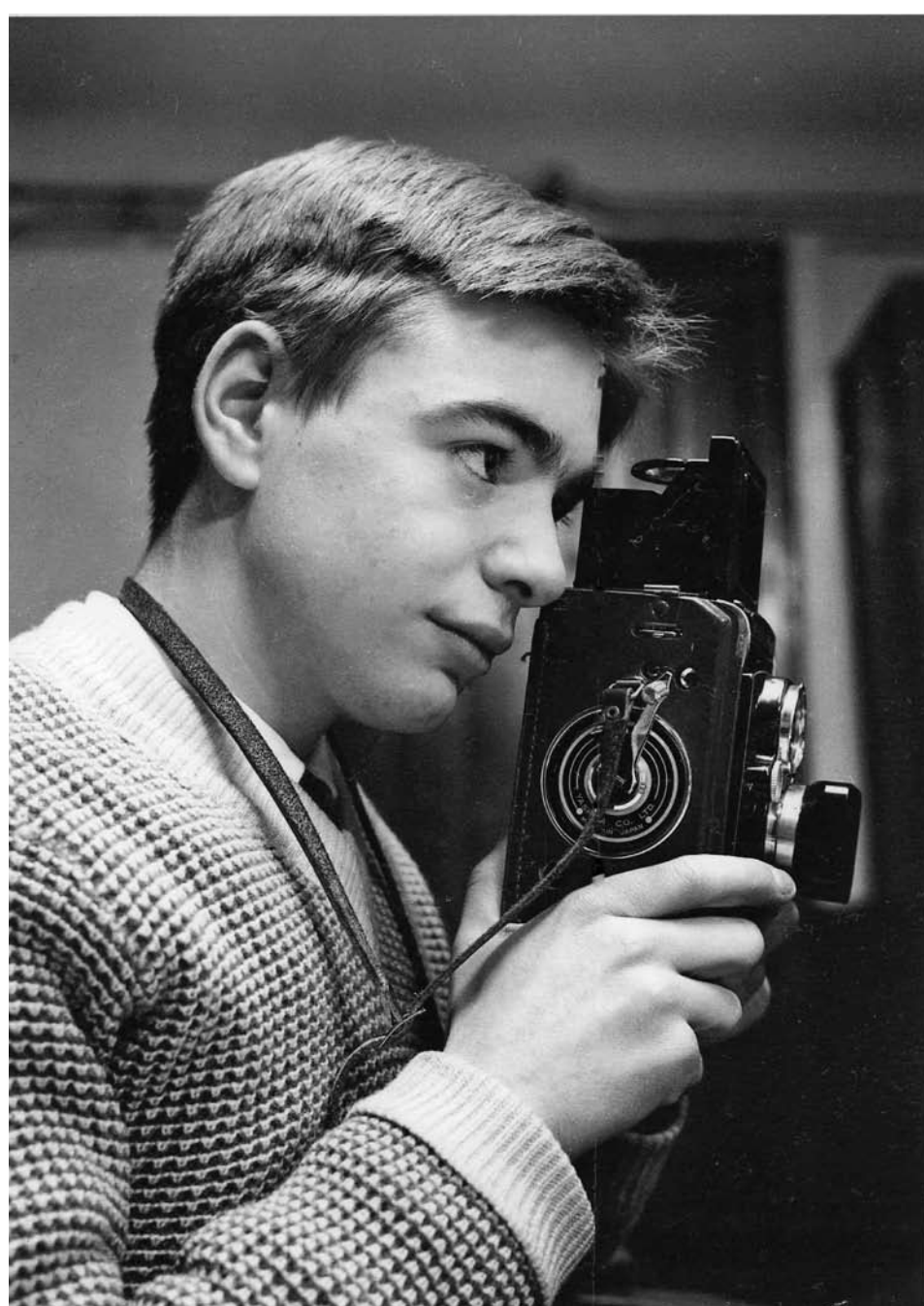
He would spend an hour or two backstage with the band before they went on stage and remembers them being “great to be around, very funny”.

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!



**Have you taken  
the Beatles quiz  
yet?**

See web site for details

## 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.





## Product specifications:



Product size will be either A1 or A0, dictated by the composition of each individual image and every component will be of the highest possible conservation quality. Specifications of the constituent parts are:

**THE PHOTOGRAPH** – printed on Hahnemuhle Fine Art Photo Gloss ‘Baryta’ 325gsm paper, using giclee printing and HP Vivera inks; guaranteeing an acid-free, fade resistant product, with a lifespan of 200-300 years.

**PRINTER** - HP large format Z3200 photographic printer

**MOUNT AND BACKING PAPER** – archival conservation quality 100% cotton.

**FRAME** - a beautiful heavy black wooden frame, hand-crafted by Fine Arts Trade Guild registered framers.

**GLASS** – conservation UV glass, which deflects sunlight and absorbs damaging UV rays for full protection.



***The excellent standard of each of the product elements and the lack of chemical compounds ensures that these collector’s images will not suffer from deterioration or staining.***

***You can be assured that these investment pieces of fine art will retain their value and quality for future generations.***

**In My Life** - Paul Berriff has an abundance of musical memories, having photographed many bands and artists during his life behind the camera including The Stones, Queen, The Searchers, Marianne Faithfull, The Hollies and Gerry and the Pacemakers. He developed good relationships with many of these musicians, particularly Paul McCartney, Gerry Marsden and Marianne Faithfull.

When asked if he has bumped into any of The Beatles since working with them in 1963/64, Paul says, “*No, I’ve not seen any of them since and I’m not sure any of them would remember me, it was such a long time ago now - perhaps Paul would, as we got on really well.*” He goes on to add, “*My wife and I were invited to attend a drinks reception at Sandringham a few years ago and Prince Charles remembered me from when I spent a year filming with him 36 years ago!*”

**Were you there?**

See crowd scene on web site for more details...

**“The Beatles  
saved the world  
from boredom”**

George Harrison

**Stop Press!** Paul looks back with fondness at the foundations of his career, “I had the historic pleasure of being in the final golden days of the British newspaper press when it was the only daily source of news. I’d run into the newspaper building with a picture of a burning mill that I’d just photographed and the machine room guys would literally ‘stop the press’ and await printing the paper until I had processed the film.” **For more stories visit the web site...**