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Harry Benson: The Beatles



Synopsis

The Fab Five: Behind Beatlemania – These photos convey a really happy period for them and for me. It all comes down to music, they were without a doubt the greatest band of the 20th century, and that's why these photographs are so important. – Harry Benson, 2012

In early 1964, Harry Benson was getting on a plane for a foreign assignment in Africa, when he got a call from the photo editor of London newspaper The Daily Express. He was now going with The Beatles to Paris to document French Beatlemania and what followed was the biggest (ticket to) ride of his life. Benson was warmly welcomed into The Beatles' inner sanctum, resulting in some of the most intimate photographs ever taken of the band, then on the cusp of world domination. In Paris, he took the famous photograph of the Fab Four having a pillow fight at the George V Hotel; he shot their groundbreaking first visit to the United States, the full impact of New York hysteria, their famous appearance on The Ed Sullivan show, the band in Florida, including their surprising encounter with Cassius Clay; as well as on the set of A Hard Day's Night. The relationship continued in 1966, including George's honeymoon in Barbados and their notorious US tour, under the shadow cast by Lennon's comment that the Beatles were 'bigger than Jesus Christ.' Benson's luminous black and white photographs show at close quarters The Beatles composing, performing, encountering their fans, relaxing, and engaging with each other, while trying to cope with their increasingly isolating fame. In addition to hundreds of photographs, many previously unseen, there is an introductory essay by Benson as well as quotes and newspaper clippings from the period. First published in TASCHEN's limited edition - now available in this standard edition. – Text in English, French, and German

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Taschen; Mul edition (May 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3836533227

ISBN-13: 978-3836533225

Product Dimensions: 11 x 1.5 x 15 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #516,138 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Artists' Books #214 in Books

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Customer Reviews

Today, walking to my daily bookstore, i stumbled upon this big book. Intrigued, i asked the salesman if he had any information about it: immediately after, he opened the book to take a quick look. He was as amazed as i was to see, for the very first time, a lot of images from the boys at their best as a touring band. The Beatles On The Road: 1964-1966 is a pricey book but believe me, if you find a copy grab one. Not because it will raise in value (as it already has) through the years; not because it comes with good ol'Harry's signature; not because it's a Taschen book which, to me, is a symbol of design and art mixed together; but because the pictures are fantastic. We've seen thousands of them and, believe me, i have thousands of them in different books and in different formats but this...A photo is worth a thousand words and this book is a testament of how The Beatles behaved on their own inner circle: expressions of joy, sadness, boredom and having fun in one place. Benson you did quite a good job. Thank you for letting us see what they were all about on tour. With 272 pages he covers their rise to stardom and quitting the tours. The pictures, really, don't need any explanation. Us, the rabid fans, know where the pictures were taken and when. But seeing the ones that didn't make it in the first place (as well as ones that have been seen throughout the world a number of times) is a joy. Specially in this HUGE format. In an era when i wasn't around (i was born in 1977) the quality of the pictures remains outstanding (even better than today's standard). I'm taking this book to my parents house so we, as followers, can enjoy every single page while listening to some tunes. Long live The Beatles (i wish more books were like this one). Go. Buy. And enjoy.

Taschen has a reputation for high-quality books, and this one is no exception. I love the experience of turning the pages of a good quality book, especially when every page is a delight. If, like me, you are a forever Beatles fan and also have a deep appreciation of photography, this book is a double delight to own. Some of these photos are iconic and some newly-seen, but they are all beautifully reproduced and absolutely stunning in this large format. I'm so happy that Harry Benson was there to capture these insider moments so expertly, and is sharing them in all their glory! I highly recommend this book . . . it would make a gorgeous gift.

This book is wonderful, great pictures and a great collectable, too bad that the packaging was

extremely poor! There was hardly any packing in the box causing the book to sustain some damage to the corner and pages. I have never received anything from that was packaged that poorly and I was very dissatisfied!!!! The damage was not extreme enough to return but enough that it spoiled the edge and knowing it could have been prevented with a little more care in packaging!!

This book is Fantastic and of the highest quality. The pages in this book put all other Art Books to shame! This is numbered and signed by one of the Greatest photographers of all time. The book cover is wonderful and protects this great Art Book. I have gotten Art Books in the past and they are read and looked at once or twice and forgotten, not this book. If you liked or Love the Beatles this book is a must have.

That's definitely an awesome gift for any Beatles' fan! Great pictures and the unquestionable Taschen's quality!! It's a book you'll want to keep forever :)

Harry Benson is a genius and has captured the Beatles at their most natural and adorable during their heyday, 1964 -1966 when they made their around the world tours. Readers will be delighted with the photographs and love watching the Beatles at play, so to to speak. The Beatles: Six Days that Changed the World. February 1964 is a good companion book to this one. In 2004 a local art gallery featured Benson's first book and a gallery of photographs of the Beatles. Naturally I HAD to buy the book, which was autographed. I love the book and Benson's collection of Beatles' photographs will delight all readers. You will get treated to images you might not have seen. You will be reading and loving this gem eight days a week!

If you're into early photos of the Beatles then this book is for you. Taschen, Harry Benson. What else is there to say? One to buy.

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