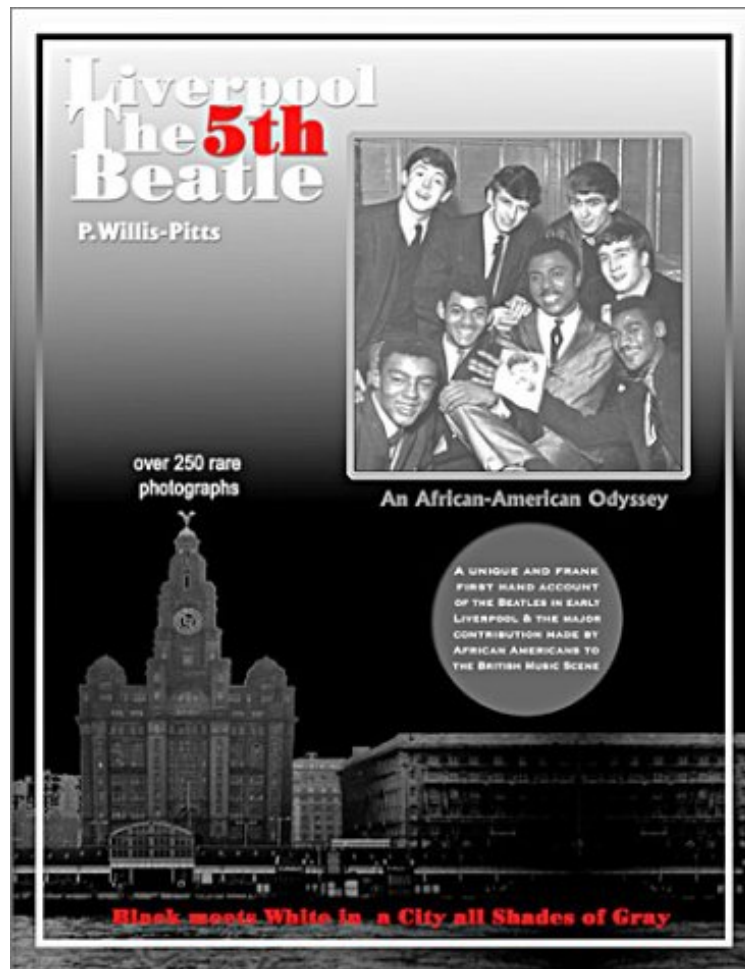


(Ebook free) Liverpool The 5th Beatle : An African-American Odyssey

Liverpool The 5th Beatle : An African-American Odyssey

Prem Willis-Pitts, Cassandra Silk

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Prem Willis-Pitts, Cassandra Silk : Liverpool The 5th Beatle : An African-American Odyssey before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liverpool The 5th Beatle : An African-American Odyssey:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's hard to imagine now what the social divides in England were like back then. By Stefan Abeysekera A priceless analysis of the unique symbiosis between working class Liverpool teens and the music of Black America in the fifties. It's hard to imagine now what the social divides in England were like back then. The author said to me "We hardly even thought of going down to London, it was like travelling to another country. No one who didn't live through it would understand the Us v. Them mentality that really scared us". This is a totally unique Beatles biography, coming as it does from a local and not dependent on all the hypotheticals tagged on to the Beatles story by outsiders whose highly promoted books are better known. Absolutely essential reading for those who want to know how and why it all started. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beatles info is

scarce here

By Mark
This book is more for a person interested in Liverpool's Merseybeat era than for Beatles fans. Although I found some parts of this book to be interesting, there are a couple of flaws that hurt this book considerably and make me wonder about the rest of it. First, the author tells about the musicians that suffered from drug abuse and the suicides of both Rory Storm and Brian Epstein. Neither of these people committed suicide. Rory died of respiratory illness and Brian died of an accidental overdose of prescription medication. Neither were ever deemed to be suicide. Second, he attempts to parallel the lives of poor Liverpool Whites and the American Blacks. I have no way of knowing what life was like for the poor of Liverpool just as the author has no idea of what life is like for the poor Blacks in America. When you write a book, stick to a subject that you are knowledgeable in. He failed miserably here. I enjoyed parts of this book because I am a fan of the music of that era, but no one in their right mind should pay more than a few dollars for it. I guess some people think that just because a book has the word 'Beatles' in the title and being out of print, it should command a high price. This is NOT a book that will appreciate in value. It's just not that good. Also, 'Beatles' shouldn't have been used in the title of this book. That's just a cash grab.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating comparison of Liverpool with Black America
By Midwest Book Review
P. Willis-Pitts was raised in a Liverpool black ghetto and became a rock musician at the time of the Mersey Sound phenomenon. He draws upon his own unique background (Ringo Starr worked with his father) to provide an insider's perspective on the rise of the Liverpool Mersey Sound as one who played in the same pubs, with the same bands, and hung out with the same people as did the Beatles. Liverpool, The 5th Beatle presents a fascinating comparison of Liverpool with Black America of the 1950s and 60s, providing insights into how the social and musical conditions in the African-American community found a direct reflection among the Liverpool Irish youth (including the Beatles) who were singularly responsible for the rise of the Mersey Sound and the resultant British invasion of the American music scene. Liverpool, The 5th Beatle is "must" reading for all Beatles fans and students of American popular music.

Liverpool, The 5th Beatle, An African-American Odyssey is a perspective on the rise of the Liverpool Mersey Sound and the Beatles by someone who drank in the same pubs and played in the same clubs as the Beatles. Mr. Pitts delves much deeper than the average rock journalist to present an amazingly original comparison of Liverpool with Black America of the 1950s and '60s, giving us an insight into how the social and musical conditions in our Black-American community found a direct heart-beat amongst the Liverpool youth who were singularly responsible for the rise of the Mersey Sound and the incredible success of the Beatles. Not only is his book inspiring to minority groups throughout America, but his novel insight into the Beatles and the ghetto conditions in which the Mersey Sound began has stirred avid interest in people of all ages who are mesmerized by the truth behind the Beatles' legend.

"This is one of the best accounts I've ever read of the reality behind the Beatles' formation and background..." -- Louise Harrison, George Harrison's sister
"What you have touched upon in Liverpool The 5th Beatle is wonderful." -- Robert Hill, Talk Show Host, WRNE Radio, Florida
A wonderfully-researched, latent masterpiece. You manage to shed new light on what is fast becoming more myth than reality... -- Paul Balmer, Music On Earth Productions, London
This book is going to be very controversial -- Beverly Smith, Radio Talk Show Host, American Urban Radio Network, Washington D.C.
This book told me things about Liverpool and the Beatles that even I didn't know... An excellent read. -- Sam Leach, Beatles Manager pre-Brian Epstein
From the Author
The details which form this book are drawn from my childhood in the Irish ghetto of Liverpool 8 and my first-hand experience of the Beatles and the rise of the Mersey Sound. Typical of my background, I was totally unaware of politics and the social movements which were taking place around me. However, after spending 18 years in the USA and getting myself two degrees, I now possess two languages: that of the street; and that of the educated researcher. The truth is, it is the language of the street which best illustrates the theme of this book. But by itself, though colorful, that would not communicate the message. So you will find the book is laid out in more or less alternating chapters: a learned chapter of social research is followed immediately by a real-life street anecdote from actual experience which fleshes out the more studied chapter. When I first wrote the street anecdotes, modesty as well as self-preservation made me write in the third person -- partially to conceal the identity of the not-so-innocent. My publisher persuaded me to change these anecdotes to the first person for the sake of the reader, and I do hope it doesn't come across as pure egoism. Some readers may find the language, the sex and the violence in this book disturbing. I cannot help this. It is not gratuitous. As black comedians from Richard Pryor to Chris Rock have demonstrated, violence, sex and obscenity are part of the ghetto experience and you cannot enter into a description of ghetto life without them. Why this should be so is a basic tenet of this book. The fact remains that some of the world's finest music and humor have sprung unexpectedly from the most sordid conditions, whether it be in Liverpool, Harlem or Watts. This somewhat original format is an attempt to show how two very different oppressed ethnic groups on opposite sides of the globe made a way out of no way and, in doing so, changed the history of the world.

About the Author
Prem Willis-Pitts was born and raised in Liverpool. Ringo Starr worked with his father, he had a girlfriend in common with Paul McCartney and he replaced George Harrison in a band that George left to join the Beatles. He saw the Beatles perform hundreds of times in Liverpool. Pitts was forced to leave school early and as a teenager was homeless and on the streets. His career is a checkerboard of experience: rock musician,

sailor, carpenter, salesman, psychiatric nurse, welder and, most unlikely, Writer and Senior Staff Producer for BBC World Service, London, a most distinguished post in the UK. He obtained an honors degree in Literature and Sociology from Sussex University, England, and a post-graduate qualification in Education from London University. He has lectured at universities in Spain, Italy, South America and the UK. He came to America in 1980 and began working in Vermont as the head of a shooting team for cable TV. Finding this job too isolating from ordinary American people, he took a job selling ice cream in the streets of Boston instead. He then worked his way around America and eventually settled down in California where he won a wide array of awards for his writing, which includes radio plays, musicals, biographies, screenplays, short stories and novels. His latest novel, *A Deadly Shade of Green*, a suspense thriller, won Novel of The Year with the National Writers' Association. He lost everything in California's 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and eventually moved to Denver, Colorado, where he continues his writing career and still plays rock 'n roll. He is pleased to hear from his readers and can be contacted by e-mail at pwillis9@aol.com