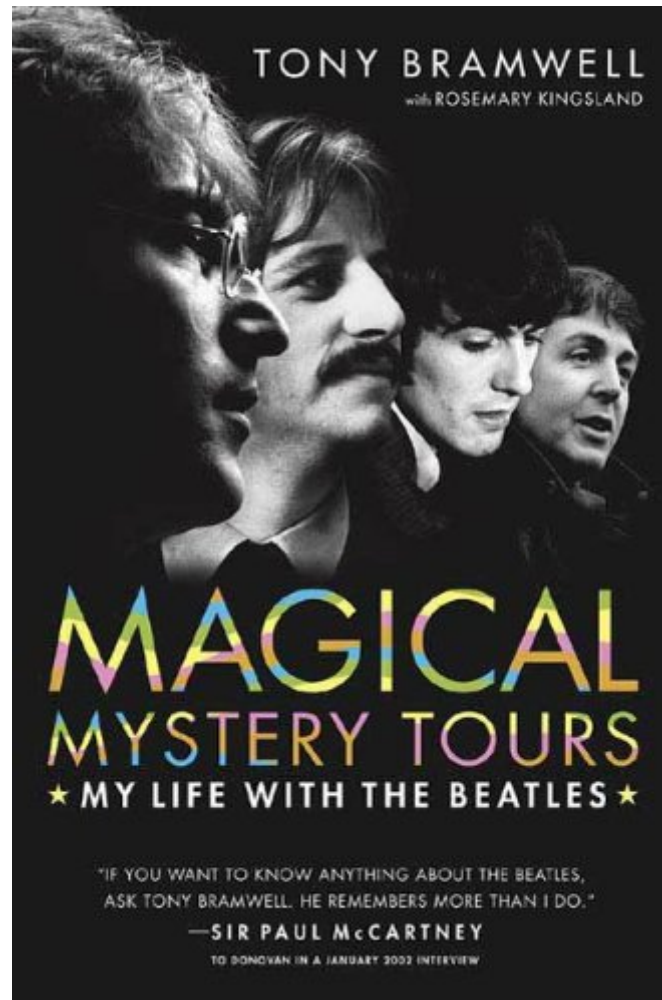




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# Magical Mystery Tours: My Life With The Beatles



## Synopsis

"If you want to know anything about the Beatles, ask Tony Bramwell. He remembers more than I do."- Sir Paul McCartney to Donovan in a January 2002 interview Tony Bramwell's remarkable life began in a postwar Liverpool suburb, where he was childhood friends with three of the Beatles long before they were famous. And by the time he caught up with George Harrison on the top of a bus going to check out "The Beatles, direct from Hamburg"--one of whom George turned out to be--Tony was well on his way to staying by them for every step of their meteoric rise. If anything needed taking care of, Tony Bramwell was the man the Beatles called, the man they knew they could trust. His story has been sought after for years, and now, here it is, full of untold stories and detailing with an insider's shrewd eye the Apple empire's incomparable rise, Brian Epstein's frolics, Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters, Phil Spector's eccentric behavior, and new stories about Yoko Ono, the Stones, and the life--his life. From developing the first Beatle music videos to heading Apple Films, and from riding bikes and trading records with George Harrison to working and partying with everyone from the Beatles to Hendrix, Ray Charles, and The Who, Tony's life really did (and does) encompass a who's who of rock. His story reveals fresh insights into the Beatles' childhoods and families, their early recordings and songwriting, the politics at Apple, and Yoko's pursuit of John and her growing influence over the Beatles' lives. And it uncovers new information about the Shea Stadium concert footage, John Lennon's late-night "escapes," and more. From the Cavern Club to the rooftop concert, from the first number one to the last, and from scraps of song lyrics to the discovery of the famous Mr. Kite circus poster, Tony Bramwell really did see it all. Conversational, direct, and honest, the ultimate Beatles insider finally shares his own version of the frantic and glorious ascent of four boys from Liverpool lads to rock and roll kings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a must-have for any Beatles fan or collector. You will learn "behind-the-scenes" stories about Tony Bramwell's time with the Beatles. It's well written and filled with tidbits that will make you feel like an insider. Sir Paul McCartney states it best on the cover: "If you want to know anything about the Beatles, ask Tony Bramwell. He remembers more than I do." An excellent read that I recommend wholeheartedly.

This has been some year with some excellent Beatle books being published. This year three books on the Beatles have been published that are, to some extent, companions of each other. Tony Bramwell's book, Tony Barrow's Book and Geoffrey Ellis' book. Each of the authors were part of the second or third ring (Mal Evans and Neil Aspinall being part of the "first ring") of Beatle intimates who were part of "the back room boys" helping the Beatles in their business and other endeavours. Of the three, Tony Bramwell comes over as the more jovial character who enjoyed himself and had fun during the swinging sixties, dating many girls and so on. Of all the books I have read about the Beatles (50 plus), I think only Tony Bramwell, Richard Dillillo and Derek Taylor come out enjoying themselves and having little, if any, resentment. Tony Bramwell was originally a friend of George Harrison's and graduated to working with Brian Epstein at NEMS and then became a Record Promoter at Apple. It is very hard to argue against his impressions - because that it was what they are - his impressions of what happened and what life was like during his tenure at NEMS and Apple - it is not a history book. There are criticisms of certain factual errors in the book, and I do not think that is so important - what is invaluable and what makes it an absolute must for all Beatle fans is his description of the behavior of the Beatles and their times during the 60's. There are criticisms posted here that Tony is too "pro Paul". I think such criticisms are unwarranted and imply that the author has a grudge against John. Simply put, John was no saint - and it's the human, eclectic and

contradictory qualities in John which, today, so many of his fans, including me, find interesting (in fact far more interesting than certain other members of the fab four). If John gets a "bad press" from this book, then please also read the other books, referred to above - the recollections of Geoff Ellis and Tony Barrow are not too different (and even Derek Taylor, in his wonderful, but out of print book, "As Time Goes By", alludes to the difficulty in handling John when Yoko comes on the scene). I would also add, for those who criticize this book as being "anti John" that they should also read the John Lennon Rolling Stone interview (published as a book under the title "Lennon Remembers") where the great man himself admitted he (as well as the other Beatles) were complete b\*\*\*\*\* to their entourage (especially Neil and Mal). For those who think the book is "too pro Paul", I would suggest reading Alistair Taylor's book who balances matters by revealing the lack of any support Paul gave him when Klein dumped him (or alternatively read Peter Brown's book). All in all Tony Bramwell's book is very good, well written and well worth reading. BTW, for those advanced Beatlemanicas out there it is interesting to compare Tony Bramwell's description of his visit, with Paul and Derek Taylor, to a pub, one summers day in 1968, to the village of Harold with Derek Taylor's description of the same event in his book "As time goes by". Lastly, for those who are interested in the life of Brian Epstein, this book gives an excellent description and wonderful recollections of the man, which, combined with the recollections of Tony Barrow and Geoffrey Ellis in their respective books, probably gives the best rounded picture of the man (indeed, I think you'll learn more about Brian Epstein than you will about the Beatles from those three books).

Among the many Beatles books that I have read, Tony Bramwell's is a definite stand out effort! The beginning chapters provide vivid descriptions of the early days of the Beatles in Liverpool; the writing is so evocative that it delivers a heartwarming picture of what The Beatles were like as real people and not the iconic musicians that we came to know them as. The book also provides many specific details about how the music business evolved from the early 60's to the present day.

I got interested in the Beatles pretty recently, years after graduating from college. There are tons of books about them out there and I picked this one kind of at random. It's a great read with lots of personal anecdotes and insights. His association with the Beatles was clearly the high point of the author's life, and that feeling comes through pretty strong (he's not a big Yoko fan). The personal feelings are simultaneously a big strength and weakness of the book. They give it a sense of intimacy and immediacy that a more objective book would lack, but sometimes you get the feeling you're not getting the full perspective. The book has chapters devoted to Bramwell's Beatles life after

the band broke up, but they're pretty dull. I didn't get too far in the post-Beatles chapters but already felt I got my money's worth.

I enjoyed the book very much. It definately has Tony's zany character written all over it (and photos!) but he did in fact write the book, so he is allowed to favor events, types of events, etc. I found it VERY different from all the other Beatles books I have read, and am still curious how he seems and claims to know so much, and seen so much; but no one else seems to ever mention him in other Beatle books? But there he was indeed, and many photos to prove it! He was in Brian's office more than the Beatles studio or whatever, so he did have a side view, BUT(!)a VERY close one. As a kid I watched 'Where tha Action Is' ALL THE TIME, and even stayed home 'sick' for the morning to watch it (then felt better after lunch and went to school!). He made all those! He really was in the thick of most of the Beatles stuff, though on the 'back-ground' side of it, not the 'press-time' side perhaps. I admire and agree with his evaluations of most of the people the Beatles dealt with, and especially am grateful for his opening up the previously VERY one-sided 'positive' veiw of Y.O. I had NEVER liked her around, and didn't trust any of the media hype about her, was disgusted with all the horrible garbage she was doing (Art? NO WAY!!!!!!), and sickened by her ever-increasing presence and control of John. In fact Y.O. was all the proof one needed to see that John had gone finally off the wall (Humpty-Dunpty indeed, he was the egg-man!). His tragic childhood, the presures of his extreme fame, and then ALL that LSD...He was an easy target for the likes of Y.O. and her husband, and he fell for it. Sick story, and Tony opens up news that most of us never knew about over in the USA. I do wonder where he got all the info, but will trust him until proven wrong. Oh, and TONS of new photos!!!! (You will know what Tony looks like for ever, after this book!) Great read! Thanks Tony!!!

Great read, until about 2/3 of the way thorough, when it somewhat devolves into Tony's conquests of women, business deals I had NO interest in, and L.A. party descriptions. But it comes back eventually, and finishes nicely. Otherwise, 5 stars.

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