

# **THE BEATLES**

## **THEIR GOLDEN AGE**

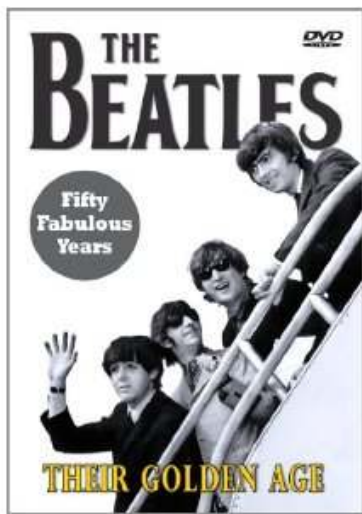
**Narrated and Written by Les Krantz**

**DVD**

**MVD5397D**

**60 minutes**

**\$9.95**



Beginning with the inception of the group in 1960, this documentary is a nostalgic look at the excitement generated in the pop music world by the Fab Four from Liverpool. It captures some of the pandemonium of Beatlemania and some of the real magic as well. When John Lennon once boasted that they were bigger than Jesus—invoking the irrational wrath of the Religious Right (what a misnomer!) in the U.S.—they were not exaggerating their pop cult status. The group lifted the lid off hundreds of years of English reserve, provoking mass hysteria among screaming, weeping, fainting fans around the world. Sometimes the noise of fans drowned out the roar of the plane engines on their arrival. They played on the Ed Sullivan Show and in Carnegie Hall, the latter usually

reserved for Beethoven and Bach, and they conquered the colonies, past and present. And they were never pretentious, pontifical, or pompous. They remained giddy and loose with wisecracks, as if they could hardly believe their luck. But it wasn't just luck that accounted for their success. They knew how to stay ahead of fashion and how to develop as music-makers. They went from sweet, harmless ballads ("I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Love Me, Love Me, Do," "I Saw Her Standing There," etc) to psychedelia ("Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band") and edgy stuff or new numbers influenced by the exotic sitar. They could be melancholy ("Yesterday"), acerbic ("Tax Man"), dreamy ("Eleanor Rigby"), exuberant ("Gotta Get You Into My Life"), etc. And they were avant-garde, as in the films *A Hard Day's Night* (with the undeniable help of director Richard Lester), *Help!*, *The Magical Mystery Tour*, and *Yellow Submarine*.

The documentary is wise to limit itself to their golden period, before things went sour with broken marriages, Lennon's murder, the group's dissolution, and Harrison's death from cancer. The DVD includes news footage from their whirlwind tours across Europe, America, and Asia, movie scenes, interviews, and public appearances, and is therefore a gift to Beatles fans everywhere. In a sense, it is a souvenir of a group whose members always were true to themselves, and who gave as much joy to music lovers as they derived themselves from their creations.

**[Go Back to: Opera/CD/Film Reviews](#)**