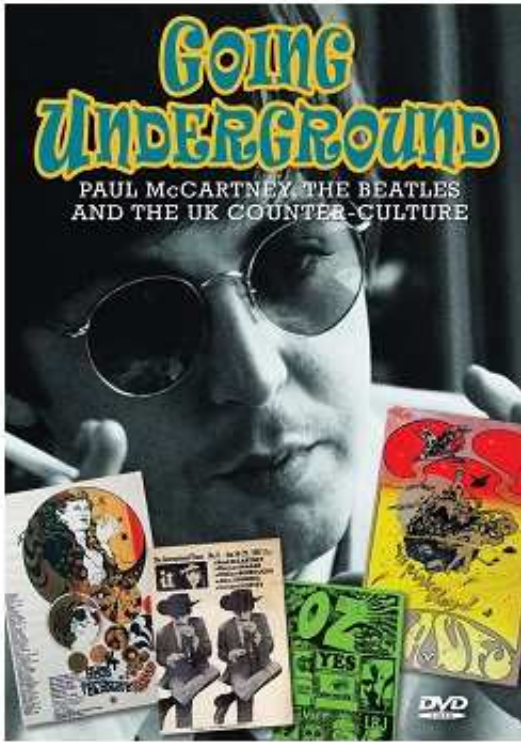


Going Underground: Paul McCartney, The Beatles and the UK Counter-Culture



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[content/uploads/2013/09/GoingUndergroundDVD.jpg](http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/GoingUndergroundDVD.jpg)) **Main Plot Points:**

- In the mid-1960s the often rigid and colorless British way of life was irrevocably transformed by the emergence of a cultural underground movement. Led by a loose collective of young radicals, they introduced new social, sexual and aesthetic perspectives. Operating out of the heart of London, their various activities, from 'The International Times' – a bi-weekly journal that no hipster could be seen without – to the psychedelic nightclub UFO, promoted alternative lifestyles and values, and sparked a social revolution.
- This film not only traces the history of this underground scene, but also explores its impact on the pre-eminent British group of the era, The Beatles. Although they were well established by the time the movement emerged, Paul McCartney in particular, was closely linked with several of its key players, and through his exposure to cutting edge concepts brought ideas directly from the avant-garde into the mainstream.
- Featuring many new interviews with key players from the time including; IT editor and long term friend of Paul McCartney, Barry Miles; founder of IT and UFO club organizer, John 'Hoppy' Hopkins; founder of UFO and Pink Floyd producer, Joe Boyd; Soft Machine drummer, Robert Wyatt; drummer from experimental improvisational collective AMM, Eddie Prevost; proprietor of Indica, the counter-cultural gallery, John Dunbar; Underground scenester, vocalist with The Deviants and IT journalist, Mick Farren; plus author of 'Days in the Life: Voices from the English Underground 1961 – 1971', Jonathon Greene; Beatles expert, Chris Ingham and Mojo journalist Mark Paytress.

What We Thought:

- **Going Underground: Paul McCartney, The Beatles and the UK Counter-Culture** is more a history lesson of the UK than it is a film about The Beatles.
- It really wants to sell itself with The Beatles, but watching it, it's really not about the band or even what they represented.
- If anything Pink Floyd (or The Pink Floyd as they were called back then) represented more of the counter culture than any other band. It was blatant drug music that went on forever with visuals that shocked the norm.
- McCartney admitted he dropped acid and later albums (after Rubber Soul) left the boy band sound behind, but The Beatles were always mainstream. Sure a song like A Day in the Life or Tomorrow Never Knows was the first time Middle America or mainstream England heard an overlapping track or "acid rock" type sound, but it was still mainstream compared to Floyd.
- My biggest complaint about the documentary is that it's completely biased. It interviews and talks with the people who were part of the counter culture change in England so of course they think it was so important and revolutionary. Sometimes they came across as pretentious and sounded like they thought everything they did was super important. What exactly did you change in the world?
- Don't be fooled by the title. Yes The Beatles are featured in the film, but it's all archive footage and interviews. Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr aren't in it to talk about what they believe and it's not affiliated with or licensed with The Beatles at all. It's still a good bit of British history though if you take it at face value.

Special Features:

- Rare archive footage
- Photographs from private collections
- Music from The Pink Floyd, The Beatles, Soft Machine, AMM and others
- Extended Interviews

Notable Cast & Crew:

- The Beatles
- Pink Floyd
- Other British bands of that era

Recommended if You Like:

- The Beatles
- 20th Century British History
- Rock Docs

Overall Picture:

Movie: **B**

Extra Features: **B**

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