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## The Who, the Mods and the Quadrophenia Connection

At about the same time the **Beatles** were warming up to lead the British rock-'n'-roll invasion of America, the country was rocked by a series of events that would make headlines around the world and put England on the pop-cultural map. Besides the exploding music scene, young people were rejecting the complacent, stiff-upper-lip approach to post-war economics doldrums adapted by their parents. They weren't about to wait any longer to catch up to the Americans they saw having fun on the "telly."

In the musical realm, rock bands began to play music other than that generated by American blues artists. Many teens and young adults found solidarity within the Mods and Rockers. The Rockers embraced a motorcycle-gang motif, while the Mods rode scooters and dressed like dandies. Both sides engaged willingly in gang wars to establish turf, especially in seaside resort cities. Where the Rockers favored rockabilly, the Mods favored such bands as the **Kinks**, **Small Faces** and the **Who**. **Quadrophenia Connection** doesn't waste much time parsing the differences between the rival gangs, preferring to focus on the Mods' impact on British consumerism and their symbiotic relationship with **Pete Townshend** and the **Who**.

The guitarist's nostalgia for Mod culture would lead a decade later to the album and movie, **Quadrophenia**, which framed the era through the activities of a single young man. The documentary is informed by the reminiscences of critics, producers and record-industry execs of the time. Most of the video clips are in the public domain, allowing the filmmakers to do everything at bargain-basement prices. The presence of the musicians is missed, but, everything else considered, **Connection** does a good job.

– Gary Dretzka