



Legends

THE OFFICIAL GRAND THEATRE STUDY GUIDE

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About the Writer

Alex Mustakas is a theatre administrator, director, actor, and is currently the Artistic Director for Drayton Entertainment in Ontario. Alex was originally born in Cyprus and moved to Canada at the age of six. He found his love for theatre while working on shows at Eastwood Collegiate in Kitchener. Mustakas attended Wilfrid Laurier University and graduated with a business degree, although he continued his interest in the arts by studying music throughout university. Mustakas was employed as a businessman for a short period, but soon decided to become a professional actor instead. With his business background he became interested in theatre administration and in 1988 he moved to London, England where he received a Master of Arts in Administration at the City University.

Mustakas returned to Canada and directed shows for the Waterloo Regional Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Kitchener-Waterloo Musical Productions and then built a community theatre business in Drayton, Ontario. In 1991 he became the Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment Company, which is now the third largest regional theatre company in Canada. He is responsible for five theatres and although he is greatly in charge of the administrative side he continues to direct and write.

In 1993 Mustakas won the Kitchener-Waterloo Arts Award for performing arts and in 2004 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Wilfrid Laurier University for his contributions to the arts in Ontario.

In 2008, Alex directed the prequel to *Legends, Twist and Shout: The British Invasion*, at The Grand Theatre.

About the Music

There are many different musical legends featured in the show. They are: Tina Turner, Bill Hayley and His Comets, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chubby Checker, Chuck Berry, Danny and the Juniors, Buddy Holly and the Crickets, The Hollies, George Burns, The Ronettes, Dionne Warwick, Nancy Sinatra, Cilla Black, The Four Seasons, Janis Joplin, Bobby Pickett And The Crypt-Kickers, The Monkees, The 5th Dimension, Tiny Tim, Sonny & Cher, Tommy James and the Shondells, The Beatles, Petula Clark, Dusty Springfield, The Beach Boys, The Turtles, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, The Mamas and the Papas, Donovan, The Loving Spoonful, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Credence Clearwater Revival, Simon and Garfunkel, Paul McCartney and Wings, Bachman-Turner Overdrive, Five Man Electrical Band, The Guess Who, John Lennon, Everly Brothers, Roy Orbison, Elton John, ABBA, Ray Charles, Mick Jagger, Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley.

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Chuck Berry

Charles Berry, later known as Chuck Berry, was born in St. Louis, Missouri on October 18, 1926. An American singer, songwriter and guitarist, Berry became a huge musical success and was nicknamed "The Father of Rock and Roll". He was known all over the world for his vocal abilities and for bringing an African American and Caucasian listening audience together.

Berry first performed at his high school singing "Confessin' the Blues" which was not deemed appropriate to sing in a high school at that time. The crowd loved him and he knew what he was meant to do. From 1944 to 1947 Berry briefly served time in prison after being sentenced for armed robbery. While in jail, Berry formed a singing quartet and took up boxing. Berry was released on his 21st birthday and then in 1948 married Themetta Suggs. Berry settled into life working at an automobile assembly plant and working odd jobs and in 1950 Berry's first child, Darlin Ingrid Berry, was born. Berry starting taking guitar lessons and learned how to play most of the popular songs on the radio at that time. In 1952, Berry started playing in a club band where he learned different genres of music and became a more versatile musician. Berry started to watch his audience to see what they liked and how they reacted to his movement and facial expressions while he sang. This helped him immensely in the future with performing for an audience.

In 1953, Berry joined the Johnnie Johnson Trio which played at the popular Cosmopolitan Club in St. Louis. Berry realizing that country music was big with Caucasian audiences at the time, started incorporating a country sound into his music. His original fans, who were mostly African American listeners, thought that he was foolish but couldn't resist the sound and eventually almost half of Berry's listeners were Caucasian.

In Chicago in 1955, Berry stumbled upon his idol Muddy Waters playing in a club. He got Waters attention and inquired who he should talk to about recording records. Waters told Berry to check out Chess Records. Berry met with Leonard Chess and found that his label had produced many of the great blues musicians who Berry had admired. Chess told Berry he would let him audition if he brought tapes back from St. Louis. Berry immediately went home and recorded some songs, including his later hit "Maybellene", and then headed back to Chicago. Chess liked his sound and Berry was signed to Chess Records that summer. "Maybellene" reached number five on the Pop Charts and number one on the R&B Charts. Berry's sound helped Chess Records move from a strictly R&B genre to the mainstream sound while Berry was became more

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and more of a star. He went on to record hits such as "Brown-Eyed Man", "Too Much Monkey Business", "Memphis", "Roll Over, Beethoven", and "Johnny B. Goode".

Berry opened his own nightclub in St. Louis called Berry's Club Bandstand, but shortly after ran into trouble again with the law and served five years in prison. Berry was released in 1963 and continued his success with hits including "No Particular Place To Go", "You Never Can Tell", and "Nadine".

Berry was a huge success appearing on television and film, and touring all over, and was able to play to an integrated audience breaking the barriers between races. Berry set the stage for popular bands and musical artists to come such as the Beatles. He continued to play and record throughout the 60s and 70s and in 1972 he saw his song "My Ding-A-Ling" become the first and only song to reach number one on the Pop Charts.

In 1979, Berry was once again imprisoned for four months in jail for tax evasion.

In 1986, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened and Berry was one of the first musicians to be inducted into the Hall for his contribution to music.

Presently Berry is in his eighties and still going strong playing live concerts all over the world.

Sonny and Cher

Husband and wife duo Sonny and Cher became popular in the 60s and 70s for their singing and acting.

In 1962 at the age of 16, Cherilyn Sarkisian, later known only as Cher, met her future husband Salvatore Bono, later known as Sonny, in a Los Angeles coffee shop. Sonny had been working for record producer Phil Spector at Gold Star Studios in Hollywood. The couple started their career together in the mid 60s singing backup for record producer Phil Spector.

Sonny continued to write and produce songs and the couple named themselves "Caesar and Cleo". They released a few singles including "The Letter", "Do You Wanna Dance", and "Love Is Strange" in 1964. Later that year the couple changed their name to Sonny & Cher and released the single "Baby Don't Go", which became a huge success.

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In 1965 the couple released their first album *Look at Us*, which included their most well-known hit "I Got You Babe".

Sonny and Cher went on to appear on many popular television shows including: *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *American Bandstand*, *Ready Steady Go!* and many more. In 1966 the couple released another album, *The Wondrous World of Sonny & Cher* and started touring around the world.

In 1969 Cher gave birth to their first child, Chastity Bono.

In following years the couple became television personalities with two top ten TV shows, *The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour* and *The Sonny & Cher Show*. During this time the couple was also able to release another album *All I Ever Need Is You*, which revived their recording career. In 1974, Cher won a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series for her work on *The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour*.

In 1975 the couple divorced, ending their relationship and duo's success while their show was still in the top ten of the ratings.

Sonny started his own show, *The Sonny Comedy Revue*, while Cher planned to star in a musical showcase of her own. Although many guessed that Sonny's show would be more successful than Cher's, his show was cancelled after just six weeks. Cher's television special featured many musical stars including Bette Midler and Elton John and received a number of Emmy nominations.

In 1976 Sonny and Cher reunited and returned to the Sonny and Cher show but finally parted for good after the show had low ratings in 1977.

Cher continued performing and built a successful solo career both singing and acting. Sonny was elected to Congress as a U.S. Representative from California.

In 1998, the couple was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley was a cultural icon and one of the most well-known figures of the 20th century. Most well known for his musical influence in Rock and Roll he was given the name the "King of Rock and Roll". Elvis was known for his wide range of musical genres including gospel, blues, country and pop.

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi in January of 1935 to Vernon Elvis and Gladys Love Presley. Elvis began to sing and play a little

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bit of guitar at a young age but rarely sang in public due to his nerves. In 1948 at the age of 13, Elvis moved with his family to Memphis, Tennessee. There he was bullied by his classmates and failed music in school. Elvis began taking guitar lessons and in April of 1953 he competed singing and playing "Till I Waltz Again With You" on his guitar in Humes' "Annual Minstrel" show. Elvis immediately became a hit once everyone realized he could sing. Elvis never had any formal training in music, in fact he couldn't even read music, but he knew at that time that he wanted to be a singer.

In 1954 Elvis initiated his career with the help of Sam Phillips the owner of Sun Records who wanted to expand his music to a wider audience. Sam's vision was to bring African American music to his listeners and decided that Elvis would be the means to accomplish this. In 1955, his recording contract was sold to RCA Victor and a man by the name of Colonel Tom Parker became Elvis' manager promoting the singer for more than two decades.

"Heartbreak Hotel", Elvis' first single was released January of 1956 and was an instant hit. Shortly after, in November of that year, he also made his film debut in *Love Me Tender*. Elvis became an international sensation and enormously popular with his music, television and movie appearances.

Although widely popular, Elvis created much controversy for his movement on stage while performing, especially when it came to the movement of his pelvis. It was felt that his actions while performing were too racy and sexual and that he was a bad influence. Elvis was even considered "unfit for family viewing" by Ed Sullivan and was not able to perform on his variety television show. Elvis was booked to perform on the *Milton Berle Show* and then later on NBC's *The Steve Allen Show*. After such high ratings, Elvis was eventually booked for *The Ed Sullivan Show*. It is said that the first time he performed Elvis was shot only from the waist up. From there Elvis' popularity only grew. In fact it grew so much that at every performance Elvis would barely get the first words of his song out before being swarmed by crazed fans.

Elvis continued to release songs like "Too Much", "All Shook Up" and "Teddy Bear" that immediately rose to number one hits. Elvis also went on to film *Jailhouse Rock* and *King Creole* before he was drafted to the military in 1958.

With Elvis came the media, which the US Army was not prepared for, and eventually Elvis was made off limits to the press. In August 1958 Elvis got word that his mother had been diagnosed with hepatitis and he was granted emergency leave. His mother soon

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after died of heart failure leaving Elvis devastated as he had been quite close with his mother. Elvis returned to the military and was sent to Germany where he meet Priscilla Beaulieu, 14 years-old at the time. The couple dated for over seven years and then eventually married in May of 1967. In 1972 the couple separated and divorced.

Although Elvis was out of the music scene for two years, his managers continued to release his music until his return to the United States in 1960. Elvis wasted no time and was back recording number one hits immediately after his return and released the album *Elvis Is Back!*. Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis' manager, then focused on getting Elvis movie contracts and over the next eight years he made 27 movies with 15 soundtracks to accompany them. Due to his strenuous filming schedule Elvis' music began to diminish in popularity. Although his music had become a joke to some, he still managed to crank out number one hits over this eight year period and won his first Grammy Award for Best Sacred Performance for *How Great Thou Art* in 1967.

In 1968 Colonel Tom Parker realized that there was a problem when his new album failed to sell as well as they'd hoped for. Elvis' career had taken a nose dive while his family life blossomed. That February Priscilla and Elvis gave birth to a daughter, Lisa Marie Presley. Meanwhile Colonel Tom Parker arranged for a comeback special to be aired on television in December of that year. This would be his first public performance since 1961 where Elvis was seen in tight black leather singing and playing his guitar. The show's ratings had said it and Elvis was back in full force, singing the songs he was passionate about.

In 1973, Elvis' first concert to be broadcast globally was *Aloha from Hawaii* and was watched by approximately 1.5 billion viewers. During that year Elvis also started to rely heavily on prescription drugs after his divorce with Priscilla and in fact overdosed twice that year. During 1973, Elvis performed 168 concerts and continued to book many concerts the following year. Elvis got to a point where he would often fall or stand still while trying to perform for an audience. Many thought he should cancel the tour but he insisted and continued on. Although his recording time in the studio has diminished and he was barley producing songs he managed to produce three albums that went to number one on the country charts – *Promised Land*, *From Elvis Presley Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee*, and *Moody Blue*.

Elvis became over weight and no longer performed with the same energy he once had. He continued to get worse slurring words

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while performing or not even being able to perform. Elvis' last concert was in Indianapolis in June of 1977.

On August 16, 1977, at the age of 42, Elvis was found in the bathroom of his Memphis home unconscious. He was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead that afternoon. Two days later Elvis was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery next to his mother. Elvis and his mother were then reburied in Graceland's Mediation Garden.

Elvis still has a huge following of fans and is regarded for his influence on music. He starred in 33 films and has sold over one billion records, which is more than any other artist. At the age of 36 Elvis received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also been inducted into four music halls of fame – the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1998, the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001 and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame in 2007.

The Beatles

The Beatles are a musical group originally from Liverpool, England consisting of four young Englishmen; John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. The Beatles are considered one of the most successful and critically acclaimed bands in the history of popular music.

The Beatles began their career in the United Kingdom with an initial musical style rooted in 1950s rock and roll. The Beatles began with the meeting of John Lennon and Paul McCartney in July of 1957. John was a part of a group he had formed in grammar school called The Quarrymen and after meeting Paul added him to the group a few days later. In February of 1958, the young guitarist George Harrison was invited to watch the group in Liverpool after becoming acquainted with Paul McCartney on a bus ride to the Liverpool Institute, as they both lived in Speke. Paul insisted that George join the group but John hesitated due to George's young age. Eventually in March 1958, George became the lead guitarist of The Quarrymen. From then on The Quarrymen had a high turnover of drummers that joined and left the group. In January 1960 John's friend Stuart Sutcliffe joined the group to play bass. In May of 1960, the group toured in northeast Scotland without a drummer. On their first gig playing backup for pop star Johnny Gentle. Tommy Moore joined the group an hour before the show. After Moore left, Norman Chapman joined but soon departed as well. This caused a problem as the group's unofficial manager had arranged for them to perform in Hamburg, Germany. The group invited Pete Best to become their drummer

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and they were off to Germany. Best had played with the group The Blackjacks in a club in Liverpool that The Beatles had often played at as well. They were required to play six to seven hours a night, seven nights a week until November when George was deported for having lied to the German authorities about his age. A week later Pete and Paul were arrested and also deported for starting a small fire in their living quarters. John eventually followed the others back to Liverpool without Stuart Sutcliffe who had decided to stay behind in Germany with his new fiancée. The group went through many names; Johnny and the Moondogs, Long John and the Beatles, the Silver Beetles, before finally settling on The Beatles with an "A" in August 1960.

The group reunited and played again together in December of 1960 with Chas Newby substituting for Sutcliffe. The Beatles returned to Hamburg in 1961 and were recruited by singer Tony Sheridan as his backing band on a series of recordings; they were known as Tony Sheridan and the Beat Brothers. During these recordings the group met with Brian Epstein who eventually became the group's manager in January of 1962. The group returned to Liverpool and by this time Paul had taken over the duties of the bass. In April 1962, the group was informed of Stuart Sutcliffe's death due to a brain hemorrhage. Many recording companies turned down Epstein and he was even told that "guitar groups are on the way out, Mr. Epstein." Epstein approached EMI marketing executive Ron White who put him in contact with EMI producers Norrie Paramor, Walter Ridley, and Norman Newell, who all declined The Beatles. Ron White did not approach EMI's fourth staff producer, George Martin, as he was on holidays at the time. Epstein then went to the HMV store on Oxford Street in London to transfer the Decca tapes to discs. He was referred to Sid Coleman who, after hearing the tapes, suggested taking them to George Martin. Epstein eventually met with Martin, who signed the group and scheduled their first recording session in June 1962 at EMI's Abbey Road Studios in north London. Martin had not been blown away after hearing their demo tapes, but instantly liked the group due to their wit and humour when he met them. Martin did however feel that Pete Best couldn't keep time and privately suggested to Epstein that the band use another drummer in the studio. Pete also refused to adopt the hairstyle as a part of the group's unified look and missed a number of shows due to illness. In August of 1962 the group decided to dismiss Pete and he was replaced with Ringo Starr (born Richard Starkey), the drummer for the group Rory Storm and the Hurricanes. Ringo had performed occasionally with the group in Hamburg and even privately recorded with John, Paul and George in October 1960 while acting as a backup group for Lu Walters. Ringo played on The

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Beatles' second EMI recording session on September 4, 1962, but Martin hired session drummer Andy White for their next session on September 11. The group's song "Love Me Do" peaked on the charts in the U.K. at number 17 and in November they recorded their second single "Please Please Me", which reached number two. Three months later they recorded their first album also titled *Please Please Me*. From this point on The Beatles' fame spread and the uncontrolled excitement toward the group, predominantly from teenage female fans, was referred to as "Beatlemania".

Word of the group began to spread and on February 7, 1964, the four Englishmen from Liverpool, England arrived at New York's JFK Airport where they were met by 3,000 screaming fans. On February 9, The Beatles appeared live for the first time on American television on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Their first American concert was in Washington D.C. on February 11 which was just the beginning of the group's huge success that changed music history forever.

The Beatles led the "British Invasion" into America in the 1960s. Their fame spread and soon they were known worldwide. The four Englishmen were social trend-setters and helped to define the 1960s with their clothes, styles and statements. The Beatles continued to perform, record albums, and their songs were constantly on the charts around the world.

On April 10, 1970, Paul McCartney publicly announced the break-up of The Beatles and the group's partnership was dissolved completely in 1975. All members continued solo careers and released solo albums shortly after their break-up.

On December 8, 1980, at the age of 40, John Lennon was shot several times and killed by Mark David Chapman just outside his home in New York City. In 1981, the three remaining group members reunited and recorded "All Those Years Ago", as a tribute to John Lennon.

In 1988, The Beatles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a group. Later, John Lennon was inducted in 1994, Paul McCartney in 1999, and George Harrison in 2004.

George Harrison was diagnosed with lung cancer in the late 1990s and passed away on November 29, 2001.

In 2004, *Rolling Stones* magazine ranked The Beatles #1 on its list of Greatest Artists of All Time.

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The group is known for many of their popular favourites such as "Let it Be", "Yesterday", "Yellow Submarine", "Love Me Do", as well as countless others.

Dusty Springfield

Dusty Springfield is known as United Kingdom's greatest female singer and has been called the "White Lady of Soul" for her ability to sing pop, soul, rock, blues and anything else thrown her way. She poured her heart into her music and in return she developed a relationship where her fans could relate to her and her music.

Dusty, originally named Mary O'Brien, was born in London, England in 1939. She was brought up by a father who loved classical and jazz, surrounding her in a wide variety of musical genres. Dusty became interested in sounding like jazz singer Peggy Lee and would imitate her effortless sound. She knew from the young age of 10 that she wanted to be a blues singer and took pop and mixed it with soul to create a unique, rich sound never heard before.

Dusty became part of a female trio called The Lana Sisters, where she developed harmonizing, learned microphone techniques and did some recording, and television while also playing live. Dusty then became a part of The Springfields, a group that recorded commercial folk music and increased their fame on both sides of the Atlantic. The Springfields were then caught between pop and folk and Dusty finally left in 1963 to pursue a solo career. Her first solo single "I Only Want to be With You", released in 1963, became an instant success and was a major hit. She continued to produce hit songs and made the UK chart 17 times, scoring 10 Top 10 singles from 1963 to 1969. Dusty's music was close to an R&B sound and she was said to have a voice that was "too black to be white". She performed all around the world and received many awards. In May of 1968 she performed for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Royal Variety Performance at The London Palladium.

Dusty had become a success but found she couldn't handle the touring and appearances that were necessary for her growing career. By the end of the 60s Dusty recorded and released her most famous album, *Dusty In Memphis*, where she was able to take her voice to a new place.

Dusty was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999 and in March of that year passed after a battle with cancer.

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Play Synopsis

Setting: The play takes place in New York City in 1975 during a musical tribute to Roy Solomon, a legendary TV show host.

ACT I

It's 1975, and Roy Solomon, one of the most beloved TV show hosts around, is retiring. To wish him well and to celebrate his achievements, Sheldon Lubliner, Michael Lerner and the SBC Orchestra have organized a two hour tribute that will highlight his 20 years on the air. Roy is the host of a musical variety show, much like *The Ed Sullivan Show*, and has featured some of the most famous musicians of all time.

The retrospective begins in 1955 with the birth of rock n' roll; Sheldon talks about the 1950s and what that decade meant for music. Roy welcomed to his show guests such as Bill Haley and the Comets, Little Richard, Chuck Berry and many other artists. The Roy Solomon Sensations, Roy's house band on the show, come out and sing an assortment of songs from the early rock n' roll era. Sheldon talks next about a young artist that came onto the scene in 1958 – Buddy Holly.

Sheldon moves to the 1960s and talks about how feminism started to take root and how it influenced many changes in music at that time. He continues telling about how Roy Solomon featured female musicians on the show such as Cilla Black and Nancy Sinatra. The house band sings an assortment of these songs as well. Next, Sheldon talks about the hippie generation and the music that came out of that era, including the sounds of 5th Dimension, Sonny and Cher and The Monkees.

When Sheldon reaches 1964, he talks about one of the most influential moments in the history of rock n' roll – The Beatles appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, aka "The British Invasion". He explains how successful The Beatles were in America, shattering records for album sales and making young girls swoon. He also introduces America's most successful home-grown band, The Beach Boys.

ACT II

The musical tribute has now reached 1965, and Sheldon describes how racial integration changed the face of popular music. He credits Roy with helping to make this possible by introducing the world to the sound of Motown. He talks about how rock music was influenced by many different sources, including folk, and invites the house band to pay tribute to groups such as The Mamas and the

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Papas, Crosby, Stills and Nash and Simon and Garfunkel. As the show continues, Sheldon pays tribute to Janis Joplin as well as some of the best Canadian acts to influence rock n' roll, such as Bachman Turner Overdrive, Five Man Electrical Band and The Guess Who.

Sheldon looks back over Roy's 20 year career and the changes society faced over that time, including feminism, civil rights and violence, both at home and overseas. He talks about the song that asked listeners to imagine life without all of the social ills of the time. The musical tribute continues with John Lennon's "Imagine". As the tribute comes to a close, Sheldon welcomes the house band to the stage to pay tribute to the man who influenced rock n' roll and popular culture more than anyone else in history, Elvis Presley.

Characters:

Sheldon Lubliner: Roy Solomon's side kick and the host for this piticular show.

Roy Solomon: Host of the Roy Solomon Show.

Different Bands and Singers Featured:

Tina Turner
Bill Haley and His Comets
Fats Domino
Little Richard
Jerry Lee Lewis
Chubby Checker
Chuck Berry
Danny and the Juniors
Buddy Holly and the Crickets
The Hollies
The Ronettes
Dione Warwick
Nancy Sinatra
Cilla Black
The Four Seasons
The Monkees
5th Dimension
Sonny & Cher
Tommy James and the Shondells
The Beatles
Petula Clark
Dusty Springfield
The Beach Boys

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The Turtles
The Temptations
Marvin Gaye
The Four Tops
Stevie Wonder
The Supremes
The Mamas and the Papas
The Lovin' Spoonful
Crosby, Stills and Nash
Credence Clearwater Revival
Simon and Garfunkel
Paul McCartney and Wings
Janis Joplin
Bachman Turner Overdrive
Five Man Electrical Band
The Guess Who
John Lennon
The Everly Brothers
Roy Orbison
Elton John
ABBA
Ray Charles
Mick Jagger
Aretha Franklin
Elvis Presley

Something Interesting...

1. The Beatles' first live appearance in America was on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9, 1964. The next morning almost every newspaper wrote that The Beatles were just a "fad", and "could not carry a tune across the Atlantic".
2. Elvis Presley was told at a young age that he didn't have a talent for singing and received a C in his grade 8 music class. In hopes of proving his teacher wrong Elvis brought in his guitar and sang "Keep Them Cold Icy Fingers Off Me". A classmate later recalled that the teacher "agreed that Elvis was right when he said that she didn't appreciate his kind of singing."

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Questions & Activities

1. Pick one of the bands or artists that are not covered in this study guide. Research their lives and career.
2. Pretend you are a reporter. Pick a musical artist from the play that you would like to interview if possible. Make up a list of questions that you would ask them in the interview then research to find the answers. Divide into partners and write a script to perform in front of your class one person being the reporter and the other the legendary musical artist.
3. Pick an artist from today and compare their musical style and lyrics with a song by a band or artist from the '60s, '70s, or 80s.
4. *The Roy Solomon Show* is based on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Research Ed Sullivan and who he was. Find out about the Ed Sullivan show and list famous artists that appeared on his show.
5. Explain why you think a band like The Beatles is still so popular today.
6. Listen to songs by bands and artists of the 70s. What are the similarities between the bands?
7. Research different events and movements that took place during the late 1960s, 70s and 80s. Are there any songs that were clearly affected by what was going on in the world during that era?
8. Listen to a song that was used in the play. Are there patterns within the song in regards to the verse and the chorus? Listen to a song that is popular today. Are there similarities between the two songs and their patterns?
9. Find band members or artists who were featured in the show who still record and perform today. Compare their present music style to their past songs. Do they still have the same sound or have they changed their style to match present day artists?
10. In the 60s and 70s fashion was very different from fashion today. Research fashion in the 60s and 70s. Pretend you're a costume designer and design an outfit for one of the artist that was covered in the show.
11. Many of these artist's songs would have been released on records. Today we have mp3s. Research the changes in technology from records to mp3s.

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