

Standing on the Sidelines

Synopsis

Roger Simmonds was a jobbing musician in the midst of the Cultural Revolution that was swinging sixties London. One of rock's great nearly men, he was hand-picked for stardom by Joe Meek, got drunk with the Kray twins, snubbed David Bowie, walked out on Jimi Hendrix – but he ended up packing in the rock and roll lifestyle for the sake of his family.

Roger moved in some of the glitziest circles of the day – and yet his own career consistently fell short. With a wry irreverence, he looks back on his glory days with affection, but few regrets.

His is a behind the scenes look into the music scene that changed the world. With more famous faces than the cover of *Sergeant Pepper*, Roger's is the story of a decade where British bands changed the world.



About the Author

Roger J Simmonds has been a working musician for over fifty years.



During the 1960s, he played with a number of outfits, including the number-one-charting The Honeycombs.

He hails from the Welsh valleys, and cut his musical teeth on the same club circuit scene that nurtured *The Beatles*. He shared stages and bills with the likes of the Who and the Kinks, gave Tom Jones his stage name, and managed

Shakin' Stevens just *before* he got big.

Stardom might have slipped by him, but he still performs and records.

What Other People Are Saying About This Book

"[Roger's] story is an inspiration."

Martin Murray, founding member of the Honeycombs

"Great insight into British Rock 'n Roll Scene of 60s & 70s. Highly recommended."

Amazon Reviewer

"Would wholeheartedly recommend this author, hope there's more to come."

Amazon Reviewer

"A great read and a good insight into life and bands of the time."

Amazon Reviewer

Key Selling Points

- A behind-the-scenes look at a seminal decade, featuring a whole host of legendary names, including George Harrison, Pete Townsend and David Bowie.
- These scenes of historical and cultural interest are woven together by a compelling rags-to-(almost)-riches story, with Roger exploring the sometimes sordid realities of life as a working musician behind the glitzy facade
- Features unique anecdotes about some enduringly popular stars of the day, including George Harrison, Brian Jones and David Bowie.

Comparable Works

Adrift in Soho by Colin Wilson
Absolute Beginners by Colin MacInnes
The Commitments by Roddy Doyle
Legend
The Krays
Velvet Goldmine

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