

Contents

Foreword	6
----------	---

1 Early Days

Growing up on Merseyside	14
John's Liverpool childhood	18
The Quarry Men	26
The Cavern days	28
Ringo performs at Butlins	30

2 Touring Years

Climbing the ladder to fame	36
Sloane Square, London	40
Shrewsbury	44
Weston-super-Mare	48
Dundee	52
The Royal Variety Performance	56
Manchester	58
Granada TV Studios, Manchester	60
Sunderland	62
Doncaster	66
BBC Paris Studios, London	78
Olympia Theatre, Paris	80
Filming A Hard Day's Night	82
The NME poll winners' concert	99
Wembley Studios, London	100
The Jimmy Nicol story	104
Touring Australia	106
Adelaide press conference	122
Eight days a week	148
Leeds	152
Southampton	154
Meeting the Queen... and the King!	164
Help! cover shoot, Twickenham	166

Trouble in the air	172
TVC Studios, London	176
A break in Trinidad	180
New Delhi, India	192
The Beatles crucified	198

3 Studio Years

The summer of love	204
Strawberry Fields	208
Penny Lane	216
Bad news in Bangor	220
The Magical Mystery Tour In Cornwall	222
At West Malling airfield in Kent	238
A photographer's tale	246
New beginnings	268
The Beatle belt	270
London summer	280
The Apple business	290
White wedding	296
Releases and romances	306
Fan photos – a mixed bag	310
Let It Be	336
Live Peace in Toronto	338
The last albums	340

4 Postscript

The final days	344
The Hit Factory interview	348
Index	354
Credits	358
Acknowledgements	359