

THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY

by Michael Edwards
***Brunswickan* Entertainment**

About a year ago, I was extremely excited by the fact that there a 'new' album coming out by the Beatles. *Live At The BBC* turned out not only to be a rather good album full of examples of the Fab Four in their early days, but also seemed to open the floodgates for even more unreleased material to see the light of day. Maybe EMI felt the urge to test the market, just to see if there was still interest in the Beatles - they needn't have worried as *Live At The BBC* has sold around 6 million copies around the world. Apparently Beatlemania lives on.

In the meantime, if you wanted to hear any unreleased material you had to go via the slightly illegal bootlegged route, putting up with mediocre sound quality and ludicrously high prices. But what if the remaining Beatles got back together to record some new songs? There was always talk of the Beatles getting back together, but it never happened. Even after the murder of John Lennon, people were optimistic by mentioning Julian Lennon's name to take his father's place. It didn't happen.

Then earlier this year, it was confirmed - the Beatles were reuniting. The main reason for this was to work on what is to be the definitive documentary on the band; The Beatles Anthology. And that just happens to be the name of a series of CDs that are to be released over the next little while. The first of those, *The Beatles Anthology 1*, has just come out to coincide with the television broadcast of the documentary and it contains the first new Beatles recording since the band officially broke up in 1970.

A new Beatles song? Actually they recorded two of them using demos that John Lennon recorded at his piano in 1977 - uncompleted songs that might have ended up on his final album *Double Fantasy*. They were handed over to Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr in 1993, and they filled in the gaps. A sick idea? Hmm - maybe, but it was the only way that all four Beatles could ever perform again. I think that if they recorded an entire album this way I might have felt a little on the nauseous side, but I think I can live with just two songs. Especially because there is so much other material on the double CD set that deserves our attention.

What sort of material? Well, they kick things off with a couple of recordings from 1958 when the Beatles didn't even exist; John, Paul and George were in the Quarry Men. Their version of 'That'll Be The Day' doesn't hold a match to Buddy Holly's, while both Paul McCartney and George Harrison have written better songs than 'In Spite Of All The Danger'. And did I mention that the sound quality isn't all that good either? But there is just no denying their historical importance - from small acorns...



And what if you never did really like Ringo? Well, now you have the chance to hear Pete Best whacking the skins in a previously unreleased take of 'Love Me Do' which is much slower than the one that saw light of day as their first single. There are also some recordings that date to the very early days when Stuart Sutcliffe strapped on a bass guitar and posed so dramatically for the camera.

Just in case you really don't want to listen to any of that new and unreleased material, there are live versions of some of your old favourites from a variety of sources such as the Ed Sullivan Show, the Royal Command Performance and the Morecambe and Wise Show. So far so good. But my favourite aspect of this release are the demos and early takes of more famous songs. By giving these a listen, you can see how songs developed or even changed completely - the version of 'And I Love Her' features the entire band rather then the sparse acoustic guitar/woodblock version that we are all familiar with. And then there are the two versions of 'I'll Be Back' that show how two different tempos were experimented with - it is fairly obvious which one was used.

The famous Beatles sense of humour is evident in many places too - ad-libs between songs at the live shows; little comments as rehearsals of some songs fall apart - and there are some snippets from interviews seen in the documentary too.

And then there is 'Free As A Bird' - the new song. The first time I heard it, I thought it was kind of boring. Then I found myself singing it to myself almost unconsciously - the tune had gotten under my skin which is always the sign of a good pop song. If you can put your morals to one side, it really doesn't sound too bad at all - a bit like something from the *Abbey Road* or *Let It Be* era. You might think that John Lennon recorded his vocals using a very cheap microphone, and that the lyrics are rather simple, but it isn't a bad song. Jeff Lynne's production is remarkably light-handed for someone who has previously made everyone sound like ELO, and the overall feel is one of a Beatles song. Not their best one, but a Beatles song nonetheless. I wouldn't rush out and buy *The Beatles Anthology* simply for this song, but I won't programme my CD player to skip it either.

It's a very, very attractive and interesting package that has made me listen to practically nothing but the Beatles for the past week. I, for one, really can't wait for the next two volumes to arrive next year as they promise such wonders as an acoustic version of 'Strawberry Fields Forever' and the full story of 'A Day In The Life' from the acoustic demo to the final version with the orchestra going all weird at the end. I'm polishing my Beatle boots, and dusting off my Beatle wig in anticipation.

THE BEATLES COMPETITION

WE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE THREE COPIES OF *THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY* TO GIVE AWAY THIS WEEK (THANKS TO THE VERY WONDERFUL BARRY KENT AT EMI). AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

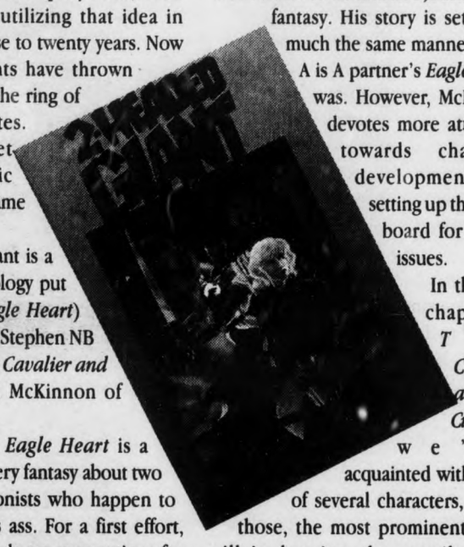
1. **NAME THE SIX PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE BEATLES.**
2. **IN WHICH YEAR WAS 'LOVE ME DO', THEIR FIRST SINGLE, RELEASED?**
3. **IN WHICH YEAR DID THE BEATLES MAKE THEIR AMERICAN TELEVISION DEBUT ON THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW?**
4. **WHICH WAS THE FIRST ALBUM TO FEATURE ONLY LENNON/MCCARTNEY COMPOSITIONS?**
5. **ARRANGE THE FOLLOWING ALBUMS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF RELEASE (FROM EARLIEST TO LATEST) SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND, RUBBER SOUL, WITH THE BEATLES, ABBEY ROAD AND REVOLVER.**

GET YOUR ENTRIES INTO *THE BRUNS* OFFICE BY 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, AND THE THREE ENTRIES WITH MOST ANSWERS RIGHT DRAWN FROM THE HAT WILL WIN. THE ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR'S DECISION IS FINAL, AND DON'T TRY BRIBING ME EITHER (UNLESS IT IS A REALLY GOOD BRIBE...)



Well, this little write-up originally appeared in *The Brunswickan's* Web Site's Summer Issue. So for those of you without a web browser or who are allergic to the Internet, here you go.

Self publishing has become evidently popular again over the last few years. What better way for a creator to maintain complete control of a character than to own the company. Hell, Dave Sim has been utilizing that idea in *Cerebus* for close to twenty years. Now two local talents have thrown their hats into the ring of black and whites. They even get their comic printed at the same place as Sim.



2-Headed Giant is a splitbook anthology put out by Jeff (*Eagle Heart*) Matheson of St. Stephen NB and Daniel (*The Cavalier and the Cutthroat*) McKinnon of Calias ME.

Matheson's *Eagle Heart* is a sword and sorcery fantasy about two women protagonists who happen to kick everyone's ass. For a first effort, Matheson exceeds my expectations for quality of effort and artwork. The artistry shines because of Matheson's use of clean fluid lines. The story is done in black and white, which only elevates his artwork. It's refreshing to see that he wasn't trying to copy the "Rob Liefeld School of Misproportioned Anatomy". The level of artwork in *Eagle Heart* is comparable to the Valiant House style. Page 11 will blow your sandals right off. There is so much attention to detail you even see the stitching in Myrha's pants. Strange for a heroine not to be wearing a thong nowadays.



I did have a problem with the dialogue throughout *Eagle Heart*. While the dialogue was witty in places, it lacked a target. Myrha and her friend are intelligently not portrayed as Bad Girls using thongs and whips to entice fan boys to read further. It was a good read and I look forward to the next installment.

The Cavalier and the Cutthroat is Yankee Daniel McKinnon's journey into fantasy. His story is set up in much the same manner as his A is A partner's *Eagle Heart* was. However, McKinnon devotes more attention towards character development and setting up the chess board for future issues.

In this first chapter of *The Cavalier and the Cutthroat*, we're acquainted with a cast of several characters, but of those, the most prominent is the villain bearing the moniker The Cathandler. The Cathandler is a gentleman, of sorts, who has bartered for numerous deals to accumulate vast powers. He seems to be forged from the same mold as Dr. Doom or Master Darque. He brings a vile majesticism and lurid cunning to get what he wants. Right now he wants an object that loathsome and unscrupulous bastard, Tomas Fawkes has taken from him. Tomas beats his wife and does lots o' nasty things.

I was left unclear who the eventual hero of the story was, but right now my money is on Tomas's son Freddie. Freddie has a lot of angst that he hides by being apathetic, even to the Sun. He's more of a practical person that a dreamer

Even with a price tag of $4.25 Canadian you'll find it worth your time. Fantasy isn't dead, it's in your backyard. You just don't know it. Remember if you're in Fredericton the only shop to be at for the latest in collectibles is Strange Adventures and they carry Two-Headed Giant too.

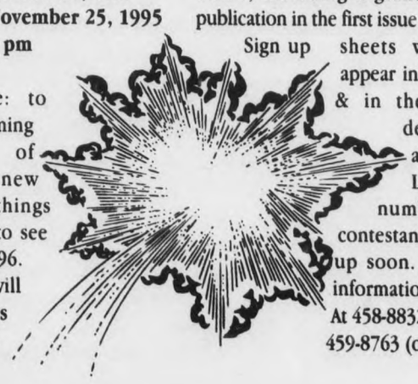
SLAM!!!

by Eric Hill
for *Brunswickan* Entertainment

EVENT: Poetry slam
PLACE: Cellar Pub, SUB
DATE: November 25, 1995
TIME: 9 pm

Raison d'être: to promote the coming into being of QWERTY - a new journal of all things creative & arty to see print early in 1996.

Competitors will be given subjects upon which to compose poems, which they will in turn perform for an illustrious panel of judges. Winning poets will receive prizes from Labatt's, Qwerty & stuff T.B.A., including a grand prize of publication in the first issue of Qwerty.



Sign up sheets will soon appear in the Cellar & in the English department at UNB. Limited number of contestants, so sign up soon. For more information call Eric At 458-8832 (week) or 459-8763 (other).