

On the Brink of Fame – Pop Stars in the Swinging '60s
By Ian Wright

Published by S P Turner Group (ISBN: 978-0-9815283-0-4) \$59.00

OK, so what's a book with Mick Jagger's moosh on the front doing in our esteemed fab four publication? This large format 148-page photo-book contains excellent images of nearly all of the main players on the '60s Pop scene. Our heroes get a generous 22-page section, however this book is well worth the bucks for all the shots of major acts photographed at minor venues – this was the norm in the '60s and '70s, when bands would come and play in YOUR local town, rather than YOU having to travel miles to a major city for a concert. Photographer Ian Wright was staff lensman for the provincial paper The Northern Echo and as such amassed a huge visual record of events taking place in the North East of England. He photographed The Beatles in Sunderland and Stockton-on-Tees on 22nd November 1963. At the same moment in time, someone else was shooting President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas and so Wright's photo-story was never used! Unfortunately, some of the photos are erroneously captioned with the incorrect date and venue – both Beatles pictures captioned as the Empire Theatre, Sunderland, February 7th 1963 are actually from Stockton-on-Tees the following November (the group didn't perform in Sunderland on 7th Feb – the gig was in fact two days later!). Don't let that put you off though, as it is the photos themselves not the text that are important here. Most telling is a great image of massed ranks of photographers waiting for a glimpse of the Beatles at York railway station – a picture truly does tell a million words!

- Pete Nash

-