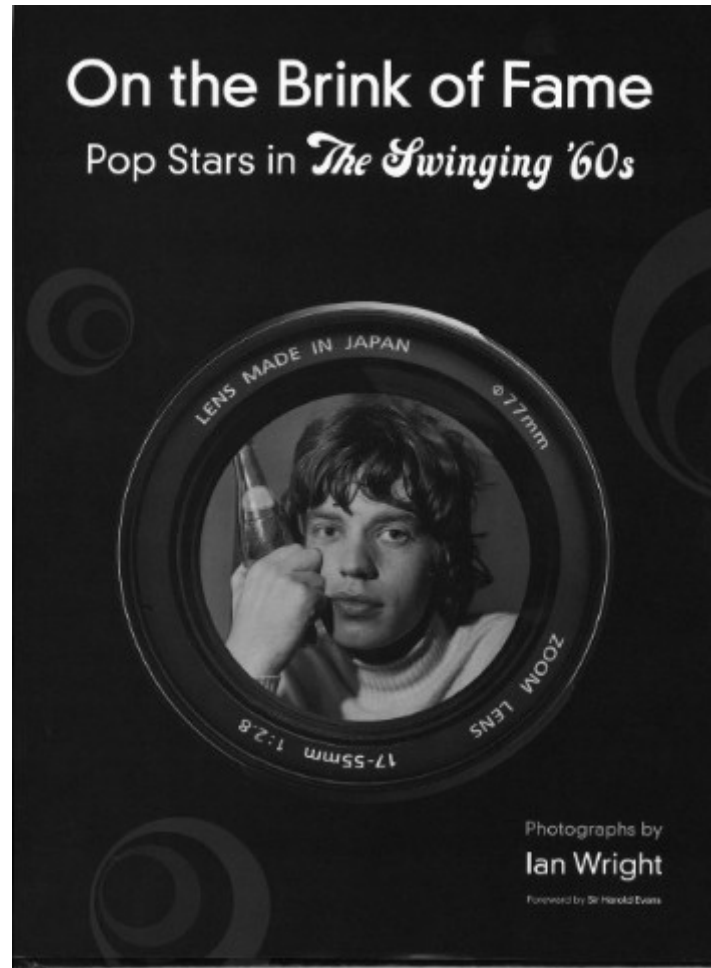


On The Bookshelf: Swinging '60s stars, Music guides and Duster Bennett

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by Goldmine writers



“On The Brink of Fame: Pop Stars in the Swinging ’60s:” Photographer Ian Wright was just a tender teen when he began snapping photos of music stars, actors, royalty and celebrities.

Wright snagged his press photography certificate at the tender age of 19, but he’d already begun accumulating art in his portfolio.

The moments in time that Wright has frozen are some interesting ones that, chances are, you haven’t had a chance to enjoy before.

All of the photos — in fact, the entire book design — is in black and white. While some folks might decry that as being low-tech in this age where we expect everything in color, the effect is one that boosts the book’s charm and elegance. The captions, anecdotes and chapter headers complement the photos in a way that puts the art at center stage. The thick, glossy pages add to the upscale feel.

These riveting shots show some different sides of the artists that you don’t often see in publicity stills or album covers. For instance, Gerry and The Pacemakers positively beam energy and mischief in the shot Wright took at The Globe Theater. In the caption, Wright reveals that the band was full of “nonstop fun and games, football gossip, games of cards and endless jokes” and loved to tease the then-17-year-old photographer about his youth.

Mick Jagger is featured hanging on to a very wholesome bottle of soda pop. Wright snapped Dusty Springfield with a coal shovel during a blizzard that threatened to shut down her show. Johnny Cash waves at the camera while a young fan seated on his lap wears a cowboy hat and holds a toy gun. Charlie Chaplin is captured — minus the tiny mustache and bowler — in graduate garb at Durham University in Durham, England. Roy Orbison, The Animals, The Rolling Stones, The Moody Blues, Ike and Tina Turner, Gene Pitney, The Dave Clark Five — the list of artists showcased on the book's pages are a visual who's who of that era in music history.

Captions that contain back stories and anecdotes offer insight into the photos, their setup and what was going on at the time. This book was a pleasure to read and tough to put down, as each page revealed something new to see, learn and enjoy.

(Hardcover, 148 pages, \$59, SP Turner Publishing Group, www.onthebrinkoffame.com)

— Susan Sliwicki