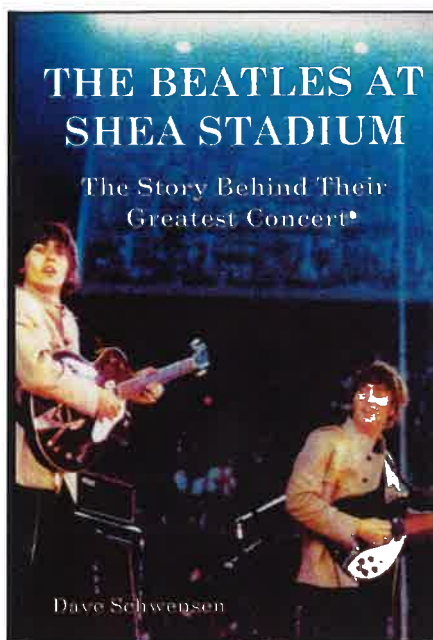




THE BEATLES AT SHEA STADIUM

by Dave Schwensen

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With so many Beatles 50th anniversary events coming up thick and fast I would actually have expected this book to be published next year! Then again, author Dave Schwensen has pre-empted the likely plethora of Shea anniversary publications and documentaries and got in first. This certainly is no quickie cash-in, but is thoroughly researched and superbly documents the event (anyone who has read Dave Schwensen's previous book, "The Beatles In Cleveland" will know to expect an excellent read).

The book contains in-depth research and fascinating interviews with those who were there and others who were connected to this historic concert, including promoters, DJ's, record company executives and of course some of the many fans who were at Shea Stadium that night. All that's really missing is the screaming.

Although subtitled "The Story Behind Their Greatest Concert", the group had certainly played their best gigs as a rock and roll band long before, in the clubs and dance halls of Britain and Germany. For better or worse The Beatles concert at Shea began the modern era of Stadium Rock. Concerts would never be the same again...remember that the next time you are sitting in an overpriced seat at a cavernous arena or stadium and watching your fave music hero on a huge screen seemingly out of sync with the sound coming out of their mouth!

However, Shea was more than just another rock show, but an experience unto itself. If you, like me, weren't there in New York on that incredible night in August 1965, you will never experience the excitement of Beatlemania at its screamtastic peak. This book certainly helps give the flavour of this famous and special show. We get an insight into the build-up to the concert, what it was like backstage, plus a song-by-song analysis of The Beatles performance. The book also comes with its own custom bookmark, or at least my copy did. Illustrations include concert memorabilia, original documents plus some backstage and onstage photographs - although only printed in black and white - we are used to Shea in full colour from the brilliant TV Special that recorded this exciting live event. As for the TV Special itself, that is also covered in the book, both the original broadcast and the restoration of the film. Just waiting for Apple to release it on DVD/Blu-ray now...Pretty Please!

Pete Nash