



ABC1 TUESDAY JUNE 10, 2014, 8.30PM

The story of three tumultuous weeks in June 1964 that changed the social fabric of Australasian society forever.



If you have never experienced the thrill of 'Beatlemania'...experience it now!

WHEN THE BEATLES DROVE US WILD is produced by ABC TV (Adelaide) 1 x 60mins
Producer: Lincoln Tyner; Director: Colin Haynes; Executive Producer Margot Phillipson.

Images are available from: abc.net.au/tvpublicity

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Squeaky clean by day and musically charged at their concerts – it was a different story behind closed doors. Much of what really occurred on the Beatles' Australian tour has never been told before. Like the press that followed JFK, the media indulged in the spoils of being on tour with the Beatles and turned a blind eye to the bedroom antics!

In June 1964, the Beatles made their one and only visit 'Down Under' and turned the southern hemisphere on its head!

The social turmoil caused by scenes of mass hysteria and the loss of control of public spaces was new and very unsettling for conservative authority figures.

In Adelaide a crowd estimated to be around 300,000 people (half the City's population at the time) turned out in the streets to welcome the Beatles. It was the biggest reception the Beatles ever experienced, anywhere in the world.

In Melbourne the army was called in to help police control the crowd.

In Sydney over 10,000 girls entered a competition to win one of just 17 invitations to attend Paul's 22nd birthday party!



The Beatles and their music embodied the future - a future of infinite possibilities. This was a future that promised a world of freedom and promised it to the young! For the first time in Australia and New Zealand, jobs were plentiful and there were a lot of people under twenty with disposable income. It was fun!

In Australia and NZ, the older generations, shaped by depression and war, seemed bewildered and alarmed at their children's reaction to the Beatles.

What happened 'Down Under' in June 1964 was a mirror to what was evolving worldwide.

This was a time when the 'baby boomer' generation was just starting to find its voice and unwittingly flex its muscles. Youth culture was inventing itself, marshalling its forces and was on the march to change Australia, New Zealand and the World!

Narrated by Bryan Dawe, ***When The Beatles Drove Us Wild*** features interviews with many leading Australians about their direct experiences. Among those reminiscing are Glenn Shorrock, Jim Keays, Glenn A Baker, Blanche d'Alpuget, Jenny Kee, 'Little Pattie', Chantal Contouri, 'Molly' Meldrum, Bob Francis, Bob Rogers and Bob Katter.

For the trivia buffs, the 'fifth Beatle' was London drummer Jimmie Nicol, who deputised for Ringo in Adelaide whilst Ringo recovered from a bout of tonsillitis!