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“LONDON ROCK” PHOTOGRAPHER REUNITED WITH LOST IMAGES OF THE ROLLING STONES AFTER 50 YEARS THANKS TO GOOD SAMARITAN

LOS ANGELES, CA – Sep. 24, 2018 – The song says “You can’t always get what you want” but it also reassures “you just might find you get what you need,” and never was this more true than when rock photographer **Alec Byrne** recently saw the return of photographs he took 50 years ago of the Rolling Stones, thanks to good Samaritan, Linda Switzer.

Byrne, who covered the music scene in swinging ‘60s London as a teenage freelancer for *New Musical Express* and other publications, recently published his first book, ***LONDON ROCK: The Unseen Archive*** (Insight Editions / Simon & Schuster), a curated collection of his rock and roll work that had been sitting hidden away in his garage since the 1970s. His presence on social media came to the attention of Linda Switzer, an American living in Macau, China, who had a collection of her own.

“My sister had given me the material as a gift over twenty years ago,” said Switzer. “It was a photo paper box with original color transparencies and black and white prints of the Rolling Stones that she rescued from the trash at a magazine company where she once worked. Some notes in the box indicated the photographer was Alec Byrne and when I became aware of his new book I decided I had to do the right thing and reach out to him.” The two connected via Facebook.

“I was stunned – pleasantly of course,” said Byrne. “We often sent original color out to magazines. They were supposed to send it back but often they didn’t. You have to remember, we were photographing these groups several times a week back in those days – the Stones, the Beatles, the Who, Hendrix, Bowie. So the attitude was ‘We made a sale? Great! Didn’t get the film back? No problem – I’m shooting them again next Tuesday.’ No one had any idea that people would one day be interested in looking at *old* photos of the Rolling Stones. Now, of course, this material is quite valuable. So I’m grateful that Linda decided to get in touch. It’s always nice to get property returned, even if it’s after half a century. This is all part of a legacy I want to be able to put out there for the fans and also to pass on to my kids.”

Among the photos in question are portraits of the Stones taken at their London office in May of 1968, when Alec was just 19. Black and white photos of the session are featured in Byrne’s new book, but during the editing process the color was nowhere to be found. Now the striking color shots of Bill Wyman, Charlie Watts and the legendary Brian Jones can take their place with the rest of the archive.

“The only disappointing part of the story is no Mick or Keith from the Stones HQ shoot. There’s a color photo of Jagger from that day that I’m particularly fond of which ran on the cover of a Dutch music magazine at the time and that I really wanted to see in *London Rock* but we couldn’t find it. When I heard this film had turned up I was hoping that shot might have been in the mix. Alas no. You can’t always get what you want I guess. Hopefully it’s still out there somewhere. Who knows? Maybe the person who has it will read this and drop me a line!”

For now Byrne is focusing on the material that *was* returned, which also includes shots of the Stones during the filming of the 1968 *Rock and Roll Circus* TV special; performing their famous 1969 free concert in Hyde Park; on stage during a surprise show at the tiny Marquee club in 1971; and playing “Wild Horses” on *Top of the Pops* shortly before leaving for France to record *Exile on Main St.* “Something for the next book I guess!”

An exhibition of Byrne’s photographs opens at the Modern Rocks Gallery in Austin, TX on Oct. 19th.

London Rock: The Unseen Archive is on sale now.

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**SELECTION OF
LOST PHOTOS
RETURNED BY
LINDA SWITZER**



Brian Jones, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



Bill Wyman, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



Charlie Watts, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Brian Jones
Rock and Roll Circus, Dec. 1968
© Alec Byrne



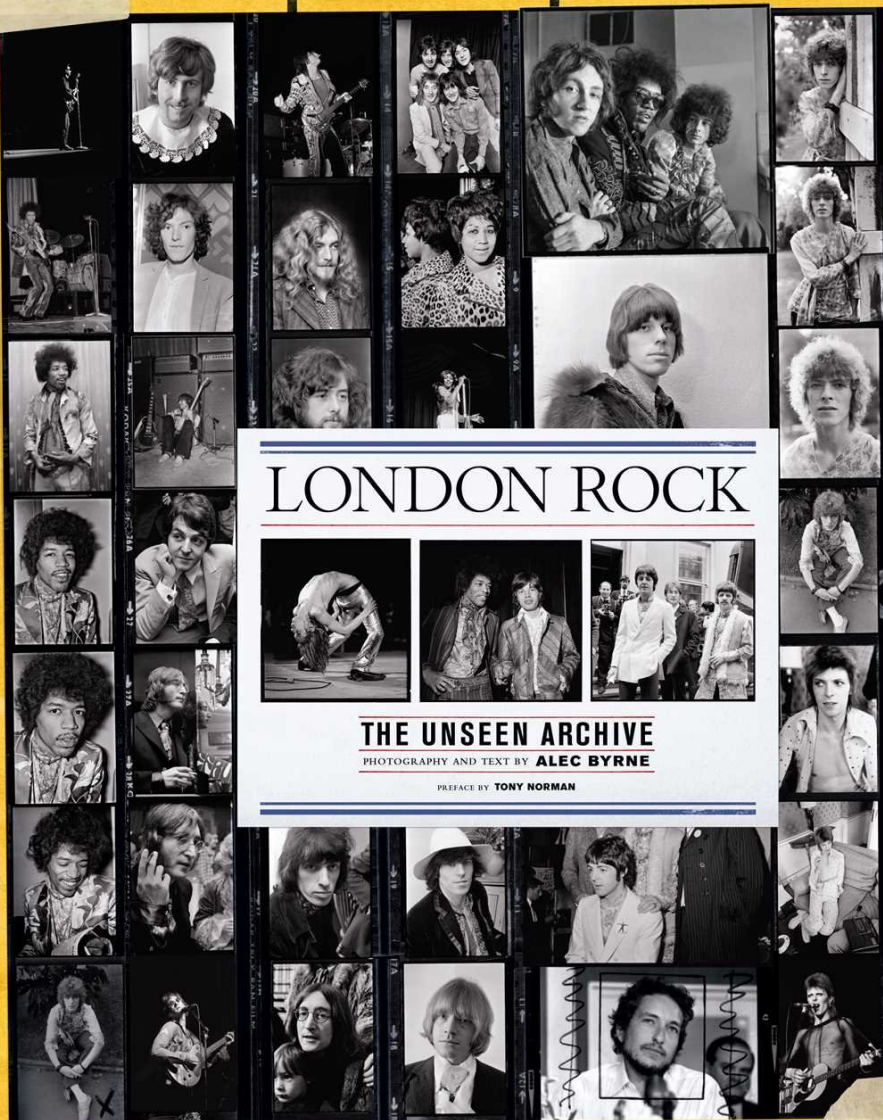
Mick Jagger on stage at The Marquee, Mar. 1971
© Alec Byrne



The Rolling Stones Performing "Wild Horses" on *Top of the Pops*, Mar. 1971
© Alec Byrne

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LONDON ROCK



THE UNSEEN ARCHIVE

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY ALEC BYRNE

PREFACE BY TONY NORMAN



Bill Wyman, Charlie Watts, Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, Keith Richards
Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



Mick Jagger, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



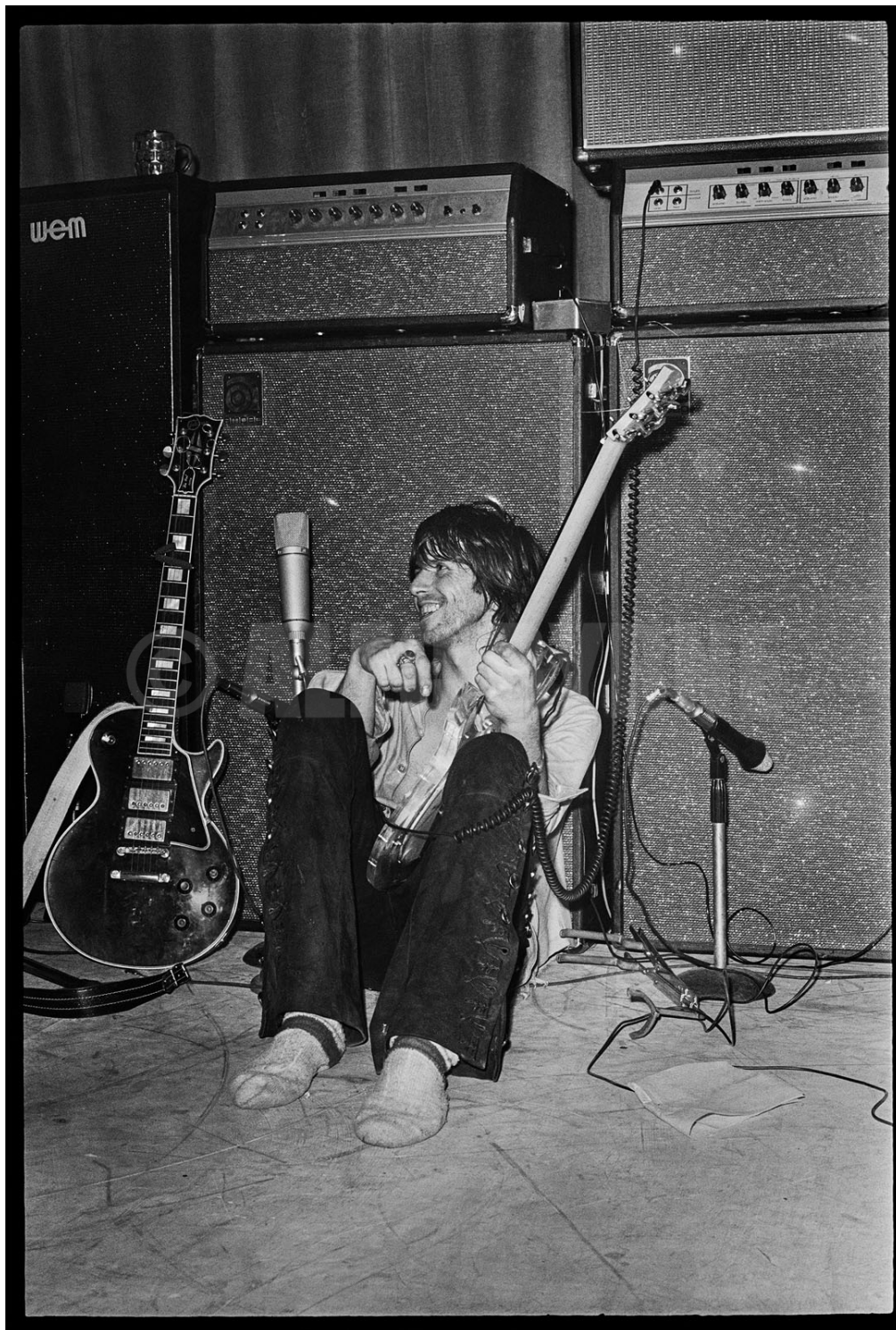
Keith Richards, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
© Alec Byrne



John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, Bill Wyman, Eric Clapton, Marianne Faithfull
'Rock and Roll Circus' Dec. 1968
© Alec Byrne



Mick Taylor, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards
The Marquee, Mar. 1971
© Alec Byrne



Keith Richards, The Marquee, Mar. 1971
© Alec Byrne



Mick Jagger, The Marquee, Mar. 1971
© Alec Byrne

**MAGAZINE
COVER
SHOWING LOST
COLOR
PORTRAIT OF
MICK JAGGER**

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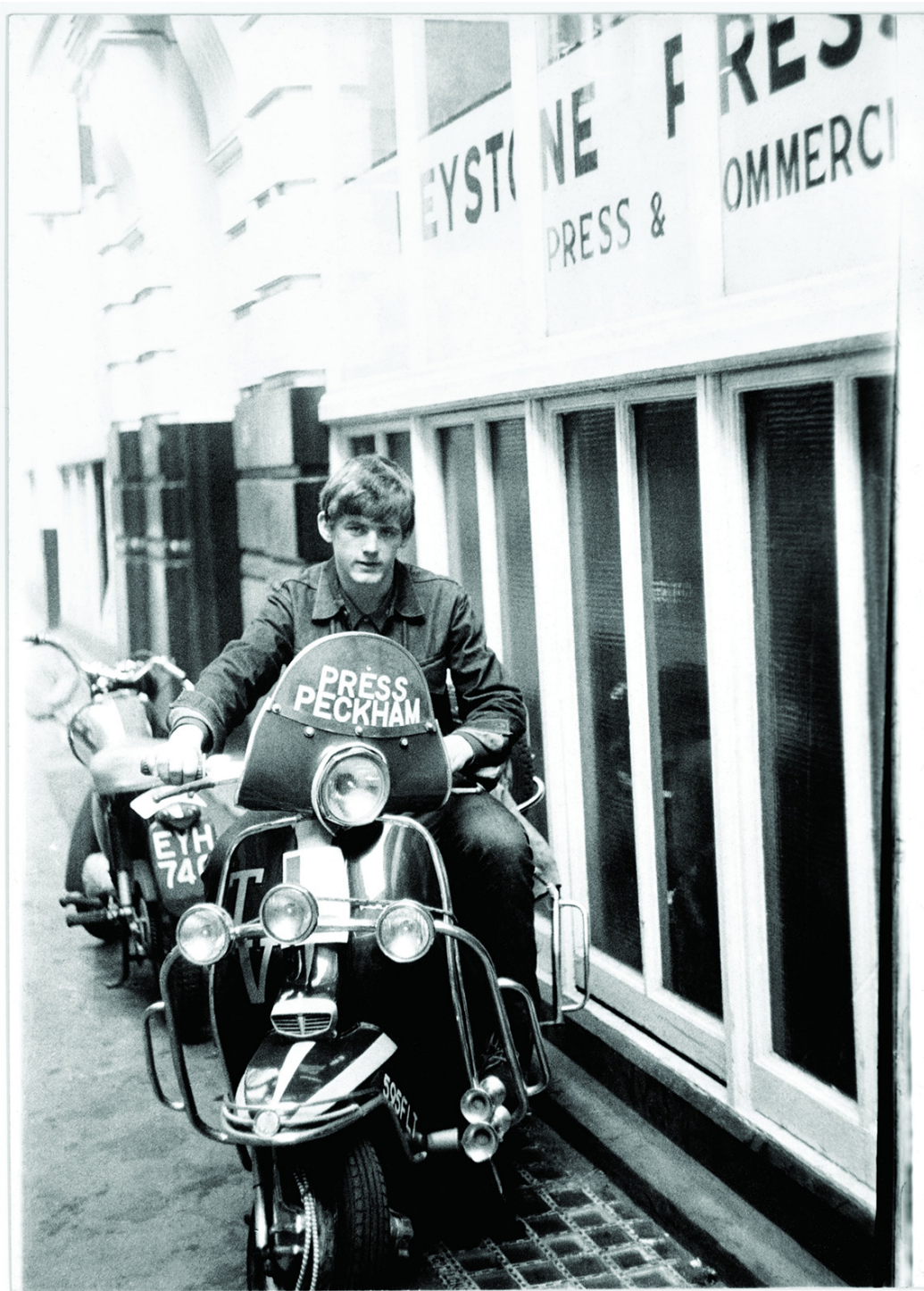
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MICK JAGGER

Mick Jagger, Rolling Stones HQ, May 1968
Photo © Alec Byrne



Alec Byrne c. 1967 around the beginning of his rock photography career
Courtesy Alec Byrne Archive

**Praise for
LONDON ROCK: The Unseen Archive
Photographs by Alec Byrne**

“...all that music was a growing, unchallenged force of nature. These images are physical proof...”

Graham Nash



“...a thing of rare beauty.”

“...astonishing...”

“Is Alec Byrne’s archive the greatest rock photography discovery ever?”

**★CLASSIC★
Rock**

“...extraordinary...”

Daily **Mail**
.com

“...a treasure trove...”

MOJO

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