

A Hard Day's Night

Halliwell encapsulates the plot as "Harassed by their manager and Paul's grandpa, The Beatles embark from Liverpool by train for a London TV show." Having escaped a horde of fans, once aboard the train and trying to relax, various interruptions begin to test their patience, prompting George to go to the goods van for some peace and quiet.

On arrival in London, The Beatles are driven to a hotel where they feel trapped. After a night out during which Paul's grandfather causes minor trouble at a casino, the group is taken to the theatre where their performance is to be filmed. The preparations are lengthy so Ringo decides to spend some time alone reading a book. Paul's grandfather, a "villain, a real mixer," convinces him that he should be outside experiencing life instead of reading books, so Ringo goes off by himself. He tries to have a quiet drink in a pub, walks alongside a canal and at one point rides a bicycle along a railway station platform. Meanwhile, the rest of the band frantically (and unsuccessfully) attempts to find Ringo. Finally, however, he returns, after being arrested by the police along with Paul's grandfather, and the concert goes ahead as planned.

Cast

Cast overview, first billed only:

The Beatles

John Lennon as John

Paul McCartney as Paul

George Harrison as George

Ringo Starr as Ringo

Wilfrid Brambell as Grandfather

Norman Rossington as Norm

John Junkin as Shake

Victor Spinetti as T.V. Director

Anna Quayle as Millie

Deryck Guyler as Police Inspector

Richard Vernon as Man on Train

Edward Malin as Hotel Waiter (as Eddie Malin)

Robin Ray as T.V. Floor Manager

Lionel Blair as T.V. Choreographer

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Man On Train: I shall call the guard!

Paul: Ah, but what? They don't take kindly to insults, you know. Let's go have some coffee and leave the kennel to Lassie!

not take kindly to something = non accettare facilmente qualcosa; **kennel** = canile

George: What's the matter with you, then?

Ringo: It's his grandfather. I can tell he doesn't like me. It's cause I'm little.

George: Ah, you've got an inferiority complex, you have.

Ringo: Yeah, I know, that's why I play the drums - it's me active compensatory factor.

Share this quote

Norm: The place is surging with girls.

John: Please, sir, sir, can I have one to surge me, sir, please, sir?

Norm: No, you can't!

to surge = (lit. muoversi velocemente in una direzione) qui: essere pieno zeppo; **can I have one to surge me** = (gioco di parole basato sul fatto che **surge** significa anche sbalzo di tensione della corrente) posso averne una [ragazza] che mi faccia sballare

Grandfather: It's your nose, you know. Fans are funny that way, they take a dislike to things. They'll pick on a nose.

Ringo: Aw, you pick on your own.

They'll pick on a nose = avranno da ridire sul naso; **you pick on your own** = (gioco di parole tra *to pick on something*, criticare qc/avere da ridire su qc e **to pick one's nose** = mettersi le dita nel naso) qui: tu occupati del tuo di naso

George: Honestly! Me mind boggles at the very idea, a grown man and you haven't shaved with a safety razor.

Shake: It's not my fault. I come from a long line of electricians.

Me [= my] mind boggles at the very idea = la mia mente vacilla al solo pensiero

Reporter: How did you find America?

John: Turned left at Greenland.

How did you find America? = come hai trovato l'America?; **turned left at Greenland** = ho girato a sinistra una volta raggiunta la Groenlandia.

Reporter: Are you a mod or a rocker?

Ringo: Um, no. I'm a mocker.

mod = negli anni Sessanta del secolo scorso, un giovane alla moda che vestiva in certo modo, ascolta certa musica, ecc. Qui viene usato per il gioco di parole tra gli appassionati dei due generi, i mod e gli amanti del rock, combinando i due termini per creare *mockery*, che però significa uno che ama prendere in giro gli altri.

Simon Marshall: If you don't cooperate, you won't get to meet Susan.

George: And who's this Susan when she's at home?

Simon Marshall: Only Susan Canby, our resident teenager.

George: Oh! You mean that posh bird who gets everything wrong?

Simon Marshall: Excuse me?

George: Oh, yeah. The lads frequently sit around the telly and watch her for a giggle. One time, we actually sat down and wrote these letters saying how gear she was and all that rubbish.

Simon Marshall: She's a trendsetter. It's her profession.

George: She's a drag. A well known drag. We turn the sound down on her and say rude things.

Simon Marshall: [*horrified*] Get him out of here! He's knocking the program's image!

George: Have I said something amiss?

Simon Marshall: Get him out!

George: Sorry about the shirts!

for a giggle = per una risata; **drag** = seccatura; **he's knowing the program's image** = sta distruggendo l'immagine del programma

Grandfather: Well, you got me here so do your worst, but by God, I'll take one of you with me! I know your game. Get me into that tiled room and then out come the rubber hoses!

Police Inspector: Oh, there's a fire, is there?

Grandfather: You ugly, great brute. You have sadism stamped all over your bloated British kisser!

Police Inspector: Eh?

Grandfather: I'll go on hunger strike! I know your caper. The kidney punch and the rabbit clout. The third degree and the size twelve boot ankle tap.

Police Inspector: What's he on about?

Grandfather: I'm a soldier for the Republic! You'll need the mahogany truncheons on this boyo.

Share this quote

Norm: [*sees Paul's grandfather for the first time*] Hey...

George, Paul, John, Ringo: [*in unison*] Who's that little old man?

Norm: Well, who is he?

Ringo: He belongs to Paul.

Share this quote

Grandfather: Would you look at him? Sittin' there with his hooter scrapin' away at that book!

Ringo: Well, what's the matter with that?

Grandfather: Have you no natural resources of your own? Have they even robbed you of that?

Ringo: You can learn from books!

Grandfather: You can, can you? Pahh! Sheeps' heads! You could learn more by gettin' out there and living!

Ringo: Out where?

Grandfather: Any old where! But not our little Richard. Oh, no. When you're not thumpin' them pagan skins you're tormenting your eyes with that rubbish.

Ringo: Books are good.

Grandfather: *Parading's* better.

Ringo: Parading?

Grandfather: [*nods eagerly*] Parading the streets! Trailing your coat! Bowling along! LIVING!

Ringo: Well, I am living.

Grandfather: You? Living? When was the last time you gave a girl a pink-edged daisy? When did you last embarrass a sheila with your cool, appraising stare?

Ringo: You're a bit old for that sort of chat, aren't you?

Grandfather: Well at least I've got a backlog of memories! All you've got is - THAT BOOK!

sheila = (inglese australiano) giovane ragazza, ragazzina

Grandfather: Hey, Paulie, they're trying to fob you off with this musical charlatan. But I gave him the test.

T.V. Director: I'm quite happy to be replaced.

Grandfather: He's a typical buck-passer.

buck-passer = scaricabarile

Norm: I thought I told you lot to stay here. When I say stay put, I mean stay put.

John: [*drops to his knees*] Don't cane me, sir! I was led astray.

Norm: Shut up, John!

stay put = stai qui e non ti muovere

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