The History of Rock: Lecture #2

The Golden Age







FATS DOMINO
(B. Antoine Domino,
New Orleans, 1928-2017)

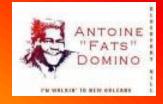


Had a distinctly different relationship to white audiences than other black artists ...



His name? His weight? His music was fun and he was unthreatening ...



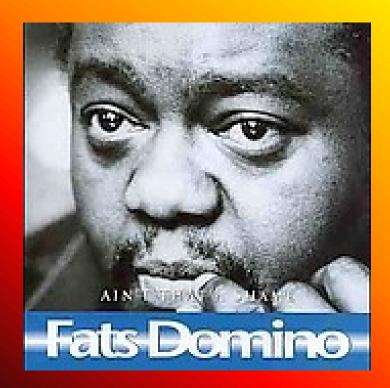




White audiences had also grown to accept
New OrleansJazz – an influence in Fats' music.

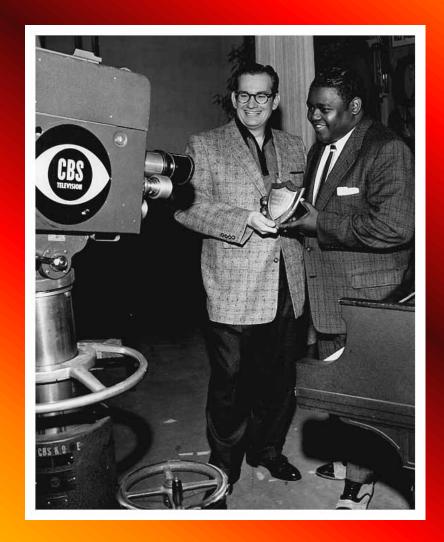


New Orleans meets Memphis



Signature Hits:

'Ain't That a Shame'
"I'm Walkin'" ... and
... "Blueberry Hill"





Fats w/Jerry Wexler; Do you remember who he is? A&R man for Atlantic Records.

He coins the phrase 'Rhythm & Blues.' Why?

"BLUEBERRY HILL" - FATS DOMINO



You're looking at Ed Sullivan, the host of TV's most popular variety show.

AIN'T THAT A SHAME



FATS DOMINO

I'M WALKING



FATS DOMINO

LITTLE RICHARD - (b. Richard Penniman, 1932-present – Macon, GA)

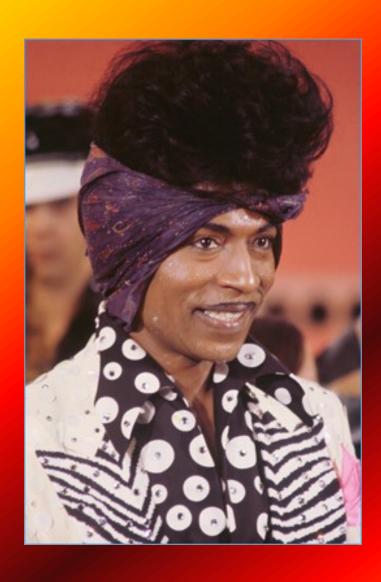


Incredible charisma.
Brought black and white audiences together.



The Madame Pompadour of Rock and Roll ...

A major influence on those who followed him, especially in vocal style and in unleashing the sexual energy of the music.



Signature Hits:
LONG TALL SALLY, LUCILLE,
GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY,
THE GIRL CAN'T HELP IT,
TUTTI FRUTTI,
KEEP A-KNOCKIN'







Always upbeat in public, in interviews he would confess to resentment about white artists making more money than he from his music.



These included Pat Boone, Elvis and Bill Haley ...

These frustrations and ...

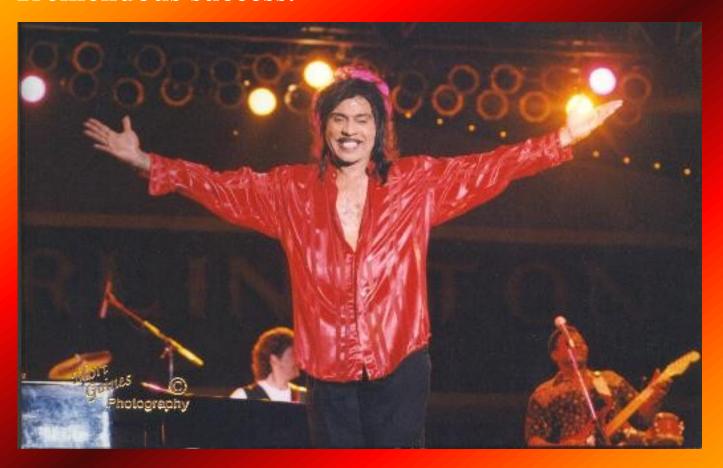






... a 'vision' during an airplane flight led him away from the music industry and into the clergy from the late 1950s til the mid 1960s.

Career revived when coaxed to tour the UK in 1962. Tremendous success.



On one tour The Beatles opened for him; on a later tour The Rolling Stones did.



... and sometimes, with Richard, you can't be sure what is life and what is art ...



Returned to the clergy and remains a Minister ...

Has condemned homosexuality AND come out as gay!

... was also a noted spokesman for Geico car insurance!!!



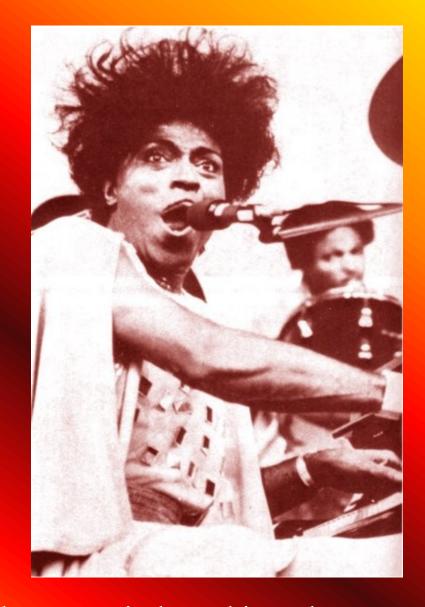


GEICO Commercial #1





In 1985 his biography is published, and he returns to music once again. After this he largely performs live and does personal appearances on TV. In 2000, the film Little Richard is made.



Was among the initial honorees inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame --- 1986.

LONG TALL SALLY



LITTLE RICHARD

GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY



LITTLE RICHARD

TUTTI FRUTTI





Bill Haley and the Comets (b 1927 - Detroit, MI.- d. 1981)



Began as a DJ in Chester, PA just outside Philadelphia.

Signature Hits:
CRAZY, MAN, CRAZY,
(first R&R song to chart)
SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR,
ROCK THE JOINT,
RIP IT UP!

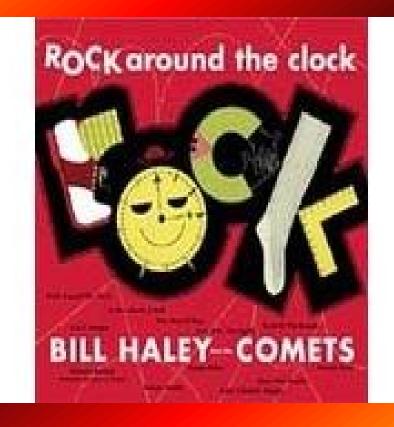






... and of course his greatest hit ...









... it became an anthem for a generation.

Originally unsuccessful. But 2 years after its release It is used for the popular movie "Asphalt Jungle", about teenage delinquents.

ROCKAROUND THE CLOCK BILL HALEY & THE COMETS



Best known today as the theme for the sitcom Happy Days.

SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR



BILL HALEY & HIS COMETS



Chuck Berry



(b. St Louis, Mo 1926-2017)

"The Poet
Laureate of
Rock and Roll"

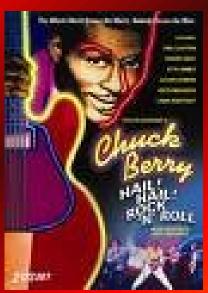


Signature Hits:
MAYBELLINE; ROLL
OVER BEETHOVEN;
OH, CAROL;
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE;
SWEET LITTLE 16;
JOHNNY B GOODE;
... and many, many more ...



While no individual can be said to have invented rock and roll, Chuck Berry comes the closest of any single figure to being the one who put all the essential pieces together. It was his particular genius to graft country & western guitar licks onto a rhythm & blues chassis in his very first single, "Maybellene".

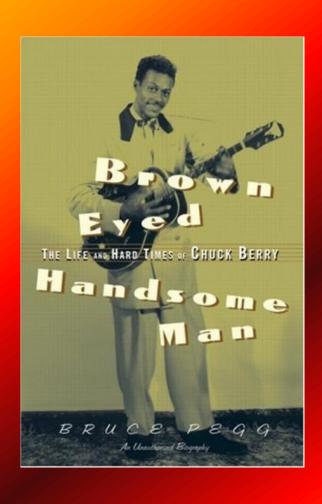
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inscription

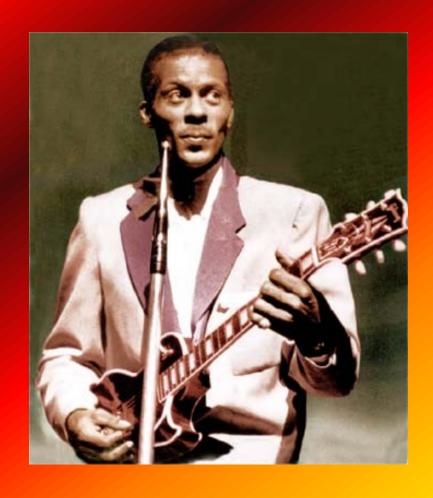




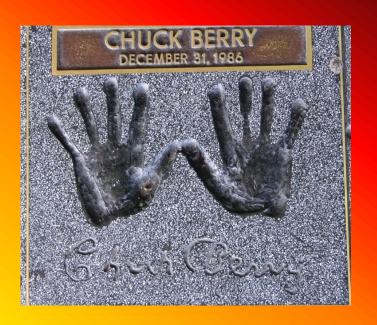
"MAYBELLINE"

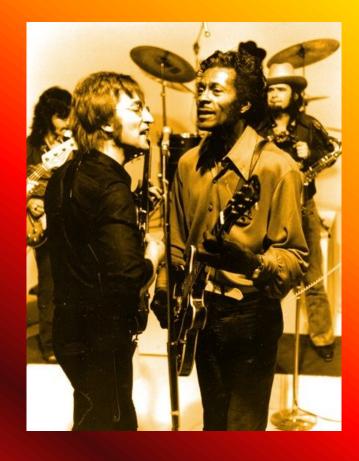
A watershed event in marrying country/western with R&B.





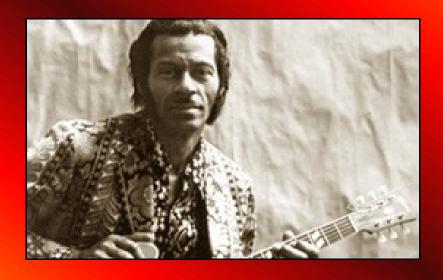






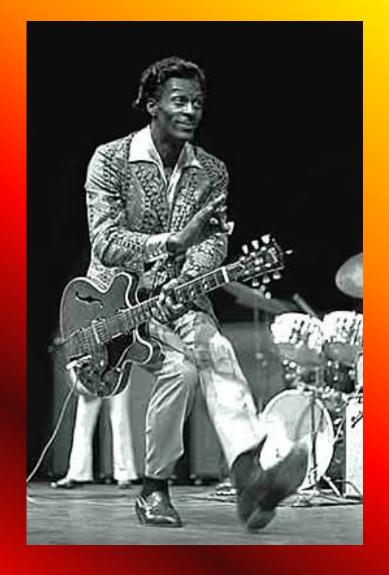
A talent for intelligent lyrics and social comment that influenced Dylan and Springsteen and a guitar style that influenced everyone.

Arrested 3 times, he was distrustful and a ruthless businessman





Would tour alone with unrehearsed local musicians, assuming they knew his songs.



Only artist to insist on a fee for the Monterey Pop Festival.

NO PARTICULAR PLACE TO GO



CHUCK BERRY

ROLL OVER, BEETHOVEN



Roy Orbison (1936-88)



One of Rock and Roll's most poignant and revered figures. A unique stylist and gifted vocalist.

impassioned voice, complex song structures, and dark emotional ballads. The combination led many critics to describe his music as operatic nicknaming him "the Caruso of Rock."



Signed with Elvis' label (Sun Records). Producer Sam Phillips tried to turn him into a rockabilly singer

.... but he insisted –accurately—that he was a ballad singer.
Foremost pioneer of the 'Nashville Sound.'



By 1968 he had largely stopped writing new material. **Signature Hits:**

- CRYING
- ONLY THE LONELY
- *OH, PRETTY WOMAN

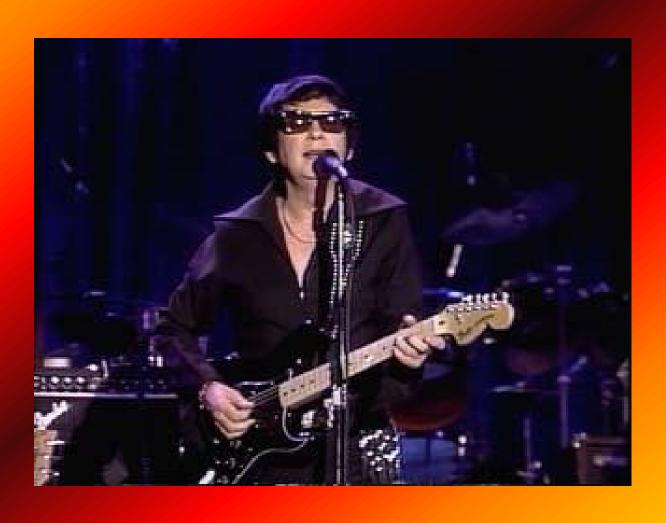
- * BLUE BAYOU
- * IT'S OVER
- *SWEET DREAMS





INITIAL SUCCESS CAME WHEN R&R WAS ON THE ROPES – TEEN IDOLS, NOVELTY ACTS AND MOTOWN GIRL GROUPS.

BACKUP VOCALS IN FOREGROUND AND PERCUSSION SOFTLY BEHIND. FIRST #1 WAS "ONLY THE LONELY" WHICH ELVIS AND EVERLEYS BOTH TURNED DOWN. USE OF STRINGS LENT AN ORCHESTRAL QUALITY TO HIS WORK



Life and career marked by several tragedies.

Career foundered from early 60s until 1987.

After reconciling with his divorced wife she was killed in a traffic accident; two sons died in a house fire.

Died of a heart attack in 1988, cutting short a comeback tour with the Travelling Wilburys. Who were they?

ONLY THE LONELY



Songs like this, ran counter to R&R's macho trend

OH, PRETTY WOMAN



His shyness accidentally created a 'man of mystery' aura — sunglasses, dressing In black; he stated these happened because he never had a manager advise him



Alan Freed

Born in Johnstown, PA; family moved to Salem, OH when still a boy.

1st Ballot inductee into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

(1921-1965)











State-of-the art examples of the technology boom ...





1948-Columbia introduces the LP format (23 minutes @ 33 1/3 rpm)



1949-Capitol devises equipment that serves all 3 speeds.



1950-RCA-Victor introduces 7" 45 rpm format.



(prior lp-sized discs Played one song at 78 rpm; the new 45 rpm format performs the same function.)



26 July 1948, President Harry S Truman signed Executive Order 9981.



The Korean War



For the first time in US History, Black & White GIs fight side by side.

Racial awareness was also growing by other means –



* Through the integration of sports







* Through the proliferation of black musicians emigrating from the South

Social tensions exist between the need to celebrate ...









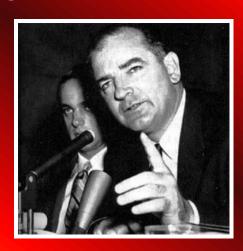
... and the desire to start a new life ...

Equal tension existed between the high spirit of possibility in America, fostered by the defeat of one enemy ...



... and the paranoia attendant to facing another.





The new youth cult rebelled, especially against ...





... lives driven by material gain, leisure and complacency.

Any form of rebellion would serve and music was readily at hand --



... especially a form of music that promised to legitimize new views of sexuality ...

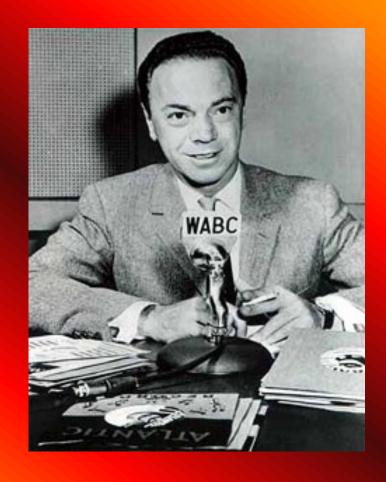
Communications technology, development of the transistor give rise to the invention of the transistor radio --



Now, you can take the music with you! And share your taste and a broader, more updated range of tastes with friends. The 'Greatest Generation' has made their offspring the disposable income base of history's most affluent society and for the first time ever, youth drives the market.







Freed, a white mainstream personality, gave credence to the idea that rock was an entity to be taken seriously – if not enjoyed.

Freed had studied and understood the music.



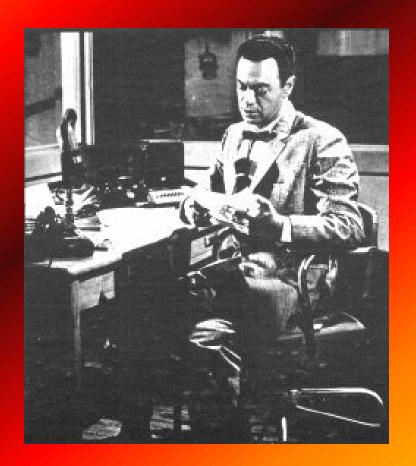


...and had spent quality time in the African-American community.

Started as a DJ in Akron, OH

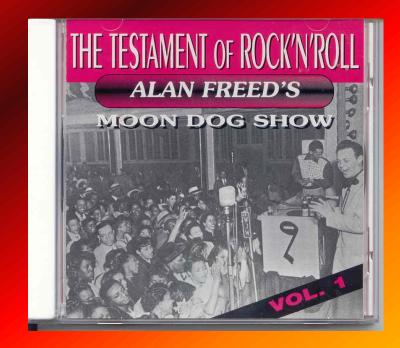
A lifelong drinker and late-nighter,
Freed loved dance music. His earliest
show formats called for crooners and
popular white music, but when he
came upon African-American
music, it appealed to his dance
music tastes.

Calls himself "the Moondog" and his show "The Moondog Show."





July 11, 1951: "The Moondog Coronation Ball" at Cleveland Arena (cap. 10,000).



20,000 (mostly black) try to jam into the arena. Show

is shut down but is considered the first rock concert.

Knowing full well the explicit sexual meaning of the term, he begins to refer to the music he plays as 'rock and roll...'



Employed innovative techniques that gave his show a unique quality and added to its popularity — using percussive sounds in studio; vocalizing or commenting while a song would play, etc.



Despite resistance Freed is an immense success and, inevitably, New York is next

(1954).





Although given top pay he airs in the wee hours, signing off at 2:00AM.







His R&R shows become common to NYC nightlife.



In the spring of 1958, Freed is indicted for inciting to riot. The charge is dismissed by the courts.

Louis Hardin the "Moondog"

A homeless but nevertheless well-known street personality ...



... sues
Freed over
use of the name

... and WINS!

(1916-1999)

Freed renames the program "The Rock and Roll" show, airing on ABC.



The show begins to air on TV but an episode in 1957 results shows Frankie Lymon (a black vocalist) dancing with a white girl and the show is discontinued.

The "Payola" Scandal

(Pay = Payment + Ola = short for Victrola)

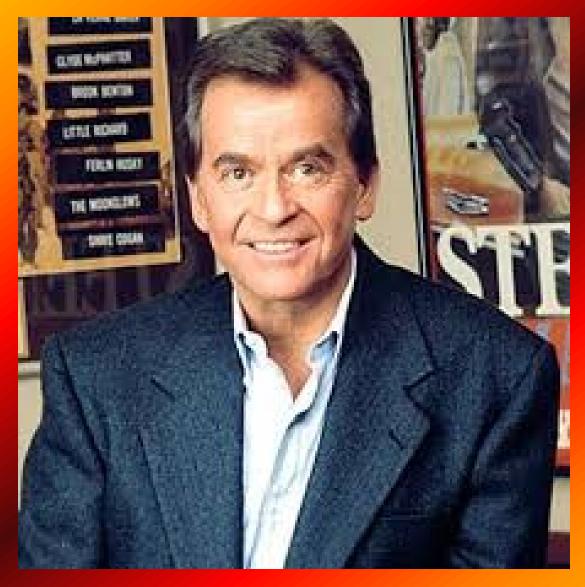


"No one would play this stuff unless they were paid to do it."

- Congressional Oversight Committee



Freed refuses to sign an affidavit, which Dick Clark had already agreed to.



DICK CLARK

Freed attempts to evade questioning by the committee in the same way he feels Dick Clark did.



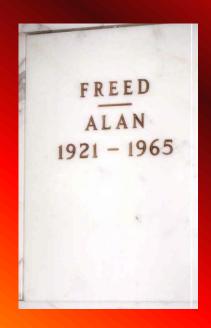


"If he (Clark) can do it, so can I."

His prominence had made him a prime target. WINS fired him and his career was effectively over.



In 1964, the government filed tax evasion charges against him He died before the case came to trial.





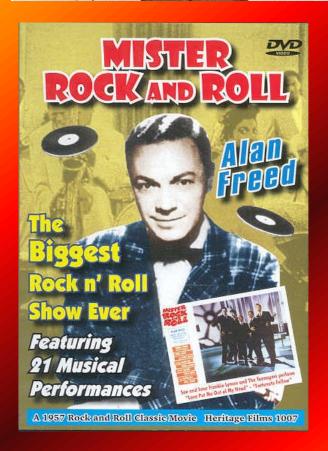
On January 20, 1965, Freed passed away. The official cause of death was Cirrhosis of the Liver. Laid to rest in Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, NY.



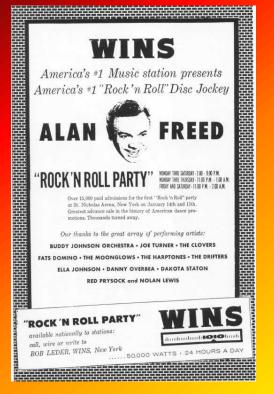
The choice of the location of Cleveland, OH for

the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was, in part, a tribute to the man and the city in which he championed and immortalized the music.





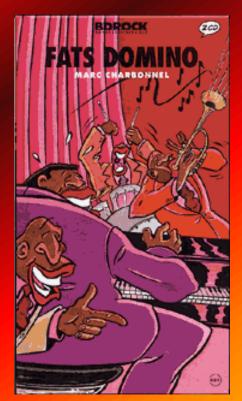












FATS ARTS



... great face!

