



Inland Southern California

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Meet an ex-Beatle

CONCERT: Pete Best, the original drummer for the Beatles, brings his band to the Inland area.

07/24/2003

By MARK KENDALL
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

One of the Beatles is coming to the Inland Empire.

And you've probably never heard of him.

Pete Best was the band's drummer until he got the boot on Aug. 16, 1962 -- just before the Fab Four started to gain big-time fame.

Now his Pete Best Band will play at the Grove Theatre in downtown Upland this Sunday. He says he'll be available for autographs afterward.

The six-member band plays Beatles covers such as "Saw Her Standing There" and "Twist and Shout."



AP file photo

"It's a big powerhouse sound where we have a lot of fun," said Best, 61, by phone.

Of course, fans still ask why he was dumped from the band and replaced by Ringo Starr. Band manager Brian Epstein is the one who told Best the bad news.

"After 40 years, I still don't know the . . . answer," says Best,

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The Beatles lineup before August 1962: Pete Best, George Harrison, Paul McCartney and John Lennon.

adding that he has had no communication with band members since.

He notes that "there's lots of assumptions and theories."

Best points out that musicians get cut from bands all the time. "It just so happens to be my lot in life that it happened to be the Beatles," said Best. "There comes a time when you put it behind you."

But a recently published book revives some of the memories of those early days. "The Beatles: The True Beginnings" tells the story of how Best's mother, Mona Best, ran the Casbah Coffee Club in Liverpool. The early Beatles frequently played the Casbah, and the book credits Mona Best with helping the band get its start. Best brothers Pete, Roag and Rory wrote the tome.

"It's the story of the unsung (figure) who contributed such an awful lot," Pete Best says.

For the Pete Best Band, the Grove Theatre stop is the last on a summer tour that took them to venues large and small, from the Hard Rock Cafe in Salt Lake City to the Tulsa Convention Center in Oklahoma. Monday morning, after the Grove gig, they fly back to Liverpool.



Music Preview

The Pete Best Band

When: 8 p.m. Sunday

Where: The Grove Theatre, 276 E. Ninth St., Upland

Admission: \$20.

Information: (909) 920-4343.

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