

# Helen Marketti's Music Corner



By Helen R. Marketti



## Brian Jones

There will soon be a comprehensive documentary released about the late Brian Jones of The Rolling Stones. Brian started the band during the early 60s and contributed to shaping their sound and influence. While his bandmates are going to embark on another tour this summer over 50 years after his passing, we can not forget nor overlook the life of Brian Jones and his mark left on the 60s era as well as on The Rolling Stones. Film director, Danny Garcia takes some time from his busy schedule to share a Q and A with Lifestyles Magazine about his latest project.

**LS:** Please share a little about yourself and how you became interested in directing documentaries about rock stars.

**DG:** In the 90's I started writing for music magazines and by the year 2000 I was producing and directing short documentaries for the local TV station in Barcelona, which is where I'm from.

**LS:** Were there documentaries you enjoyed that sparked your interest?

**DG:** For sure, lots of stuff but I especially enjoy the work of directors like Nick Broomfield and Don Letts among others.

**LS:** What was the inspiration to create a documentary about Brian Jones? Why now?

**DG:** It's been 50 years since Brian's death and it was a dream of mine for years to produce a documentary on him. Brian was to me the most interesting Stone and there's been a lot of misinformation written about him in the last 25 years so it was the perfect time to tell the story as accurately as possible.

**LS:** What is it about Brian Jones that still appeals to fans? Is it because he passed away at a young age? (Brian Jones passed away at the age of 27 on July 3, 1969.)

**DG:** I think the character Brian created was pretty amazing, just his look alone was remarkable. And then add to that his musical prowess and tons of charisma and you really have something extraordinary.

**LS:** It may be difficult to speculate, but do you wonder how the music of The Rolling Stones would be if Brian had lived and remained in the group?

**DG:** The way things were going in '67, '68 and '69, Brian would have never remained in the Stones. He wasn't showing up to the recording sessions, he wasn't interested in the band anymore. If you read his last interview with Bravo magazine in '69, just after he left the band, he talks about producing and doing other stuff.

**LS:** He started the band and then was booted out so to speak. Was that the downward spiral for him or was it starting before? I know that his girlfriend, Anita Pallenberg eventually ended up with Keith Richards. I had read Brian did not treat her well.

**DG:** I've spoken to a few ex-girlfriends of Brian and none of them experienced those violent episodes. Despite being totally unfaithful to all the women he dated, he was according to Prince



Stash, quite possessive. So, you mix that with big doses of LSD and whatever else they were doing in '65, '66 and '67 and you have all the ingredients for something messed up to happen. Brian was insecure and emotionally he was a child, so that wasn't going to end well for him.

**LS:** What do you think his contribution is/was to the Rolling Stones and British/60s pop culture?

**DG:** According to Bill Wyman, Brian was the embodiment of The Rolling Stones. His contribution was huge because he was the man who brought the band together. By the time the Stones started recording *Aftermath* he was more than ready to show his skills as you can hear on "Under My Thumb" where he plays the dulcimer. He was arranging those songs and turning them into timeless classics thanks to his contributions which is what he did with "Paint it Black" with the sitar line for example.

**LS:** Can you share who some of the individuals are that were interviewed and provided insight to Brian in the documentary?

**DG:** When co-producer Nick Reynolds and I started getting in touch with people for this project, our idea was obviously to get as many friends and collaborators of Brian's as possible to join the party. Unfortunately, the Stones and Bill Wyman declined our invitation but I think we did pretty good.

Prince Stash Klossowski is one of those true friends of Brian that are still around. He was friends with the Stones, The Beatles, Hendrix, etc. So, he had a lot of firsthand information to share with us. Keith Altham is another insider who doesn't need much introduction. He was Hendrix's PR and he knew the Stones very well. And last but not least we have Scott Jones, who's the only investigative journalist that has seen and studied in detail the Brian Jones' Police files. So, he's the most reliable source of information regarding the events that took place in Cotchford Farm on the night of July 2nd and 3rd 1969. I also have to mention Barbara Anna Marion who is Brian's daughter and was kind enough to sit down and talk to us and share some of the information she's learned about her father's death. There are many more contributors!

**LS:** There are many stories surrounding his death. He drowned in his swimming pool and it was an accident or was it something else at the hands of another? What are your thoughts?

**DG:** Brian didn't just slip into unconsciousness and died in his swimming pool; he was murdered. Technically it may be manslaughter, but Brian didn't die by himself. It's also well known that Brian was a

strong swimmer as his Cheltenham friends will tell you. There were a few people that night at Cotchford Farm who saw it happen. But I don't want to spoil it for the viewers so I'm going to leave it there and have Scott Jones explain it to them properly.

**NCV:** When will the documentary be available on DVD?

**DG:** April.

**NCV:** What do you want an audience to come away with after they watch the documentary?

**DG:** I would like them to feel that they spent their money wisely supporting an indie film.

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