

Now WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

An Interview with May Pang

May Pang shares some careful reflections about her recently released documentary, *The Lost Weekend: A Love Story*. She also discusses her upcoming photography exhibit which will be held at Up Front Art Space in Cuyahoga Falls on June 9th through the 11th.

"Growing up in Spanish Harlem in New York I was exposed to a variety of music. I loved the sounds of The Shrielles, The Drifters, Pat Boone, Fabian, The Beach Boys and all of the groups from Motown. AM radio was so important at the time. Plus, we had all of the music programs like Shindig, Hullabaloo and Soul Train. I loved watching the original American Bandstand when it was based in Philadelphia. It was so inclusive. You got to know who the regular dancers were. You knew their names. It saved my soul," remembers May. "The Beatles however changed an entire generation – several, in fact. Their influence on music culture is all around us."

She continues, "The Beatles gave us new versions of songs we knew plus their own originality. We found them fascinating. They put Liverpool, England on the map and created an industry in the UK. The world just seemed to follow them and because of them we had the British Invasion where all of those bands came to over America. The Beatles were four individuals but together they were magical."

After graduating from high school, May spent a year in college but found that it really was not her calling. So, she decided to venture out and look for a job. One day she entered an office building in New York City and had discovered ABCKO (Apple Records) which was located upstairs. "I ventured upstairs and asked the receptionist if there were any job openings but she didn't know of any. For some reason, I still lingered for a few moments and asked her if The Beatles ever came by the office and she said, "no". At that moment, two double doors opened where there had been a meeting and the group was taking a break for lunch. As everyone was walking past, the receptionist said, "This young lady is looking for a job. Are there any openings?" And a gentleman who happened to be the office manager said there might be an opening and asked me to come back after lunch. They ended up hiring me to work in the Royalties Department. I remember being asked if I knew how to type and whatever they asked me I said "yes" even though I didn't have that skill. But I was a quick learner and taught myself things like statistical typing. I had to work hard and prove myself."



May Pang

Eventually May met John and Yoko as they came to New York to make two short films and they needed people to help them with their projects. "I was asked to assist them with whatever they needed and that's how I started working for them and eventually becoming their assistant. I had just turned 20 at the time. There was so much I learned and had experienced," said May.

"I had never intended to become John Lennon's girlfriend," she explains. "I remember the day Yoko came into my office and told me that she and John were not getting along and that he might start seeing other people. I started thinking about how there would be yet another person into the mix. Well what snapped me out of my thoughts was hearing Yoko say, "I



Father & Son

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- 6/9 • The Winery at Spring Hill (Band) 6:30pm
- 6/10 • Ferrante Winery 1pm
- 6/10 • Chagrin Tavern (Band) 7pm
- 6/15 • Noras (BOS) 7pm
- 6/16 • East End GOTL (BOS) 7pm
- 6/17 • Debonne Vineyards 3:30pm
- 6/18 • Rosabella Winery 2pm
- 6/22 • Mr Lees Bike Night (BOS) 6pm
- 6/23 • Stonegait Winery 5:30pm
- 6/24 • Green Eagle Winery 6pm
- 6/26 • The Yard on 3rd 12pm
- 6/28 • Debonne Vineyards 6:30pm
- 6/29 • Mr Lees Bike Night (BOS) 6pm
- 6/30 • East End GOTL (BOS) 7pm
- 7/1 • Private Party
- 7/2 • Chagrin Tavern 12pm
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- 6/9Jim Ales
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The Toy

know you don't currently have a boyfriend so you and John should go out. He needs someone nice." Regardless of May's protests for such an idea, Yoko was insistent.

The documentary goes into detail about the relationship May had with John which he actually dubbed, The Lost Weekend. However, it was far from being "lost" as this was the most productive and creative he had been for his solo career. John had a number one album during this time. (Walls & Bridges) and a number one single (Whatever Gets You Through The Night). He reconnected with his oldest son, Julian from his first marriage to Cynthia. He reconnected with the other Beatles. He even thought about writing with Paul McCartney again.

May does not want to give too much away so to speak as she wants people to see the documentary and see the love unfold between she and John. Their time together was 18 months yet it was a life time in a short time. Streaming of the documentary will be available late summer. Once you see the 90-minute documentary you will want to learn more. Perhaps the film will receive an Oscar recognition for its depth and insight.

In conjunction with the release of the documentary May is currently working with Scott Segelbaum, owner of Rock Art Show. They will be traveling together in the near future to various art galleries where May will have her personal photos of her time with John on display. Up Front Art Space in Cuyahoga Falls will be hosting May and her images on June 9th through June 11th. Photographs will be



Social Commentary

available for purchase.

May shares her heartfelt thoughts about her time with John Lennon. "I think John and I taught each other and learned from each other. Our time together was 50 years ago. He thirsted for knowledge. He loved shopping. He enjoyed spending time at small, general stores. He had such a hunger of wanting to be a good musician. There was a part of John that was very insecure. I know many people wouldn't think that about him but it was true. He actually didn't think he sang well but the flip side of that was he knew what he wanted in a song. There are those out there who have mischaracterized or dismissed me or thought they knew my own life better than I did. I needed to tell my story and speak my truth."

www.maypang.com
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