

Grove Street Pictures Presents

A Production of Spitfire Pictures

Sikelia Productions

# GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD

Directed by Martin Scorsese



Directed By  
Edited By  
Produced By

Executive Producer  
Directors of Photography

Martin Scorsese  
David Tedeschi  
Olivia Harrison  
Nigel Sinclair  
Martin Scorsese  
Margaret Bodde  
Robert Richardson, ASC  
Russell Carpenter, ASC  
Stuart Dryburgh, ASC  
Simon Harding  
Martin Kenzie, ASC  
Ellen Kuras, ASC  
Lisa Rinzler  
Harris Savides, ASC  
Peter Suschitsky, ASC

## **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

Astrid Kirchherr

Dhani Harrison

Eric Clapton

Eric Idle

George Martin

Harry Harrison

Jackie Stewart

Jane Birkin

Jim Keltner

Joan Taylor

Ken Scott

Klaus Voormann

Mukunda Goswami

Neil Aspinall

Olivia Harrison

Pattie Boyd

Paul McCartney

Peter Harrison

Phil Spector

Ray Cooper

Ringo Starr

Terry Gilliam

Tom Petty

Yoko Ono

## **SYNOPSIS**

The subject of endless fascination and adoration from the time he was 17, George Harrison exploded into public consciousness as a member of the most famous and beloved band ever, The Beatles. With the band, he traveled everywhere, met everybody, and achieved levels of fortune and fame only dreamed of by most. By the age of 22, he realized material success wasn't enough: "We had lots of material things at quite an early age and we learned that wasn't it, we still lacked something." Through his friendship with Ravi Shankar and his travels to India, George immersed himself in Indian music and philosophy. Meditation and spiritual practice became central to the rest of his life.

Using rare and never before seen footage from George Harrison's childhood, throughout his years as a Beatle, through the ups and downs of his solo career, and through the joys and pain of his private life, Academy-Award winning director Martin Scorsese traces the arc of George's journey from his birth in 1943 to his passing in 2001.

"The closer I looked at his life and his career, the more I was drawn to him, and to the way he coped with and learned from the peaks and the valleys. I think he eventually came to understand the ephemeral nature of both success and failure." says Scorsese.

Despite its epic reach, the film is deeply personal. Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney, Yoko Ono, Olivia and Dhani Harrison, among many others, talk openly about George's many gifts and contradictions and reveal the lives they shared together. As Olivia Harrison describes: "He had Karma to work out. And he wasn't going to come back and be bad, he was going to be good and bad and loving and angry and everything all at once."

"He was clearly an innovator. George, to me, was taking certain elements of R & B and rock and rockabilly and creating something unique," says Eric Clapton. During a time of profound musical experimentation, George's work as the lead guitarist for The Beatles, stands out. As the writer of "Within You, Without You," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Something," "Here

Comes the Sun,” among many others, he blended spirituality and Indian rhythms into popular music.

George was bold, an iconoclast. His platinum-selling solo record “All Things Must Pass” was released as a triple album and featured the hit single “My Sweet Lord.” He organized the landmark benefit Concert for Bangladesh, the first major rock concert to address a world crisis. He launched Handmade Films, a key factor in the revival of the British film industry in the 1980s. He spent 30 years restoring one of the great estates and gardens in England, Friar Park. In every aspect of his professional, personal and spiritual life, until his final hours, George blazed his own path.

As his friend John Lennon once said: “George himself is no mystery. But the mystery inside George is immense. It’s watching him uncover it all little by little that’s so damn interesting.”

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### **DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT**

Like so many millions of people, I first came to know George through the music, which was the soundtrack of our world. The Beatles’ music, those beautifully lyrical guitar breaks and solos, those unforgettable songs of George’s like “I Me Mine” or “If I Needed Someone,” and the images, in magazines, on album covers, the TV appearances, the newsreel footage, the Richard Lester movies; and then there was the world after the Beatles, when George and his music seemed to open up and flower. I will never forget the first time I heard “All Things Must Pass,” the overwhelming feeling of taking in that all glorious music for the first time. It was like walking into a cathedral. George was making spiritually awake music – we all heard and felt it – and I think that was the reason that he came to occupy a very special place in our lives. So when I was offered the chance to make this picture, I jumped at it. Spending time with Olivia, interviewing so many of George’s closest friends, reviewing all that footage, some of it never seen before, and listening to all of that magnificent music – it was a joy, and an experience I’ll always treasure.

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **GEORGE HARRISON**

During a career spanning four decades, George Harrison earned a reputation as one of the most talented and influential individuals born to rock and roll. An innovative lead guitarist and songwriter, Harrison was responsible for some of The Beatle's most popular songs, including "Taxman," "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Here Comes the Sun" and "Something." But such contributions were only the beginning of Harrison's impact both on popular music and the larger world. His use of the sitar on songs like "Norwegian Wood," "Love You To" and "Within You, Without You" revolutionized popular music in the Sixties. His personal spiritual journey and lifelong friendship with Indian sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar helped bring Indian philosophy, music and religion to the West.

After the dissolution of The Beatles in 1970, Harrison embarked on his solo career in bold fashion. His groundbreaking debut triple-album "All Things Must Pass" and its first single, "My Sweet Lord" went straight to number one, the former eventually selling over seven million copies. In 1971, at the behest of Shankar, Harrison organized the Concert for Bangladesh, a benefit to provide humanitarian relief to a nation that had been ravaged by natural disaster and civil war. The concert, the first all-star benefit rock show, showcased Harrison as a frontman with contributions from his friends Shankar, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Bob Dylan and Ringo Starr. In 1974 Harrison formed his own label, Dark Horse Records, and, along with Shankar and Preston, staged a 30-date North American tour. Harrison continued to release successful solo albums and produce other artists throughout the 1970s.

In 1978, Harrison co-founded HandMade Films in order to finance Monty Python's Life of Brian. He would remain lifelong friends with the Pythons. HandMade went on to produce several landmark films including Withnail and I, Mona Lisa and Time Bandits, re-energizing the independent British film industry in the 1980s. In 2002, Harrison was recognized with a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Independent Film awards.

Harrison returned to pop stardom with 1987's *Cloud Nine*, a platinum album co-produced with former ELO frontman Jeff Lynne featuring the hit "Got My Mind Set On You." Their collaboration would inspire Harrison to form the Traveling Wilburys with Lynne and their friends Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, and Roy Orbison. The Wilburys wrote and recorded two successful albums and had hits with "Handle With Care" and "End of the Line." Harrison returned briefly to the road in 1991, touring Japan with Eric Clapton and releasing *Live In Japan* in 1992.

In addition to his work in music and film, Harrison enjoyed spending time with his wife Olivia and their son Dhani. After a life of excursions in the arts and spiritual adventures, George Harrison passed away in 2001.

### **MARTIN SCORSESE (Director)**

Martin Scorsese was born in 1942 in New York City, and was raised in the neighborhood of Little Italy, which later provided the inspiration for several of his films. Scorsese earned a BS degree in film communications in 1964, followed by an MA in the same field in 1966 at New York University's School of Film. During this time, he made numerous prize-winning short films including *The Big Shave*. In 1968, Scorsese directed his first feature film, entitled *Who's That Knocking At My Door?*

He served as Assistant Director and an editor of the documentary *Woodstock* in 1970 and won critical and popular acclaim for his 1973 film *Mean Streets*. Scorsese directed his first documentary film, *Italianamerican*, in 1974. In 1976, Scorsese's *Taxi Driver* was awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He followed with *New York, New York* in 1977, *The Last Waltz* in 1978, and *Raging Bull* in 1980, which received eight Academy Award nominations including Best Picture and Best Director. Scorsese went on to direct *The Color of Money*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Goodfellas*, *Cape Fear*, *Casino*, *Kundun* and *The Age of Innocence*, among other films.

In 1996, Scorsese completed a 4-hour documentary, *A Personal Journey With Martin Scorsese Through American Movies*, co-directed by Michael Henry Wilson. The documentary was commissioned by the British Film Institute to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of cinema.

In 2001 Scorsese released *Il Mio Viaggio in Italia*, an epic documentary that affectionately chronicles his love for Italian Cinema. His long-cherished project, *Gangs of New York*, was released in 2002, earning numerous critical honors including a Golden Globe Award for Best Director. In 2003, PBS broadcast the seven-film documentary series *Martin Scorsese Presents: The Blues*. *The Aviator* was released in December of 2004 and earned five Academy Awards in addition to the Golden Globe and BAFTA awards for Best Picture. In 2005, *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* was broadcast as part of the “American Masters” series on PBS. In 2006, *The Departed* was released to critical acclaim and was honored with the Director’s Guild of America, Golden Globe, New York Film Critics, National Board of Review and Critic’s Choice awards for Best Director, in addition to four Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. Scorsese’s documentary of the Rolling Stones in concert, *Shine A Light*, was released in 2008. In February 2010, *Shutter Island* premiered. That year, Scorsese also released two documentaries: the Peabody Award winning *Elia Kazan: A Letter to Elia* on PBS and *Public Speaking* starring writer Fran Lebowitz on HBO.

Scorsese’s upcoming feature, *Hugo*, a 3D adaptation of Brian Selznick’s children’s book is due to be released in November 2011. Also set to be released in 2011 is Scorsese’s documentary for HBO, *George Harrison: Living in the Material World*. He serves as executive producer on HBO’s series *Boardwalk Empire*, for which he directed the pilot episode. The series went on to win the Golden Globe for Best Television Series Drama and Scorsese took home the DGA Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in a Dramatic Series.

Scorsese’s additional awards and honors include the Golden Lion from the Venice Film Festival (1995), the AFI Life Achievement Award (1997), the Honoree at the Film Society of Lincoln Center’s 25th Gala Tribute (1998), the DGA Lifetime Achievement Award (2003), The Kennedy Center Honors (2007) and the HFPA Cecil B. DeMille Award (2010).



Scorsese is the founder and chair of The Film Foundation a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of motion picture history. At the 2007 Cannes Film Festival Scorsese launched the World Cinema Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of neglected films from around the world, with special attention paid to those developing countries lacking the financial and technical resources to do the work themselves. Scorsese is the founder and chair.

**OLIVIA HARRISON (Producer)**

Olivia Harrison is a producer and philanthropist. She administers the Material World Charitable Foundation, and received a Grammy Award for her video of the 2002 Concert For George, which she organized to benefit the Foundation in memory of her husband. She also administers the George Harrison Fund For UNICEF, and received the 2010 UNICEF Spirit Of Compassion Award in recognition of her family's assistance to the children of Bangladesh.

**NIGEL SINCLAIR (Producer)**

Nigel Sinclair is Co-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Exclusive Media Group, a worldwide independent film company that produces films and documentaries as well as international distribution. Exclusive owns the library and business of legendary English brand Hammer Films.

Prior to Exclusive Media Group, Nigel Sinclair and long-time partner, Guy East, established Intermedia Films (in 1996) which grew to become one of the world's leading independent film companies. Subsequently, Sinclair and East founded Spitfire Pictures (in 2003) which was merged with the legendary English brand Hammer Films to form Exclusive Media Group in 2007.

Through Spitfire Pictures, Sinclair completed production with Olivia Harrison on *George Harrison: Living in the Material World* and is currently in post-production on a project that looks at the history of Formula 1 racing.

Sinclair's first documentary project was the multiple award-winning *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, directed by Martin Scorsese, for which he won a Grammy, a Peabody and was nominated for an Emmy and a BAFTA award. He went on to produce *Amazing Journey: The Story of The Who*, *The Last Play at Shea* and the recently released, *Foo Fighters: Back and Forth*. Sinclair has produced numerous films including most recently Peter Weir's *The Way Back*.

### **MARGARET BODDE (Executive Producer)**

Margaret Bodde is the award-winning producer of several documentaries directed by Martin Scorsese, including: *George Harrison: Living in the Material World* (2011), *Public Speaking* (2010), *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* (2005), and the 7-part series *The Blues* (2003), featuring films by Clint Eastwood, Wim Wenders and others. Ms. Bodde is also the Executive Director of The Film Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funds and awareness for film preservation.

### **DAVID TEDESCHI (Editor)**

Film editor David Tedeschi has worked frequently with Martin Scorsese on the director's documentary films including *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, *Shine A Light* with the Rolling Stones, and *Public Speaking* starring iconoclastic New York writer Fran Lebowitz. His latest collaboration with Scorsese, *George Harrison: Living in the Material World*, will air on HBO this fall. Earlier in his career he worked with Michael Moore on the groundbreaking *TV Nation* and *The Awful Truth*, and with Leon Ichaso on *Pinero* starring Benjamin Bratt and *El Cantante* starring Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. He was nominated for an Emmy award for his work on *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANIES**

### **Sikelia**

Sikelia Productions is the production entity for the critically acclaimed, Academy Award®-winning director Martin Scorsese. The company oversees all of Scorsese's projects, including *The Aviator* (2004), *The Departed* (2006; Academy Award® winner, Best Picture, 2007), *Shutter*

*Island* (2010), the hit HBO series “Boardwalk Empire” and *Hugo* (Nov. 2011). Sikelia is currently in pre-production with Scorsese’s next feature film, *Silence*. In addition to *George Harrison: Living in the Material World*, Sikelia’s documentaries include *A Letter to Elia* (2010), *Public Speaking* (2010) and *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* (2005), among others.

### **Spitfire Pictures**

Spitfire, Exclusive’s dedicated documentary feature film unit, has a mandate to develop and produce films chronicling iconic figures and events in popular culture. At the 2010 SXSW Film Festival, Spitfire premiered both the coming of age documentary film *Undefeated* and *Foo Fighters: Back And Forth* -- a revealing look at the triumphs and tragedies one of rock’s most successful bands, directed by Oscar® and Emmy winning filmmaker James Moll. Spitfire is currently in post-production on *The Untitled Formula 1 Documentary*- the definitive Formula 1 racing documentary film, produced in cooperation with Bernie Ecclestone and Formula One Management, directed by Paul Crowder (*Amazing Journey: The Story of The Who*) and written by Mark Monroe (writer of the Academy Award Winning documentary film *The Cove*).

Past Spitfire releases include *The Last Play at Shea (Shea)* in 2010 for Billy Joel's Maritime Pictures, Martin Scorsese's Grammy, Peabody and DuPont Award winning documentary film, *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan* in 2005, the Grammy nominated *Amazing Journey: The Story of the Who* in 2007 and *The Who: At Kilburn* in 2009, as well as *Guys N’ Divas: Battle of the High School Musicals* in 2009 for Showtime and Lionsgate Films. Spitfire is run by Exclusive Co-Chairman Nigel Sinclair and Spitfire President Chris Miller. Glen Zipper and Michele Farinola serve as Co-Heads of Documentary Features for Spitfire.

[www.spitfirepictures.com](http://www.spitfirepictures.com)