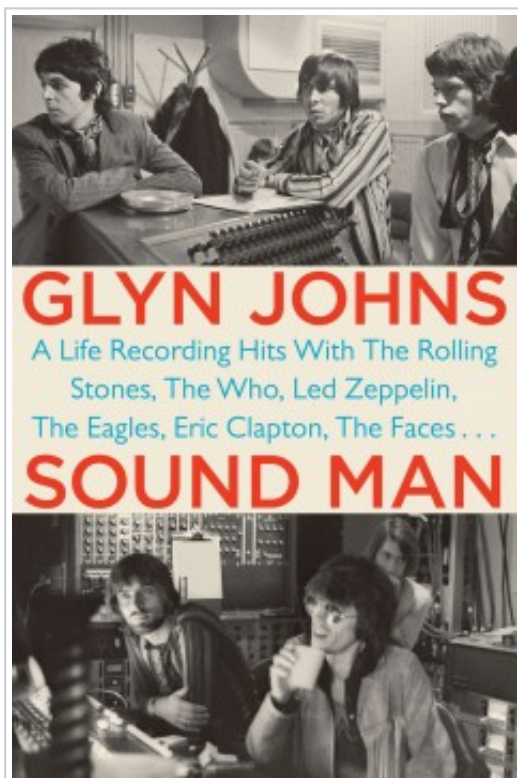


BookFilter

[Home](#) [Top Picks: All Books](#) [Sound Man](#)



Sound Man

by Glyn Johns

Price: \$27.95(Hardcover)

Published: November 13, 2014

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher:

Born just outside London in 1942, Glyn Johns was sixteen years old at the dawn of rock and roll. His big break as a producer came on the Steve Miller Band's debut album, *Children of the Future*, and he went on to engineer or produce iconic albums for the best in the business: *Abbey Road* with the Beatles, *Led Zeppelin's* and the Eagles' debuts, *Who's Next* by the Who, and many others. Even more impressive, Johns was perhaps the only person on a given day in the studio who was entirely sober, and so he is one of the most reliable and clear-eyed insiders to tell these stories today.

In this entertaining and observant memoir, Johns takes us on a tour of his world during the heady years of the sixties, with beguiling stories that will delight music fans the world over: he remembers helping to get the Steve Miller Band released from...

[More](#)

Rate This Book

| [Rate/Review](#)

[Add To Bookshelf](#)

Get This Book

Go to your preferred retailer, click to choose a format and you'll be taken directly to their site where you can get this book.





What We Say

Hardcore fans of music and the bands that producer/engineer Glyn Johns worked with will enjoy rifling through this book and his stories of working with the Rolling Stones, the Eagles, Led Zeppelin, of course the Beatles and many others. Johns is a charming, self-deprecating character who is strongest in the brief passages about his childhood. Once he gets into the music, his anecdotes do begin to run together indiscriminately. If he introduces Chris Blackwell of Island, Johns is sure to skim over Blackwell's career, tell how they meet, describe Blackwell as a kind man and then run down their interactions over the years. While the book is roughly chronological, this jumping back and forth happens a lot and is entirely unnecessary. Johns is happy to weigh in on the people he didn't like -- this or that producer or manager or label head might be called a "little shit" and he amusingly dispatches Clive Davis by saying no one had a higher opinion of Davis than Davis himself. But as for the artists, the modestly entertaining and insightful anecdotes are surrounded by an awful lot of not terribly exciting ones. You do get a glimpse of the personalities of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards and others. But when Johns quits a Paul McCartney solo album session in a huff, we're left to wonder why. When he's present during the sessions for "Let It Be" and George Harrison quits the band, Johns is too polite to go into details, though since the entire world knows that's when George quit and then was wooed back, he guesses it's okay to say that. In other words, essentially polite and thus we are left on the outside looking in. As for what a producer and an engineer actually does, precious little of that is described in anything but the most general terms. Johns does get technical very briefly when describing how he accidentally came up with his innovative method of recording drums but that's about it. The give and take of creativity is essentially absent here, either because he found it hard to turn into a story or felt it was too personal for the acts. Joan Armatrading was a talent he didn't appreciate at first glance, Jerry Garcia shook his hand and was so kind and so on and so forth. It all blurs together unfortunately. Johns is a major talent as a producer and states he came up with the naked approach to Let It Be AND the idea that they should record a concert on the roof of Apple. He was also there when Led Zeppelin was born and Eric Clapton got his shit together and so on. It's a colorful life. Unfortunately, his talent doesn't really extend to the book-length memoir so the stories about being turned back at Germany for calling the border guard a kraut or almost missing out on the Eagles get lost amid a lot of dross. And those looking for insight into the creative work he does and how he does it will be left wanting as well. Still, he seems like an awfully nice guy and would surely be a blast to share drinks with. Maybe then he'd break out the really juicy stuff. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

"Glyn Johns was there. He was there at some of the most important recording sessions in Rock and Roll. Reading his book, you are standing beside him as he sets up the studio in readiness for the arrival of groups like Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. For me it is a fantastic romp through the pages of Rock and Roll history."

—Sir Paul McCartney

"Glyn Johns has been a very important person in my recording life (and also his brother Andy). Glyn was the first recording engineer who helped me to understand recording and through that he was very supportive in introducing me to a lot of sessions with important people such as Ben Sidren, Leon Russell, Ronnie Lane, Pete Townshend and Howling Wolf. This together, of course, with many of the great recordings he did with us. He is one of the best."

—Charlie Watts