

CYNTHIA, LINDA, PATTIE and MAUREEN
(and YOKO)

Behind Every Great Band, There's Some Great Women

by Joe Hanrahan

TIME: June 25, 1967

PLACE: London, England

CYNTHIA and MAUREEN enter. Wine glasses in hand.
Couple of chairs on stage.
They are in a great room, of a great big house.
They look up and up and around in awe.

MAUREEN: So George bought himself a castle.

CYNTHIA: Victorian Neo-Gothic. Built in 1899.

MAUREEN: Who told you that?

CYNTHIA: Pattie.

MAUREEN: (scanning the horizon, out audience way) And how much land does his lordship have on this amazing estate?

PATTIE (entering with wine glass): Lord AND...Ladyship. 62 acres.

MAUREEN: It's so beautiful.

PATTIE: Thank you.

(they clink glasses, drink)

PATTIE: The maintenance is a drag. But...

MAUREEN: But...(they laugh) What time is the car coming?

PATTIE: Soon. Drink up.

MAUREEN: How many people did they say will be watching this?

PATTIE: Four hundred...million!

MAUREEN: (gasps) Far out. Cyn, is John nervous?

CYNTHIA: (after a pause) Always. (looks away)

MAUREEN: Are you OK, Luv?

(CYNTHIA nods)

PATTIE: Everybody's going to be there. Jagger, Keith. Graham Nash.

MAUREEN: I like Graham.

PATTIE: And the other Keith...Moon!

MAUREEN: Moon? Oh, he's bonkers. It's going to be a party!

(PATTIE and MAUREEN squeal and laugh; CYNTHIA doesn't join in.)

PATTIE: Um...Cyn, this is John's song they're doing tonight, yes?

CYNTHIA: I think so. I haven't talked to him much lately.

MAUREEN: Uh...yeah, Ritchie said it's John's song. They've been so busy. Bringing in more instruments...strings...overdubbing.

PATTIE: But they're going to do it live, right?

MAUREEN: I think they'll play the backing tracks, recorded. But the boys will sing live.

PATTIE: (putting her arm around Cynthia) Guess that's why John is nervous? Singing live to four hundred million people?

CYNTHIA: Mmmm, I guess.

MAUREEN: Is Jane coming with us?

PATTIE: Don't...think so. Paul was kind of vague about that.

MAUREEN: Oh. Oh oh.

(Pause, as they consider. Then LINDA comes in, carrying a tupperware container)

LINDA: Hey Ladies! (sets tupperware on empty chair)

(Other ladies look at her, baffled)

LINDA: Door was open, so...I'm Linda. Linda Eastman. I'm going to catch a ride with you to the show.

Didn't Paul mention....it...?

PATTIE: Um, no...but...Uh, Linda, I'm Pattie. And this is Cynthia. And Maureen.

LINDA: Sure, I know who you are.

MAUREEN: And you are?

LINDA: Linda. Paul's friend.

PATTIE: And he invited...said you...would go with...us?

LINDA: Yep.

MAUREEN: What do you have here?

LINDA: Some snacks. I don't know if we'll have time...
These are cauliflower chickpea patties.

(LINDA opens tupperware, OTHERS glance in, then back away.)

So good for you. Totally vegetarian. If we don't have time here, we can take them with us.

PATTIE: OK. Out of sight. Linda, would you like some wine?

LINDA: God, yes!

(PATTIE leaves to grab another glass)

CYNTHIA: So Paul invited you...?

LINDA: Yeah. We just met. At the Georgie Fame concert. At Bag O' Nails.

MAUREEN: That was just last month?

LINDA: Yeah yeah. But I feel I've known Paul forever. Already.

(PATTIE brings in wine, as LINDA accepts, MAUREEN and CYNTHIA exchange looks)

LINDA: Thank you.

PATTIE: You're American.

LINDA: Sure am. But I love England.

MAUREEN: What are you...doing here?

LINDA: I'm a photographer. My specialty's rock 'n rollers. I've shot Dylan, Clapton, Neil Young, The Doors, The Who, Hendrix...everybody!

MAUREEN: And Paul?

LINDA: (with a big grin and laugh) Not yet.

CYNTHIA: So, is Jane coming? Did Paul say?

LINDA: (pretending she hasn't heard of Jane) Jane?

CYNTHIA: Paul's fiancée.

LINDA: Oh, really. Hmm. Haven't heard.

(LINDA gazes at landscape, others exchange glances, changes subject)
It's so pretty here. How long have you and George been married, Pattie?

PATTIE: It's been about a year now.

LINDA: And you girls. You knew the guys back in Liverpool?

MAUREEN: Oh, yeah.

LINDA: But no castle yet?

MAUREEN: Not yet. But Ritchie's going to buy a hairdressing salon for me. A whole string of them. (to PATTIE, CYNTHIA) You know, for when the bubble bursts. (laughs, even CYNTHIA smiles)

LINDA: You're a hairdresser?

MAUREEN: Yeah. (she glances over LINDA's hair)

LINDA: I don't use one.

(all laugh, or smile)

MAUREEN: I can tell. (more laughs)

LINDA: But I'm coming to you if I ever get it done.

(a bit more laughter)

LINDA: Cynthia, what do you....do you...do hair or...?

CYNTHIA: No. I take care of our little boy. And our house. And sometimes...John.

(MAUREEN and PATTIE share a look)

MAUREEN: That could be a full time job.

LINDA: I guess they're hard to keep track of...especially since Sergeant Pepper's. I was in California when it came out. You heard it everywhere! Every house you go in, every shop you pass...playing Sergeant Pepper! What a great record!

(all nod, more or less enthusiastically)

LINDA: And Pattie, you were in HARD DAY'S NIGHT! Is that where you met George?

PATTIE: Yeah. I was an extra in the movie. I was a model. But George doesn't want me working anymore.
I don't mind. (laughs)

LINDA: Sure.

MAUREEN: So how long are you staying here....England?

LINDA: Oh, it might be a while now. Now that I've met Paul. (a few more discreet looks) So what's this thing that's happening tonight? Paul told me a little about it - they're playing live? To millions of people?

CYNTHIA: Four hundred million. They anticipate.

MAUREEN: It's the first television show that's going to be connected via satellite. It's supposed to go to 20, 25 different countries. And it is live.

LINDA: What are they going to be playing?

MAUREEN: A new song. John wrote it, right, Cyn?

CYNTHIA: I think so.

LINDA: Oooh, a new song, what is it?

MAUREEN: Uh, Ring told me. Something like, "Love is what you need," or something like that.

LINDA: That's perfect. This is the summer of Love.

PATTIE: And such a good message to spread all over the world.

MAUREEN: Ritchie also said John was keeping the lyrics very simple. So it could be understood all over the world.

LINDA: That's heavy.

PATTIE: More wine, anyone.

(Chorus of “yesses” and “oh yesses” and nods. Pattie goes off.)

LINDA: I really dig this. Being able to see this tonight, with all of you. Um, cauliflower chickpea patty?

MAUREEN: No thanks.

CYNTHIA: Not right now.

MAUREEN: Actually, I ate just before this.

LINDA: OK. So good when they’re fresh.

(a bit of silence - LINDA looks out on landscape. Pattie re-enters with a wine bottle - and YOKO, who has her own wine glass.)

PATTIE: Look who’s here. This is Yoko.

(MAUREEN nods. CYNTHIA stares)

LINDA: Hi! Yoko! What a cute name.

(after a pause)

YOKO: Hello.

PATTIE: John suggested...coming with us...might be...the best way for...Yoko...to get into the...event...tonight.

MAUREEN: John suggested.?

YOKO: Yes.

(after another pause)

LINDA: So you know John from...uh...from...?

YOKO: We’re both artists.

LINDA: Oooh. Like me and Paul!

(CYNTHIA abruptly leaves the stage)

MAUREEN: Cynthia must not be feeling too well. I’m just going to...
(MAUREEN leaves, consults with CYNTHIA offstage)

LINDA: So you’re an artist. What do you...what kind of art...?

(YOKO stares, considers)

LINDA: I'm a photographer. I'm hoping to shoot the Beatles soon. Don't you just love them? The music?

YOKO: It's nice.

(a bit of a shock to LINDA/PATTIE)

PATTIE: Nice, indeed. They're playing tonight to 400 million people.

YOKO: Mmmm.

PATTIE: 400 million. People love their music...

YOKO: Their music is very popular.

LINDA: And what is...your...type of...art? Do you paint or...?

YOKO: My life is my art. Everything I do, everything I touch...is art.

LINDA: O-K.

(MAUREEN and CYNTHIA return to stage)

MAUREEN: Um, Cynthia's not sure she feels well enough to...

LINDA: Oh, you poor thing. What do you need? Do you have any aspirin, Pattie? Or do you want to smoke a joint?

(CYNTHIA sits)

CYNTHIA: No, I...

PATTIE: You should be there. It's John's song.

CYNTHIA: I know, but...

YOKO: His song is for the world.

(pause)

PATTIE: Right. It's, uh..."The World...Needs All The Love..." uh...

YOKO: "All You Need Is Love." It's a universal message. For everyone. Simplistic, but...

MAUREEN: Ritchie said, "Simple lyrics, so everyone..."

YOKO: It won't change anything.

MAUREEN: But when The Beatles sing it...

YOKO: It won't matter.

PATTIE: But if The Beatles are saying it...

(pause)

YOKO: People will listen tonight. But you can't change things with a song. But John might change things. He's more than a Beatle.

CYNTHIA: I guess you would know.

YOKO: I do know. I recognized it immediately. The first time we met.

MAUREEN: Where was that?

YOKO: It was at one of my exhibits. At Indica Gallery. John's friend brought him round before it opened. One of my pieces was "Painting to Hammer A Nail In" John wanted to hammer a nail, but I didn't want the piece altered before opening. I asked him for five shillings if he wanted to do that. We agreed he'd pay me an imaginary five shillings to hammer an imaginary nail. (an enigmatic smile)

(after a pause and glances)

PATTIE: (tentatively) Far out.

YOKO: I knew right then. What he was.

CYNTHIA: (a bit bitter) Far out.

YOKO: Cynthia. Let's talk.

MAUREEN: Pattie, how about giving Linda a quick tour of the house. Before we go.

PATTIE: Uh, OK. Linda...?

LINDA: Sure. Lay it on me.

(MAUREEN, PATTIE and LINDA leave stage, MAUREEN and PATTIE looking anxiously behind them as they depart.)

(pause)

CYNTHIA: I don't want to lose John.

(YOKO walks up to her. Arm on shoulder - YOKO is not the most physically demonstrative)

CYNTHIA: I don't. We've know each other since we were kids. And we've been through so much together. The first days...he was driving around London in a van, playing for a hundred people. A hundred people...and now, tonight... I mean, other girls have always wanted him, but...

YOKO: Tonight, the world wants him.

CYNTHIA: I always thought, well, if it's just a girl, that's no thing, I can handle that, he'll still come home...
...but the whole world...how do I compete with that?

(pause)

CYNTHIA: He's changing.

YOKO: Dear. He's already changed. You can't...compete...for him. He's his own man. He's just starting to realize that he's not just a pop star. He's an artist. And soon...he'll be leaving The Beatles.

CYNTHIA: Leave The Beatles...he can't...

YOKO: He's already left them. In his own mind.

CYNTHIA: And what about me? Will he just...leave me?

YOKO: (walks away to say this) I wasn't looking for him. He wasn't looking for me. I'm not a groupie. I didn't know who he was when he walked into that gallery that day. But something passed between us. Something important. He saw it. So did I. And now...

CYNTHIA: Now?

YOKO: Now, it's a new beginning, for both of us. We see the world exactly the same. And we see the future...a shared future...very, very clearly.

CYNTHIA: So he's leaving me?

YOKO: He left some time ago.

(CYNTHIA is some tears. YOKO goes over to comfort her, arm on shoulder.)

CYNTHIA: I knew it. I could tell. And you're going to be with him,

YOKO: Perhaps. World turns. Wind blows. Birds fly south.

(after a pause)

CYNTHIA: What?

(YOKO just smiles)

YOKO: You should come to the show. John would want you there.

(MAUREEN comes back on stage slowly)

MAUREEN: Um...how are...? Cyn...feeling better?

(CYNTHIA nods)

MAUREEN: I guess you talked about...it's none of my business.

CYNTHIA: (standing) Maureen, I think we're in this together. We're Beatle wives.

(MAUREEN and CYNTHIA hug, they stay close)

MAUREEN: For better or worse.

(LINDA and PATTIE come back on stage)

PATTIE: Car's here.

LINDA: Anybody want to smoke a joint before we...?

PATTIE: We better get going.

LINDA: What about these? Should we take them...? Yoko, cauliflower chickpea patties. Homemade.

YOKO: I'll try one.

LINDA: Oh, good. Here, enjoy.

(YOKO takes one. Tries a small bite.)

YOKO: Mmmm.

(some self-aware smiles)

LINDA: I'll just save the rest for later. (she grabs tupperware)

PATTIE: OK, let's...

LINDA: Let's hit the road.

(PATTIE and LINDA leave the stage. MAUREEN and CYNTHIA start to follow.
CYNTHIA stops, turns back to YOKO.)

CYNTHIA: Yoko? Coming? John would want you there.

(YOKO nods, stops, looks at cauliflower chickpea patties, throws it offstage.
All three laugh, grab arms and leave.

END

(Curtain Call Song - ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE)