



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

• THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE •



**STAGE
THRU
THE DOOR**



The contents of this study guide are based on the National History Standards for Teachers.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

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How to navigate through this Study Guide



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Levi Kreis, Kelly Lamont, Chuck Zayas, Rob Lyons, Eddie Clendening and Lance Guest, *Million Dollar Quartet*

photo by Paul Natkin

Welcome to the Thru The Stage Door® with *Million Dollar Quartet*, an educational and interactive format designed to bring the magic of theatre into the classroom and inspire imagination, collaboration and a life-long love of the Arts.

Designed by Philip Katz and Dori Berinstein, with more than 35 years of combined experience, Thru The Stage Door® with *Million Dollar Quartet* takes you on an insider's tour behind Broadway's curtain is more than study guides and workshops. It is a look inside Broadway by Broadway professionals. Thru

The Stage Door® is proud to be working with industry leaders in all fields including producers, directors, composers, lyricists, scenic designers, performers, general managers and musicians just to name a few.

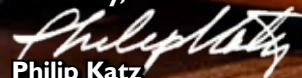
Broadway is not only an American art form, it is a source of incredibly rich content about our world and our times for people of all ages. Thru The Stage Door® with *Million Dollar Quartet*, and our team of top Broadway professionals, is committed to bringing you inside this rarified world in ways never before imagined. If you are coming to Broadway we welcome you on behalf of all the people that bring theatre to life. If you can't make it to Broadway we hope that you'll have a chance to see a show wherever you are. And no matter what your age we're certain that Thru The Stage Door® with *Million Dollar Quartet* will inspire you!

Lessons are based on National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers. Each is carefully crafted to adhere to these standards. Particular standards applying to the lessons are listed separately in individual Broadway Theatrical Study Guides. Online interactive use of the guides will be accompanied by specific instructions for teachers on how to use the technology incorporated in the lesson.

The purpose of the online guide is to transform the classroom learning environment and take students beyond the narrow confines of the classroom into a world of educational opportunities, thus broadening and enhancing the educational experience.

It is our sincere pleasure to take you Thru The Stage Door® with *Million Dollar Quartet* and introduce you to the world of Broadway.

Sincerely,



Philip Katz
Producing Director
Broadway Theatrical, LLC
Thru The Stage Door, LLC©

PHILIP KATZ
PRODUCING DIRECTOR



BROADWAY THEATRICAL
ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

STAGE
THRU THE
DOOR.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

- THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE -

VIDEO CLIPS



"BLUE SUEDÉ SHOES"



"GREAT BALLS OF FIRE"



"SEE YOU LATER ALLIGATOR"



"WHOLE LOTTA SHAKIN'"

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Blue Suede Shoes - Ensemble
Real Wild Child - Jerry Lee Lewis, lead
Matchbox - Carl Perkins, lead
Who Do You Love? - Carl Perkins, lead
Rock Island Line - Johnny Cash, lead
Fever - Dyanne, lead
Memories Are Made Of This - Elvis Presley, lead
That's All Right - Elvis Presley, lead
Brown Eyed Handsome Man - Ensemble
Down By The Riverside - Ensemble
Sixteen Tons - Johnny Cash, lead
My Babe - Carl Perkins, lead
Long Tall Sally - Elvis Presley, lead
Peace In The Valley - Elvis Presley, lead
Ballad of a Teenage Queen - John Cash, lead
Jenny, Jenny - Jerry Lee Lewis, lead
I Hear You Knockin' - Dyanne, lead
Willie and the Handjive - Carl Perkins, lead
Great Balls of Fire - Jerry Lee Lewis, lead
Down By The Riverside (Reprise) - Ensemble
My Baby Left Me - Elvis Presley, lead
Riders in the Sky - Johnny Cash, lead
See You Later, Alligator - Carl Perkins, lead
Whole Lotta Shakin' - Jerry Lee Lewis, lead

SYNOPSIS

On December 4, 1956, an auspicious twist of fate brought together Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley. The place was Sun Records' storefront studio in Memphis. The man who made it happen was the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," Sam Phillips discovered them all.

The four legends-to-be united for the only time in their careers for an impromptu recording session that embodied the birth of rock 'n' roll and has come to be known as one of the greatest rock jam sessions of all time.

Featuring a treasure trove of the greatest rock, rockabilly, gospel, R&B and country standards of the 1950s, including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Sixteen Tons," "Who Do You Love?," "Great Balls of Fire," "Ghost Riders in the Sky," and "Whole Lotta' Shakin' Goin' On," *Million Dollar Quartet* captures the infectious spirit, freewheeling excitement and thrilling sounds of a singular moment when four of popular music's most extraordinary talents, all in their creative prime, came together for a night that would raise the roof.

A LEGENDARY NIGHT IN ROCK-N-ROLL HISTORY



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

★ THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE ★



Synopsis and
Musical Numbers

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Resources



Act I:
Sam Phillips and Sun Records



Act II:
That Thing Called Rockabilly



Act III:
For The Record



Act IV:
1956: A Pop Culture Timeline



Levi Kreis, Rob Lyons, Eddie Clendening, Chuck Zayas, Lance Guest
and Billy Shaffer, *Million Dollar Quartet*



SAM PHILLIPS AND SUN RECORDS

Born in 1923, Sam Phillips grew up in northwestern Alabama, wanting to correct the social injustices inflicted upon blacks due to the institutionalized racism that was prevalent in the south. His initial dream was to study law but the Great Depression of the 1930s forced him to change his career path.

After studying radio engineering through work stints at radio stations in Alabama and Nashville, Phillips settled in Memphis, Tennessee and station WREC, calling Memphis “the sweetest town” he ever knew. Phillips had been raised on Afro-American music and he appreciated its passion and spiritual and visceral qualities. With Memphis now his home, he set out to accomplish a new dream – to build a studio of his own, a place where he could create the kind of music that he wanted to hear.

THE PHILLIPS VISION

Phillips opened the Memphis Recording Service in Memphis, Tennessee in January 1950, to much skepticism. A similar recording studio had opened briefly and closed abruptly due to lack of interest only two years before and it was believed that Phillips' venture would suffer the same fate.

Phillips opened his studio with a different vision. While his company served to record the sounds of functions such as bar mitzvahs, weddings and funerals, it was also his intention to record the singers and musicians of the Memphis area who had nowhere else to record. In providing a recording opportunity to the untapped talent he saw in the Memphis streets and fields, he could hopefully showcase the talent inherent to the region. His company could be the bridge between the unknown singers and musicians of Memphis and the radio stations of the south.



THE ORIGINAL STARS OF SUN

Starting with blues greats such as B. B. King and Rufus Thomas, Phillips quickly branched out to record artists of other musical styles. In 1951, Phillips recorded a group fronted by singer Jackie Brenston and his fellow musicians, the Delta Cats. Their song "Rocket 88" became Phillips' first bonafide hit and is considered by music historians as the first rock 'n' roll song. The success of "Rocket 88" led Phillips to begin his own recording label, which he called Sun Records. Phillips quickly developed a controversial reputation as someone who would record black musicians without pushing them around, patronizing them or most importantly, taking advantage of them.





A Legend in The Making

While some artists traveled through the Sun Studio doorway eventually becoming household names, no singer became more noted than did Elvis Presley. Legend speaks of Elvis walking into Sun Studios in the summer of 1953. With Sam Phillips away for the day, Phillips' office manager Marion Keisker recorded the song. The \$3.98 recording session provided Elvis with a record and unbeknownst to him, a taped copy of his song for Keisker. Keisker later played the tape for Phillips urging him to sign the singer.



Making Connections

While Elvis knew how to play the guitar, he was hardly a seasoned performer and less than remarkable when Phillips invited him back to the studio eight months later. Elvis told Phillips that he was interested in finding a band to back him up and Phillips connected him to guitarist Scotty Moore and bassist Bill Black. Presley, Moore and Black joined forces and later returned to Sun Studio to record their work. It was during a break in recording when the three began to musically fool around that Phillips finally saw a glimpse of the talent that he believed Presley to possess from their first meeting. During their impromptu jam session, Phillips, liking what he heard, asked them to stop and start again while he recorded their session. The resulting song was Presley's first hit single, "That's All Right, Mama." urging him to sign the singer.

THE SOUND IS FOUND

Sam Phillips had finally found in Elvis Presley the one quality he had been searching for in an artist – a white singer who sounded black. Elvis recorded five records at Sun Studio and his distinct style blended country, blues and gospel into a unique and previously unheard of sound. This sound, later termed “Rockabilly” would influence future Sun Records artists and have a lasting influence on music forever.

MORE STARS AT SUN

Other musicians came to Phillips and Sun Studio hoping to grab a little of the magic he cast over Presley. Carl Perkins and his song “Blue Suede Shoes” became rock ‘n’ roll’s first major hit and went on to top the pop, country and blues charts. Jerry Lee Lewis landed two hits with “Whole Lotta Shakin’ Goin’ On” and “Great Balls of Fire.” Johnny Cash became Sun Record’s most consistent chart topping artist with hits such as “Folsom Prison Blues” and “Guess Things Happen That Way.”





Changes

In 1960 Phillips, in need of more space, left the original studio and opened a new studio in Memphis. He also opened another studio in Nashville, Tennessee.

The new Memphis studio would feature stereo recording, an upgrade not previously available in the first location. The original recordings made at Sun Studio were all monaural or recorded using only a single channel. Recordings coming out of the new studio would be made using two or more channels, which produced a more realistic stereophonic sound.



ON THE MOVE

Even with the new technologies available to Phillips his interest in the business was fading. The freedom he had first experienced in opening Sun Records gave way to a more regimented studio setting. While he enjoyed producing reams of recorded tape in order to pinpoint the best take of a given song, to do so became financially prohibitive. Additionally, many of the artists that Phillips developed, moved on to bigger studios once they found stardom.

Sun Records almost achieved status as a national record label but as its artists left in favor of representation by bigger companies, it remained a regional label with very few new releases by the late 1960s. The company was always a singles label although 12 long playing albums were issued over the years. The studio, restored in 1987 as a tourist attraction, remains a working studio even today and has produced recordings for such artists and groups as Ringo Starr, Bonnie Raitt, Tom Petty and Def Leppard among others.



THAT THING CALLED ROCKABILLY

Evolving from several musical stylings made popular during World War II, Rockabilly is considered America's earliest form of rock and roll. A fusion of blues, hillbilly boogie, bluegrass and country, rockabilly took shape between the years of 1945 and 1954 with The Delmore Brothers as the earliest known group to experiment with the style.

The Delmore Brothers, in their recordings, played around with a boogie beat while maintaining their country roots. Also incorporating jazz rhythms, their 1945 hits "Hillbilly Boogie" and "Pan American Boogie" became the template for other country artists who imitated their style. Soon other singers of the era such as Hank Thompson and Webb Pierce were establishing recording careers specifically featuring the new beat. Singer/songwriter Hank Williams, and his honky-tonk style coupled with steel guitar and acoustic bass was an equally profound influence on the rockabilly movement.



The Trademark Sound

While artists such as Carl Perkins were already singing in a hillbilly style similar to Williams, the pure rockabilly style didn't take hold until Sam Phillips and his Memphis Recording Service added the final ingredient – rhythm and blues.

Phillips had already recorded the most notable blues singers of the era in his small studio employing a distinct technique in his recordings that made them sound like no other. Phillips created a raw sound by his use of flutter echo and over-amplification that became the trademark of rockabilly artists. While Elvis Presley was without a doubt Phillips' most famous client, it was Carl Perkins and his song "Blue Suede Shoes" that brought rockabilly to international attention.

THE KINGS OF ROCKABILLY

The rockabilly style centered on a trio of bass fiddle, guitar and piano. Drums weren't necessary since a good bass player could slap out a percussive beat while still plunking his strings. A prime example of this sound was early recordings of Elvis Presley when Phillips had paired him with Bill Black and Scott Moore.

The rockabilly movement produced many artists who became notable musicians long after the popularity of rockabilly waned. Artists such as Jerry Lee Lewis, Charlie Rich, Roy Orbison, Richie Valens, Eddie Cochran along with the "Million Dollar Quartet" became highly successful and popular performers thanks to their rockabilly roots.



Richie Valens

Roy Orbison

Eddie Cochran

SPOTLIGHT ON

Elvis Presley

1935 - 1977



Born on January 8, 1935 in East Tupelo, Mississippi, Elvis Presley was 13 years old when he and his parents moved to Memphis, Tennessee. After his high school graduation, Elvis took odd jobs working as a movie theater usher and a truck driver for Crown Electric Company.

A demo with the Memphis Recording Service helped to propel Presley to stardom, developing a fan following as one of the nation's first rockabilly performers. While his roots were country, Presley was equally versatile in other genres with songs that reflected gospel, blues, ballad and pop styles. He is the only performer to be inducted into three different music "Halls of Fame."

Elvis became a controversial television guest after appearances on "The Steve Allen Show" and "The Ed Sullivan Show". It was his Sullivan appearance that created the most shock and outrage when the television camera pulled out from a tight shot of Presley's face to reveal his gyrating hips. While America's teens went crazy, America's parents and grandparents were in shock.



THE LASTING INFLUENCE OF ELVIS

Sought after by film studios, Presley made 33 movies between 1956 and 1969. While most were poorly reviewed musicals, *Jailhouse Rock* and *King Creole* were his two critical successes and became classics of the era.

1970 saw a critically acclaimed return to live music, followed by performances in Las Vegas and across the United States. Throughout his career, Elvis Presley set records for concert attendance, television ratings and record sales. Even today, he is one of the best-selling and most influential artists in the history of popular music. His death, at the age of 42, shocked his fans worldwide.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Johnny Cash

1932 - 2003



Johnny Cash was one of the most popular country and western singers of the 20th century with a career spanning over fifty years and a repertoire of songs that included folk, gospel, blues, rockabilly, rock and roll and alternative rock.

His compassion for the down trodden, the criminal, “the ones who are held back” was reflected in his tales of crime, persecution, and redemption which he delivered in a deep, gravelly voice filled with conviction.

He became known as “The Man in Black” for his tradition of wearing all black during performances and earned an outlaw reputation for his brushes with the law, including a publicized drug habit, and lyrics that mused about how he “killed a man in Reno, just to watch him die.”

CASH AND FRIENDS

Cash is one of the few musicians to be inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame. He has also starred in numerous films, television shows, penned his autobiography twice and collaborated with musical greats like Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, U2, and producer Rick Rubin. His most important collaboration was with country singer June Carter, which earned him two Grammys and grew into a passionate love affair that led to a 35-year marriage.

Johnny Cash is remembered as a great storyteller, and one of the most influential artists of modern American music. His life story was recently depicted in the Academy Award winning film *Walk the Line* starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Carl Perkins

1932 - 1998



Carl Lee Perkins was born in Tiptonville, Tennessee, as the son of a poor tenant farmer. Influenced by the southern gospel music that surrounded him, Perkins was playing a guitar his father made from a cigar box, broomstick and baling wire by the time he was seven years of age. Sixteen years later he would convince Sam Phillips of Sun Records to sign him.

In 1956, a desperately poor and struggling Perkins wrote the song "Blue Suede Shoes" on an old potato sack. Produced by Sam Phillips, the record was a massive hit in both the United States and England making it the first record by a Sun label artist to sell a million copies. At the peak of the song's national success, Perkins was involved in a near-fatal car accident. Elvis Presley, a friend of Perkins, recorded a cover version of "Blue Suede Shoes" and intentionally or not, stole Perkins' thunder.

While Perkins never had another Top 40 hit, his songs were recorded by other talents such as the Beatles and Johnny Cash.



PERKINS AND HIS POWERFUL FRIENDS

Rockabilly enjoyed a revival in the 1980s helping to bring Perkins back into the spotlight. In 1985, Perkins re-recorded “Blue Suede Shoes” with two members of the Stray Cats, as part of the soundtrack for the movie *Porky’s Revenge*. The next year, George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and Ringo Starr appeared with him on a television special taped in London, England, called “Carl Perkins and Friends: A Rockabilly Session.”

In 1986, he returned to Sun Studios in Memphis, joining Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison on the album “Class of ‘55.” The record was a tribute to their early years at Sun and, specifically, the “Million Dollar Quartet” jam session involving Perkins, Presley, Cash, and Lewis on December 4, 1956.

Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, Perkins was additionally honored when “Blue Suede Shoes” was chosen as one of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Jerry Lee Lewis

1935 -

Born in 1935, Jerry Lee Lewis was a child prodigy on the piano and played his first nightclub engagement at the age of 13. Lewis approached all of the Nashville record companies hoping for a recording contract without luck. Nashville studios told him they could only sign him if he were to play guitar instead of the piano. After hearing about the small independent studio in Memphis that had launched the career of Elvis Presley, Lewis made the trek to Sun Records.

Within a year, Lewis also known by his self-dubbed title "The Killer", had sold more records than any artist in Sun Records history, including Elvis Presley.

Lewis' career came to an abrupt halt in 1958 when it was discovered that his third wife, Myra, was actually his 13-year-old cousin. On top of that, his divorce from his second wife wasn't finalized. The marriage to Myra lasted 13 years but was denounced by the church and the national and foreign press. His record sales tumbled and while he still drew an audience on tour, venues that had previously paid him \$10,000 a night now paid \$250.



THE LONG ROAD BACK

While his British audience took only a few years to bestow their forgiveness, it took American audiences far longer. It wasn't until 1968 when Lewis made the move from rock 'n' roll to country that he achieved his first Top 10 hit with "Another Time, Another Place." 12 best selling singles followed over the next decade.

Lewis suffered a series of personal tragedies that included his son drowning in a swimming pool, his older son, Jerry Lee, Jr., dying in an automobile accident, his fourth wife drowning in a swimming pool and his fifth wife dying from a methodone overdose. At other points in his life, Lewis was brought up on charges of income tax evasion and treated for an addiction to painkillers. In 1986 he was one of the first performers admitted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 1989 Dennis Quaid starred as Lewis in *Great Balls of Fire*, a motion picture based on Lewis's early life.





FOR THE RECORD

Ask someone older than yourself how they listened to music while growing up and you are likely to get a variety of responses. While you, yourself may say Compact Discs, older siblings; parents and grandparents may answer with cassettes or 8-track tapes. While a variety of methods have evolved to bring recorded music to mass audiences, the vinyl record is the most enduring and to some audiophiles considered to be the gold standard. While a variety of methods have evolved to bring recorded music to mass audiences, the vinyl record is the most enduring and to some audiophiles considered to be the gold standard.

First developed in 1948 by Dr. Peter Goldmark, the flat vinyl record replaced the wax-based cylinder previously used as the preferred method of music reproduction. Up to that time, most homes in the United States had owned cylinder players but, with the advent of the flat record, were moving towards record players and portable Victrolas. Flat records were easier to store and more durable than their wax cylinder counterparts.

The First Recordings

THE PROCESS BEGINS

The process of creating a vinyl record began with a source or master recording. The master recording was created in a special studio designed to filter out extraneous noises while containing specialized microphones designed to help accentuate the performance being recorded. While it was most often a solo artist or group utilizing the recording studio, it wasn't unheard of to gather full orchestras within the four walls of the studio setting. One such example was world famous conductor Arturo Toscanini and his NBC Symphony Orchestra. Broadcast live by the NBC Radio Network, the performances were simultaneously recorded by RCA Victor for commercial distribution.

As a studio performance progressed, the vibrations resulting from the voices and instruments were captured by an electronic microphone connected to a needle. A wax disk spun at a predetermined speed while the sharp needle etched a groove into the disk. The resulting groove held the recorded vibration of the original voices and instruments.



Making the Wax Disc



Later during playback of the vinyl record, the record player's needle would pick up the vibration pattern in the groove and its amplification system would enhance the sound to almost original quality. Surprisingly, even if a record player is turned off, the action of the needle moving through the groove of the record can reproduce a faint sound.

The Next Step

The wax disc created from the source was never used during mass production of a vinyl record. It was, however, the first step to creating a master plate that would be used as a sort of stamp during the pressing stage that eventually created the final vinyl record.

From the wax disc holding the groove of vibrations, an inverted metal mold of the disc with a protrusion, rather than a groove, was created called a stamper. Multiple stampers were produced and shipped to other record pressing factories throughout the country to meet the public's demand for a particular artist and song.

STAMPING THE DISC

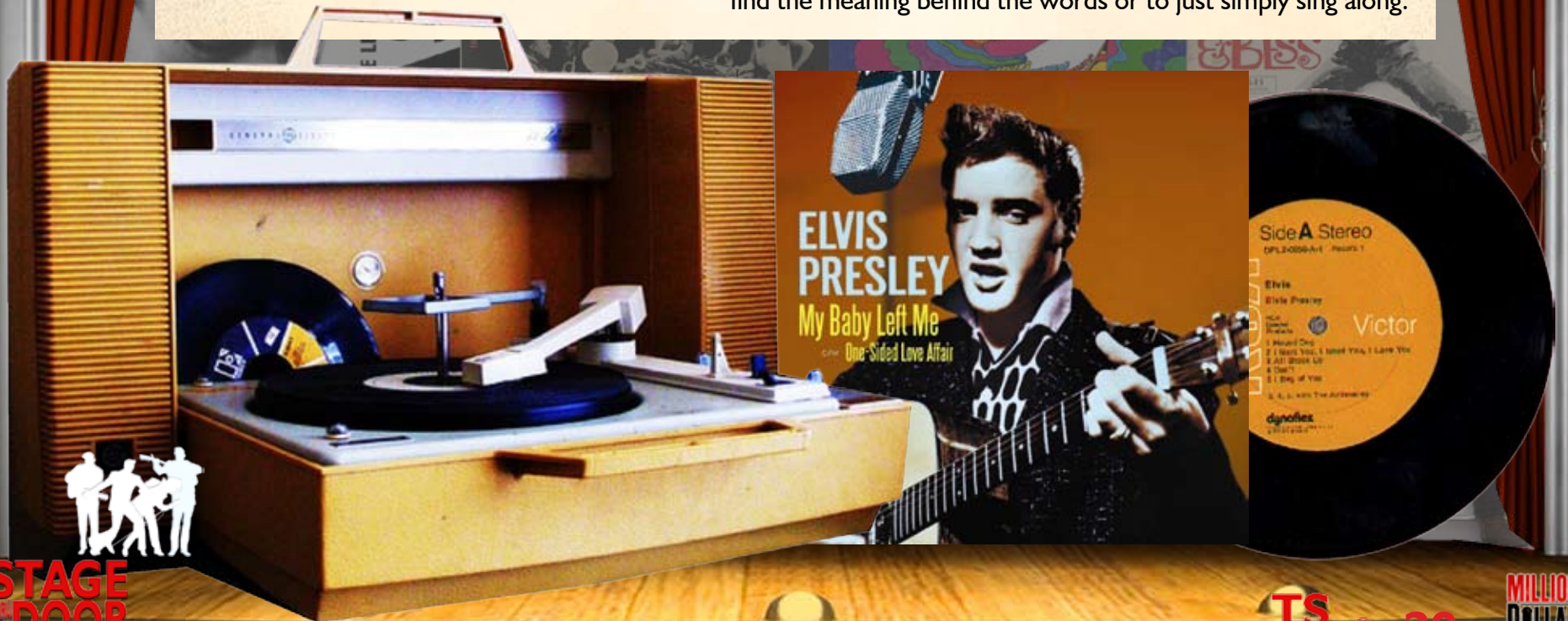
Much like a common kitchen waffle iron, two stampers would be fitted on to the upper and lower plates of a heated press. With a table of wax blocks and circular labels beside him, the press operator would raise the top plate of the press and place in its middle a label. On top of the label the operator would position a wax disc followed by a second label on top of that. Once the three pieces were in place, the top plate would be lowered and 300 degree heat would press out the wax to create a flat disc complete with all identical grooves embedded from the stamper and the record labels in place. Immediately cooled by cold water, the newly formed record was removed from the press and placed on another machine that would smooth the record's jagged edge.



A VARIETY OF VINYL

The size of a record determined the speed at which it should be played for normal playback quality. The 12 inch record became the industry standard. Played on a turntable at a setting of 33 1/3 rotations per minute, it allowed up to 30 minutes of recorded playing time per side. A smaller 7-inch disc containing one song on each side was also a staple of the industry and was played at 45 revolutions per minute. The user would switch RPM settings manually on his or her record player.

Vinyl records afforded recording artists the ability to communicate with their fans by using the covers and sleeves that protected the record for their own artistic purposes. Record covers became highly sought after pieces of art. Printed on the record sleeves were the lyrics to the recorded songs and notes from the artist allowing a listener to find the meaning behind the words or to just simply sing along.





VINYL IN THE NEW MILLENIUM

While the vinyl record floundered in the late 1970s through the 1990s in favor of 8-Track Tapes, Cassette Tapes and Compact Discs, a resurgence seems to be in the making. While sales of CD's have diminished over the past few years, the sales of new vinyl records have increased 37 percent from 2006 to 2007.

The Recording Industry Association of America states that 1.3 million new vinyl recordings were sold in the United States in 2007 with a projected increase to 1.6 to 2 million in 2009. The sales of new record players or turntables reached almost a half million in 2007. The increased interest in vinyl records seems to have reached the ears of recording artists as well. While many artists stopped releasing records in favor of CDS or making their songs available via download only, more musicians are now releasing their songs on both vinyl and CD including Madonna, U2 and Elvis Costello.

1956 - A POP CULTURE TIMELINE

The December 4, 1956 gathering of the Million Dollar Quartet wasn't the only significant pop culture event to take place during that year. Many of the events included in this list had a far reaching impact on music, television and film. Many of the images on these pages have video associated with them.

January 14

Little Richard released
"Tutti Frutti."



January 20

Buddy Holly recorded
"Blue Days Black
Night" in Nashville.

January 27

Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak
Hotel" and "I Was the One"
was released by RCA. It sold
over 300,000 copies in its first
three weeks on the market.

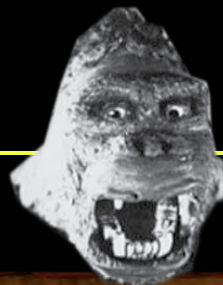


January 28

Elvis Presley made his
television debut on "Stage
Show" hosted by Tommy and
Jimmy Dorsey.

January 30

Elvis Presley recorded his version
of "Blue Suede Shoes."



March 3

King Kong was first televised.

March 15

The Lerner and Loewe musical *My Fair Lady* opened starring Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison and continued for 2,715 performances.



April 1

10th Tony Awards: *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Damn Yankees* won.



April 11

Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel" went gold.



March 21

Marty won best picture at the Academy Awards; its star, Ernest Borgnine, won best actor. Anna Magnani won best actress for *The Rose Tattoo*.

April 2

The soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS television. "As the World Turns" continues to be seen on the network today.



April 14

Ampex Corporation introduced the first commercial videotape recorder.



April 21
Carl Perkins, rockabilly king, had his song "Blue Suede Shoes" hit the top of the charts.



May 19
“(You’ve Got) The Magic Touch” by The Platters peaked at #4 on the pop singles chart.



June 29
Marilyn Monroe married playwright Arthur Miller in a London ceremony.



July 1
Elvis Presley appeared on “The Steve Allen Show” wearing a tuxedo.



July 25
Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis performed for the last time at the Copacabana Club in NYC after a decade together as the country’s most popular comedy team.



August 28
Elvis Presley’s “Hound Dog” and “Don’t Be Cruel” reached # 1.



September 9
Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."



September 28
RCA Records reported Elvis Presley sold over 10 million records.



October 16
Elvis Presley's first film, *Love Me Tender* premieres.



September 13
IBM introduced the first hard disk drive.



October 8
The New York Yankees won the World Series, defeating the Brooklyn Dodgers, 9-0, in Game 7 at Ebbets Field.



October 29
"The Huntley-Brinkley Report" with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast, replacing "The Camel News Caravan." It ran until 1970. Brinkley remained with NBC News for 11 more years.



November 3
The Wizard of Oz was first televised on CBS Television.



November 29
The musical *Bells Are Ringing*, starring Judy Holliday, opened at Shubert Theater in NYC running for 925 performances.



December 18
The game show "To Tell the Truth" debuted on CBS Television.



November 28
Charles Van Doren made his first appearance on the hit television game show "Twenty One". It was an appearance that would lead to the infamous TV quiz show scandals.



December 4
Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash meet at Sun Studios for an impromptu jam session.



December 30
The New York Giants defeated the Chicago Bears, 47-to-7, to win the NFL Championship Game.





MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

• THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE •



Resources

www.milliondollarquartetlive.com

The Official website of *Million Dollar Quartet*

Websites

The Sun Records Label Story by David Edwards and Mike Callahan
<http://www.bsnpubs.com/tennessee/sunstory.html>

Recalling Sam Phillips/Sun Records by David Hoekstra
http://blogs.suntimes.com/hoekstra/2008/10/recalling_sam_phillipssun_reco.html

The Sun Records Company
<http://www.sunrecords.com/>

Sun Studio by Teresa R. Simpson, About.com
<http://memphis.about.com/od/elvispresley/p/sunstudio.htm>

The History of Rock 'n' Roll
http://www.history-of-rock.com/sam_phillips_sun_records.htm

Stamping the Record
<http://www.shellac.org/recording/record5.html>

What are Vinyl Records?
<tp://www.wisageek.com/what-are-vinyl-records.htm>

Making the Record
http://eil.com/explore/guide/vinyl_making.asp

The Rockabilly Saga
<http://www.rockabilly.nl/general/rockabilly1.htm>

The Rockabilly All Stars
<http://www.buddyholly.ca/ras/history.html>

What is Rockabilly? By Stu Frederick
http://www.theriversonline.com/What_is_Rockabilly.htm

STAGE
THRU
THE DOOR.



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Michael Naylor, a graduate of the Temple University School of Communications and Theatre, has spent over two decades working in professional theatre. Prior to working with Broadway Theatrical, he served as the Art Director for Camp Broadway and Director of Marketing and Communications for Pennsylvania's historic Bucks County Playhouse.

Sue Maccia

Sue Maccia worked as a senior copywriter in the college textbook division of Macmillan Publishing, Inc. New York. She has also worked for several New York educational development companies and taught creative writing at a specialized program hosted by East Stroudsburg University. As a journalist she covered both hard news stories and wrote feature articles for major newspapers including the Newark Star Ledger. Ms. Maccia was chief copywriter for Films for the Humanities and Sciences of Princeton, a major supplier of educational films to the high school and university markets. At this position she also handled Spanish language film acquisitions. She has worked for the New Jersey Council for the Humanities as a public relations writer.

Lessons:

Rob Stone

Rob Stone has taught Middle and High School American History for the last fifteen years at the Francis W. Parker School in Chicago. He holds a Masters Degree in Liberal Arts with a History concentration from Harvard University, and a Bachelor's degree in English and Political Science from The Colorado College. Rob is also a blues singer and harmonica player and has performed concerts and festivals all over the world. His music has been featured in Martin Scorsese's documentary *The Blues*, and his 2004 cd release *Just My Luck* on the Earwig Music Company label received a Chicago Music Award nomination for Best Blues Album.



MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

- THE NIGHT ROCK 'N' ROLL CAME ALIVE -

Resources

www.milliondollarquartetlive.com

The Official website of *Million Dollar Quartet*

Websites

Vinyl Records – 60 Years Strong and Still in the Groove by Jeffrey B. Palmer

<http://www.vinylnewsservice.com/MainMenu/News/LatestVNSNews/ArtandDesign/VinylRecords.aspx>

“Choosing Your Career Isn’t a Life Sentence” by Mary G. White

http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Choosing_Your_Career_Isn't_a_Life_Sentence.html

<http://oldies.about.com/cs/rockabilly/a/samphillips.htm>

http://afroamhistory.about.com/od/bluesmusic/a/classic_blues.htm

<http://www.honkytonks.org/showpages/blackandwhite.htm>

<http://www.elvisinfonet.com/tharpe.html>

http://www.milliondollarquartetlive.com/#/the_songs/

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/story/02_bus.html

www.youtube.com

www.time.com

www.dizzler.com

www.biography.com

Books

Good Rockin' Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock n Roll by Floyd Mutrux

Go Cat Go!: Rockabilly Music and its Makers by Craig Morrison

The Rockabilly Legends: They Called It Rockabilly Long Before It Was Called Rock 'n' Roll by Jerry