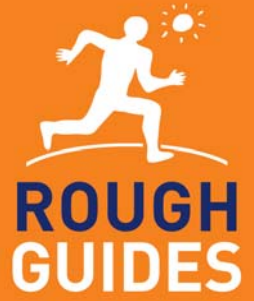
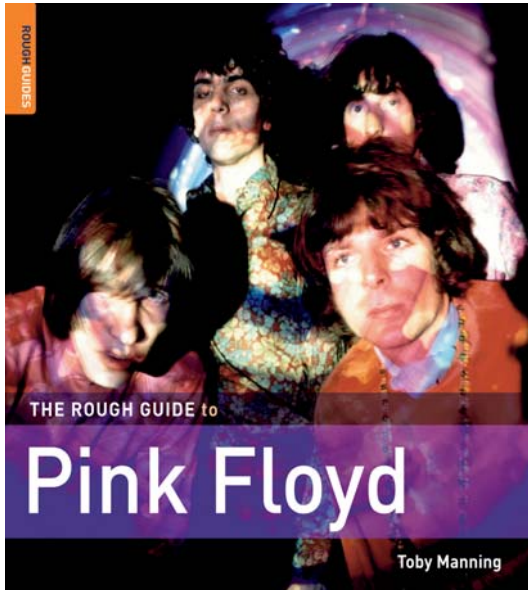


For Immediate Release

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The Rough Guide to Pink Floyd



Pink Floyd: The Ultimate Rock Enigma?

New book explores Rock's most mysterious legends

If ever there was a band that resisted scrutiny, it is Pink Floyd. They have sold over 200 million records, their album sleeves are almost cultishly iconic, and yet the band can walk through crowds at their own concerts unrecognized. Author Toby Manning captures the band's ethereal breadth, saying: "As **psychedelists**, they took the listener off into outer space, into inner space, and back into childhood. As **progressive rockers**, they went deeper into the unknown, as well as promulgating a pastoral wooziness that was very far from earthbound."

All this abstraction is delightfully peppered with a count-down of the top 50 Floyd songs of all time, stories of the

boys before they were rockers and the failures and favorites of their solo careers.

Toby Manning has been following Floyd for most of his adult life. He has interviewed band members, Floyd entourage and collaborators and rummaged through all the musical archives.

The result is the most well-rounded and up-to-date picture of the story and the music of Floyd yet published. It sets the record straight on oft-misreported facts about the band, from Roger Water's birthday to when precisely Syd Barrett left the band.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1987, "Learning to Fly" became the first ever CD-only single released.

With the unfortunate recent death of recluse Syd Barrett, the band's first lead singer and central personality, Pink Floyd is headline material once again. The band's shocking 2005 reunion was the highlight of Live 8 and, more recently, guitarist Dave Gilmour's solo album has been a surprise hit while major Gilmour and Waters tours on-going through 2006 have added fuel to the fevered Floyd fire.

From their public struggles with substance abuse, to the mystical and surreal nature of their lyrics and their many collaborations, *The Rough Guide to Pink Floyd* unveils it all.

The Rough Guide to Pink Floyd / Toby Manning

1-84353-575-0 / September 2006 / \$14.99 / Cdn \$21.99 / Rough Guides

About the author:

Toby Manning grew up in North Wales before regressing to adolescence in London. He has written for *Q*, *NME*, *MOJO*, *Arena*, *The Guardian* and now produces and manages the band The Idle Lovers.

from *The Rough Guide to Pink Floyd* (p. 19):

How Pink Floyd Got Their Name

Mason claims the band's name change [from "The Tea Set"] was necessitated by the discovery of an identically monikered band on a bill at an airforce base. Although Barrett later claimed the name Pink Floyd was transmitted to him from a flying saucer while he was sitting on a ley-line at Glastonbury, the more banal truth was that, back home in Cambridge the previous summer, flicking through some old blues records, Barrett hit upon the idea of combining the first names of two obscure veteran Georgia bluesmen - Pink Anderson (1900-74) and Floyd Council (1911-76).

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