

NICK OF TIME: MY LIFE AND CAREER, ALL ON THE RECORD

NICK HAMPTON

PREFACE

Typically boring, definitely not cool, mild-mannered accountant just happens to be in the right place at the right time to get a start in the amazing world of rock 'n' roll and make international record labels his home for more than two decades.

Sounds like an unlikely outline for a really riveting piece of pulp fiction, doesn't it? *The Musical Adventures of a Quiet Bean Counter*. Except that it's not fiction, it's true, and I'm the bean counter, though perhaps not your usual one. And so this is my story, and my life.

My career in the music industry started in London, took me all over Europe, to America, Australia and New Zealand, and gave me executive jobs with giant labels like EMI and CBS, as well as some smaller ones that punched way above their weight when it came to hits and hit-makers.

I would hate to be remembered only as a name-dropper, but the fact is my time in music, behind the scenes, brought me into contact with dozens of artists, movers and assorted shakers who I think everyone in the business has heard of. The list, in no particular order, includes Petula Clark, Tony Hatch, Jackie Trent, The Kinks, Donovan, Dick James, Elton John, Sandie Shaw, Johnny Cash, Andy Williams, Tony Bennett, Vera Lynn, Lew Grade and Clive Davis. And from my time in Sydney, Slim Dusty and Joy McKean, Ted Albert, Glenn Shorrock, Smoky Dawson, Jenny Morris, Jimmy Barnes, Iva Davies, Neil Finn and Richard Clapton, to name just a few, not to mention the wonderfully large cast of fine people I got to know through APRA, AMCOS and then through Nordoff-Robbins, the world of music therapy.

I ended up spending forty years in the music business, seeing mostly the good, occasionally the bad, and sometimes the downright ugly. In writing this memoir, I decided to dive in where it all began, London in the early sixties. This will take me up to my

NICK OF TIME: MY LIFE AND CAREER, ALL ON THE RECORD
NICK HAMPTON

arrival in Australia for my period as managing director of EMI in the eighties. Then I'll tell you a bit about my ancestors and the world this very middle-class boy grew up in, before I return to Oz for my post-EMI days and round it all off.

I hope you enjoy the read, because I certainly enjoyed the ride.

NICK HAMPTON
Castres, France
April 2020