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The longest-running rock band of all time, the Rolling Stones have been heavily influenced by rock and roll throughout the decade. Beginning as part of the British Rock Invasion of the 1960s, the Rolling Stones quickly became a bad-boy band with sex, drugs and wild behaviour. After five decades together, the Rolling Stones have collected eight #1 and ten consecutive gold albums. Date: 1962-Present Also Known As: The Stones Original Members: Mick Jagger - lead vocals, harmonicaKeith Richards - guitar, backing vocalsCharlie Watts - drumBrian Jones - guitar, harmonica, sitar, Stewart's backing vocals - PianoBill Wyman - bass guitar, backing vocals Current Members: Mick Jagger - lead vocals, harmonicaKeith Richards - guitarCharlie Watts - drumRon Wood - bass guitar The Rolling Stones are a British band, beginning in the early 1960s, influenced by American rhythms and blues artists such as Little Richard, Chuck Berry, and Fats Domino, as well as, however, the Rolling Stones finally created their own sound by experimenting with instruments and writing rhythms and blues mixed with rock and roll. When the Beatles reached international star in 1963, the Rolling Stones were right on their heels. While the Beatles were known as good boy bands (influencing pop rock), the Rolling Stones were known as bad-boy bands (influencing blues-rock, hard rock, and grunge bands). In the early 1950s, Keith Richards and Mick Jagger were primary school classmates in Kent, England, until Jagger went to a different school. Nearly a decade later, their friendship was revived after a chance meeting at the train station in 1960. While Jagger was on his way to the London School of Economics where he studied accounting, Richards was commusing to Sidcup Art College where he studied graphic arts. Since Jagger had some Chuck Berry and Muddy Waters records under his arm when they met, the conversation quickly turned to music. They discovered that Jagger had been singing teen love songs in an underground club in London while Richards had been playing guitar since the age of 14. The two young men were once again friends, creating a partnership that had kept the Rolling Stones together for decades. Looking for an outlet to try out their musical talents, Jagger and Richards, plus another young musician named Brian Jones, began occasionally playing in a band called Blues Incorporated—an R&A&D band. The UK's first electric B, formed by Alexis Korner in 1961. The band embraced aspiring young musicians with an interest in this type of music, allowing them to perform in cameo appearances. This is where Jagger and Richards met Charlie Watts, who was the drummer for Blues Incorporated. Soon, Brian Jones decided to start his own band. To begin with, Jones placed an ad in Jazz News on May 2, 1962, inviting musicians to follow suit R&A&D; New B. Pianist Ian Stu Stewart was the first to respond. Respond. Jagger, Richards, Dick Taylor (bass guitar), and Tony Chapman (drums) also joined. According to Richards, Jones named the band when he was on the phone trying to book a show. When asked the band's name, Jones glanced down at Muddy Waters' LP, saw one of the tracks called Rollin' Stone Blues and said, Rollin' Stones. The new band, named Rollin' Stones and led by Jones, played their first performance at the Marquee Club in London on July 12, 1962. Rollin' Stones soon secured a place at the Crawdaddy Club, bringing in a younger audience looking for something new and exciting. This new sound, a blues renaissance performed by young British musicians, has children standing on tables, rocking, dancing, and shouting at the sound of electric guitars with provocative singers. Bill Wyman (bass guitar, backing vocals) joined in December 1962, replacing Dick Taylor who returned to college. Wyman wasn't their first choice, but he had the amplifier the band wanted. Charlie Watts (drums) joined the band the following January, replacing Tony Chapman who left for another band. In 1963, Rollin' Stones signed a contract with a manager named Andrew Oldham, who had helped promote the Beatles. Oldham saw the Rollin' Stones as anti-Beatles and decided to promote their bad boy image to the press. Oldham also changed the spelling of the band's name by adding a g, making it the Rolling Stones and changing Richards' last name to Richard (which Richard later changed back to Richards). Also in 1963, the Rolling Stones cut their first single, Chuck Berry Come On. The song #21 on the UK singles chart. The Stones appeared on the TV show Thank Your Lucky Stars to perform the song while wearing matching houndstooth jackets to appease television producers. Their second hit single, I Wanna Be Your Man, written by the Beatles' Lennon-McCartney songwriting duo, reached #12 in the UK charts. Their third single, Not Fade Away from Buddy Holly #3 on the same chart. It was their first American hit to go #48 on the American charts. The press turned its attention to the Rolling Stones, a group of insolent punks disrupting the status quo by playing black music to a young white audience. A March 1964 article in the British weekly Melody Maker titled, Do You Let Your Sister Go With the Stone, created such a stir that 8,000 children appeared on the next Rolling Stones show. The band decided the press was good for their popularity and thus deliberately started shenanigans such as growing their hair and wearing mod-style casual suits (modified) to receive more media attention. Being too big to perform at the club in early 1964, the Rolling Stones toured the UK. In June 1964, the band rolled into America to concerts and recording at Chess Studios in Chicago as well as Hollywood RCA Studios, where they capture the vibrant sound they want due to better acoustics. Their American concert in San Bernardino, California, was fine by eager schoolchildren and screaming schoolgirls, even without a record big hit in the UNITED States. But Midwest concerts proved spotty because no one had ever heard of them. The audience picks up again at a New York concert. After returning to Europe, the Rolling Stones released their fourth single, Bobby Womack's It's All Over Now, which they had recorded in America at Chess Studios. A fanatical Stones cult began to take shape after the song #1 on the UK charts. It was the first blow #1 them. Oldham urged Jagger and Richards to start writing their own songs, but the duo found that writing blues was harder than they expected. Instead, they ended up writing a morphed blues-rock type, a blues hybrid with a heavier melody than improvisation. On their second trip to America in October 1964, the Rolling Stones appeared on Ed Sullivan's TV show, changing the words to Let's Spend the Night Together (written by Richards and Jagger) to Let's Spend Some Time Together due to censorship. That same month they appeared in a T.A.M.I. Show concert in Santa Monica, California, with James Brown, the Supremes, Chuck Berry, and the Beach Boys. Both places greatly increased their American exposure and Jagger began to imitate James Brown's movements. The Rolling Stones' 1965 mega-hit, (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction, with Richards' fuzz-guitar riff designed to mimic the sound of horn parts, hit #1 the world. Their musical attitude, a mixture of rebellion and apology using urgent guitars, tribal drums, strong harmonica, and sexually strained vocals, seduces the young and worries the old. When the Rolling Stones had another #1 hit, Paint It Black, the following year, they had begun securing their rock star status. Although Brian Jones had started the band, the Leadership of the Rolling Stones shifted to Jagger and Richards after they proved themselves to be a strong team of songwriters. In 1967, members of the Rolling Stones lived like rock stars, meaning they abused a lot of drugs. That year Richards, Jagger and Jones were all charged with drug possession (and given suspended sentences). Unfortunately, Jones is not only addicted to drugs; His mental health is soaring out of control. In 1969, the rest of the band could no longer tolerate Jones, so he left the band on June 8. Just weeks later, Jones drowned in his swimming pool on July 2, 1969. By the late 1960s, the Rolling Stones had become the bad boys they once promoted themselves. Their concerts from this period, filled with teenagers from the growing counterculture movement (young people experimenting with communal life, music, and medicine), were voracious enough to lead to a number of quotes against the Rolling Stones for causing concert violence. Jagger's Nazi stepping on stage is not in the early 1970s, the Rolling Stones were a controversial group, banned from many countries and exiled from the UK in 1971 for not being their taxes. The Stones sacked their manager Allen Klein (who had taken over from Oldham in 1966) and started their own record label, Rolling Stones Records. The Rolling Stones continued to write and record music, mixing in punk and disco genres inspired by new band member Ron Woods. Richards was arrested in Toronto for heroin trafficking, resulting in an 18-month legal discharge; he was later sentenced to perform a benefit concert for the visually impaired. Richards then quit heroin. During the early 1980s, the band experimented with new wave genres, but members began pursuing solo careers due to creative differences. Jagger wanted to continue experimenting with contemporary sounds, and Richards wanted to remain rooted in blues. Ian Stewart suffered a fatal heart attack in 1985. In the late '80s, the Rolling Stones realized they were stronger together. They chose to reunite and announce a new album. At the end of the decade, the Rolling Stones were inducted into the American Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989. In 1993, Bill Wyman announced his retirement. Voodoo Lounge the Stones' album won a Grammy Award for Best Rock Album in 1995 and prompted a world tour. Jagger and Richards agreed that their drift in the 80s was linked to their success in the 90s. They believe that if they stay together, they will break up. The Rolling Stones have been experiencing waxing and waning popularity for decades. While band members are now in their sixties and seventies in the new millennium, they still perform, tour, and record. In 2003, Jagger was awarded Sir Michael Jagger, causing another riff between himself and Richards, notably, according to Richards, because the band's message was always anti-establishment. There has also been public condemnation of the suiting of the former British tax exile. Documentaries about the band's long and controversial career capture the counterculture movement, perfect recording technology, and perform flamboyantly for a live audience. The band's lip and tongue logo, designed by John Pasche in the 70s (a symbol of their anti-establishment message), is one of the band's most identifiable icons in the world. Stan, Stanley. The True Adventures of the Rolling Stones. Vintage Books, 1985. Hetrick, Hans. The Rolling Stones: Pushing the Boundaries of Rock. Stevens Point WI: Capstone Press, 2005. Nelson, Murry R. The Rolling Stones: Music Biography. 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