

= Keith Moon =

Keith John Moon (23 August 1946 ? 7 September 1978) was an English drummer who played with the English rock band the Who . He was noted for his unique style and his eccentric , often self @-@ destructive behaviour . His drumming continues to be praised by critics and musicians . He was posthumously inducted into the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 1982 , becoming only the second rock drummer to be chosen , and in 2011 , Moon was voted the second @-@ greatest drummer in history by a Rolling Stone readers ' poll .

Moon grew up in Alperton , a suburb of Wembley , northwest London , and took up the drums during the early 1960s . After playing with a local band , the Beachcombers , he joined the Who in 1964 before they recorded their first single . Moon remained with the band during their rise to fame , and was quickly recognised for his drumming style , which emphasised tom @-@ toms , cymbal crashes , and drum fills . He occasionally collaborated with other musicians and later appeared in films , but considered playing in the Who his primary occupation and remained a member of the band until his death . In addition to his talent as a drummer , however , Moon developed a reputation for smashing his kit on stage and destroying hotel rooms on tour . He was fascinated by blowing up toilets with cherry bombs or dynamite , and by destroying television sets . Moon enjoyed touring and socialising , and was bored and restless when the Who were inactive . His 21st birthday party in Flint , Michigan , has been cited as a notorious example of decadent behaviour by rock groups .

Moon suffered a number of setbacks during the 1970s , most notably the accidental death of chauffeur Neil Boland and the breakdown of his marriage . He became addicted to alcohol , particularly brandy and champagne , and acquired a reputation for decadence and dark humour ; his nickname was " Moon the Loon . " After moving to Los Angeles with personal assistant Peter " Dougal " Butler during the mid @-@ 1970s , Moon recorded his only solo album , the poorly received Two Sides of the Moon . While touring with the Who , on several occasions he passed out on stage and was hospitalised . By their final tour with him in 1976 , and particularly during production of The Kids Are Alright and Who Are You , the drummer 's deterioration was evident . Moon moved back to London in 1978 , dying in September of that year from an overdose of Heminevrin , a drug intended to treat or prevent symptoms of alcohol withdrawal .

= = Early life = =

Keith John Moon was born to Alfred Charles (Alf) and Kathleen Winifred (Kit) Moon on 23 August 1946 at Central Middlesex Hospital in northwest London , and grew up in Wembley . He was hyperactive as a boy , with a restless imagination and a particular fondness for The Goon Show and music . Moon attended Alperton Secondary Modern School after failing his eleven plus exam , which precluded his attending a grammar school . His art teacher said in a report : " Retarded artistically . Idiotic in other respects " . His music teacher wrote that Moon " has great ability , but must guard against a tendency to show off . "

Moon joined his local Sea Cadet Corps band at the age of twelve on the bugle , but found the instrument too difficult to learn and decided to take up drums instead . He was interested in practical jokes and home science kits , with a particular fondness for explosions . On his way home from school , Moon would often go to Macari 's Music Studio on Ealing Road to practise on the drums there , learning his basic skills on the instrument . He left school at age fourteen , around Easter in 1961 . Moon then enrolled at Harrow Technical College ; this led to a job as a radio repairman , enabling him to buy his first drum kit .

= = Career = =

= = = Early years = = =

Moon took lessons from one of the loudest contemporary drummers , Screaming Lord Sutch 's

Carlo Little , at ten shillings per lesson . Moon 's early style was influenced by jazz , American surf music and rhythm and blues , exemplified by noted Los Angeles studio drummer Hal Blaine . His favourite musicians were jazz artists , particularly Gene Krupa (whose flamboyant style he subsequently copied) . Moon also admired Elvis Presley 's original drummer DJ Fontana , the Shadows ' original drummer Tony Meehan and the Pretty Things ' Viv Prince . He also enjoyed singing , with a particular interest in Motown . Moon idolised the Beach Boys ; Roger Daltrey later said that given the opportunity , Moon would have left to play for the California band even at the peak of the Who 's fame .

During this time Moon joined his first serious band : the Escorts , replacing his best friend Gerry Evans . In December 1962 he joined the Beachcombers , a semi @-@ professional London cover band playing hits by groups such as the Shadows . During his time in the group Moon incorporated theatrical tricks into his act , including " shooting " the group 's lead singer with a starter pistol . The Beachcombers all had day jobs ; Moon , who worked in the sales department at British Gypsum , had the keenest interest in turning professional . In April 1964 , at age seventeen , he auditioned for the Who as a replacement for Doug Sandom . The Beachcombers continued as a local cover band after his departure .

= = = The Who = = =

A commonly cited story of how Moon joined the Who is that he appeared at a show shortly after Sandom 's departure , where a session drummer was used . Dressed in ginger clothes and with his hair dyed ginger (future bandmate Pete Townshend later described him as a " ginger vision ") , he claimed to his would @-@ be bandmates that he could play better ; he played in the set 's second half , nearly demolishing the drum kit in the process . In the words of the drummer , " they said go ahead , and I got behind this other guy 's drums and did one song- ' Road Runner . ' I 'd several drinks to get me courage up and when I got onstage I went arrgggGhhhh on the drums , broke the bass drum pedal and two skins , and got off . I figured that was it . I was scared to death . Afterwards I was sitting at the bar and Pete came over . He said : ' You ... come ' ere . ' I said , mild as you please : ' Yes , yes ? ' And Roger , who was the spokesman then , said : ' What are you doing next Monday ? ' I said : ' Nothing . ' I was working during the day , selling plaster . He said : ' You 'll have to give up work ... there 's this gig on Monday . If you want to come , we 'll pick you up in the van . ' I said : ' Right . ' And that was it . " Moon later claimed that he was never formally invited to join the Who permanently ; when Ringo Starr asked how he had joined the band , he said he had " just been filling in for the last fifteen years . "

Moon 's arrival in the Who changed the dynamics of the group . Sandom had generally been the peacemaker as Daltrey and Townshend feuded between themselves , but because of Moon 's temperament the group now had four members frequently in conflict . " We used to fight regularly , " remembered Moon in later years . " John [Entwistle] and I used to have fights ? it wasn 't very serious , it was more of an emotional spur @-@ of @-@ the moment thing . " Moon also clashed with Daltrey and Townshend : " We really have absolutely nothing in common apart from music , " he said in a later interview . Although Townshend described him as a " completely different person to anyone I 've ever met , " the pair had a rapport in the early years and enjoyed practical jokes and improvised comedy . Moon 's drumming style affected the band 's musical structure ; although Entwistle initially found Moon 's lack of conventional timekeeping problematic , it created an original sound .

Moon was particularly fond of touring , since it was his only chance to regularly socialise with his bandmates , and was generally restless and bored when not playing live . This later carried over to other aspects of his life , as he acted them out (according to journalist and Who biographer Dave Marsh) " as if his life were one long tour . " These antics earned him the nickname " Moon the Loon . "

= = = Musical contributions = = =

Moon 's style of drumming was considered unique by his bandmates , although they sometimes found his unconventional playing frustrating ; Entwistle noted that he tended to play faster or slower according to his mood . " He wouldn 't play across his kit , " he later added . " He 'd play zig @-@ zag . That 's why he had two sets of tom @-@ toms . He 'd move his arms forward like a skier . " Daltrey said that Moon " just instinctively put drum rolls in places that other people would never have thought of putting them . "

Who biographer John Atkins wrote that the group 's early test sessions for Pye Records in 1964 show that " they seemed to have understood just how important was ... Moon 's contribution . " Contemporary critics questioned his ability to keep time , with biographer Tony Fletcher suggesting that the timing on Tommy was " all over the place . " Who producer Jon Astley said , " You didn 't think he was keeping time , but he was . " Early recordings of Moon 's drumming sound tinny and disorganised ; it was not until the recording of Who 's Next , with Glyn Johns ' no @-@ nonsense production techniques and the need to keep time to a synthesizer track , that he began developing more discipline in the studio . Fletcher considers the drumming on this album to be the best of Moon 's career .

Unlike contemporary rock drummers such as Ginger Baker and John Bonham , Moon hated drum solos and refused to play them in concert . At a Madison Square Garden show on 10 June 1974 , Townshend and Entwistle decided to spontaneously stop playing during " Wasp Man " to listen to Moon 's drum solo . Moon continued briefly and then stopped , shouting " Drum solos are boring ! " However , in 1977 , he made a guest appearance in a Led Zeppelin concert , joining John Bonham for his " Moby Dick " drum solo . The concert was bootlegged as For Badgeholders Only .

Although not an especially gifted vocalist , Moon was enthusiastic about singing and wanted to sing lead with the rest of the group . While the other three members handled the lion 's share of onstage vocals , Moon would attempt to sing backup (particularly on " I Can 't Explain ") . He provided humorous commentary during song announcements , although sound engineer Bob Pridden preferred to mute his vocal microphone on the mixing desk whenever possible . Moon 's knack for making his bandmates laugh around the microphone led them to banish him from the studio when vocals were being recorded ; this led to a game in which Moon would sneak in to join the singing . At the end of " Happy Jack , " Townshend can be heard saying " I saw ya ! " to Moon as he tries to sneak into the studio . The drummer 's interest in surf music and his desire to sing lead spawned lead vocals on several early tracks , including " Bucket T " and " Barbara Ann " (Ready Steady Who EP , 1966) and high backing vocals on other songs , such as " Pictures of Lily . " Moon 's performance on " Bell Boy " (Quadrophenia , 1973) saw him abandon " serious " vocal performances to sing in character , which gave him (in Fletcher 's words) " full licence to live up to his reputation as a lecherous drunk " ; it was " exactly the kind of performance the Who needed from him to bring them back down to earth . "

Moon composed " I Need You " (which he also sang) , the instrumental " Cobwebs and Strange " (from the album A Quick One , 1966) , the single B @-@ sides " In The City " (co @-@ written with Entwistle) and " Girl 's Eyes " (from The Who Sell Out sessions featured on Thirty Years of Maximum R & B and a 1995 re @-@ release of The Who Sell Out) , " Dogs Part Two " (1969) , " Tommy 's Holiday Camp " (1969) and " Waspman " (1972) . Moon also co @-@ composed " The Ox " (an instrumental from their debut album , My Generation) with Townshend , Entwistle and keyboardist Nicky Hopkins . The setting for " Tommy 's Holiday Camp " (from Tommy) was credited to Moon ; the song was primarily written by Townshend and , although there is a misconception that Moon sings on it , the album version is Townshend 's demo .

The drummer produced the violin solo on " Baba O 'Riley . " Moon sat in on congas with East of Eden at the Lyceum , and afterwards suggested to violinist Dave Arbus that he play on the track .

= = = = Equipment = = = =

Moon played a four , then a five @-@ piece drum kit during his early career . His 1965 set consisted of Ludwig drums and Zildjian cymbals . By 1966 , feeling limited by this setup and inspired by Ginger Baker 's double bass drum , he switched to a larger Premier kit . This setup did not have a

hi @-@ hat , since Moon used crash and ride cymbals instead . He remained a loyal customer of Premier .

Moon 's Classic Red Sparkle Premier setup consisted of two 22 @-@ inch (56 cm) bass drums , three 14 @-@ inch (36 cm) mounted toms , two 16 @-@ inch (41 cm) floor toms and a 14 @-@ inch (36 cm) Ludwig Supraphonic 400 snare . His cymbals consisted of two Paiste Giant Beat 18 @-@ inch (46 cm) crashes and one 20 @-@ inch (51 cm) ride . This kit was not used at the Who 's performance at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival . From 1967 to 1969 Moon used the " Pictures of Lily " drum kit (named for its artwork) , which had two 22 @-@ inch (56 cm) bass drums , two 16 @-@ inch (41 cm) floor toms and three mounted toms . In recognition of his loyalty to the company , Premier reissued the kit in 2006 as the " Spirit of Lily . "

By 1970 Moon had begun to use timbales , gongs and timpani , and these were included in his setup for the rest of his career . In 1973 Premier 's marketing manager , Eddie Haynes , began consulting with Moon about specific requirements . At one point , Moon asked Premier to make a white kit with gold @-@ plated fittings . When Haynes said that it would be prohibitively expensive , Moon replied : " Dear boy , do exactly as you feel it should be , but that 's the way I want it . " The kit was eventually fitted with copper fittings and later given to a young Zak Starkey .

= = = = Destroying instruments and other stunts = = = =

At an early show at the Railway Tavern in Harrow , Townshend smashed his guitar after accidentally breaking it . When the audience demanded he do it again , Moon kicked over his drum kit . Subsequent live sets culminated in what the band later described as " auto @-@ destructive art , " in which band members (particularly Moon and Townshend) elaborately destroyed their equipment . Moon developed a habit of kicking over his drums , claiming that he did so in exasperation at an audience 's indifference . Townshend later said , " A set of skins is about \$ 300 [then £ 96] and after every show he 'd just go bang , bang , bang and then kick the whole thing over . "

In May 1966 , Moon discovered that the Beach Boys ' Bruce Johnston was visiting London . After the pair socialised for a few days , Moon and Entwistle brought Johnston to the set of Ready Steady Go ! , which made them late for a show with the Who that evening . During the finale of " My Generation , " an altercation broke out on stage between Moon and Townshend which was reported on the front page of the New Musical Express the following week . Moon and Entwistle left the Who for a week (with Moon hoping to join the Animals or the Nashville Teens) , but they changed their minds and returned .

On the Who 's early US package tour at the RKO Theatre in New York in March and April 1967 Moon performed five shows a day , kicking over his drum kit after every show . Later that year , during their appearance on The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour , he bribed a stagehand to load gunpowder into one of his bass drums ; the stagehand used about ten times the standard amount . During the finale of " My Generation , " he kicked the drum off the riser and set off the charge . The intensity of the explosion singed Townshend 's hair and embedded a piece of cymbal in Moon 's arm . A clip of the incident became the opening scene for the film The Kids Are Alright .

Although Moon was known for kicking over his drum kit , Haynes claimed that it was done carefully and the kit rarely needed repairs . However , stands and foot pedals were frequently replaced ; the drummer " would go through them like a knife through butter . "

= = = Other work = = =

= = = = Music = = = =

While Moon generally said he was only interested in working with the Who , he participated in outside musical projects . In 1966 he worked with Yardbirds guitarist Jeff Beck , pianist Nicky Hopkins and future Led Zeppelin members Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones on the instrumental "

Beck 's Bolero , " which was the B @-@ side to " Hi Ho Silver Lining " and appeared on the album Truth . Moon also played timpani on another track , a cover of Jerome Kern 's " Ol ' Man River . " He was credited on the album as " You Know Who . "

Moon may have inspired the name for Led Zeppelin . When he briefly considered leaving the Who in 1966 , he spoke with Entwistle and Page about forming a supergroup . Moon (or Entwistle) remarked that a particular suggestion had gone down like a " lead zeppelin " (a play on " lead balloon ") . Although the supergroup was never formed , Page remembered the phrase and later adapted it as the name of his new band .

The Beatles became friends with Moon , leading to occasional collaborations . In 1967 , he contributed backing vocals to " All You Need Is Love . " On 15 December 1969 , Moon joined John Lennon 's Plastic Ono Band for a live performance at the Lyceum Theatre in London for a UNICEF charity concert . In 1972 the performance was released as a companion disc to Lennon and Ono 's album , Some Time in New York City .

Moon 's friendship with Entwistle led to an appearance on Smash Your Head Against the Wall , Entwistle 's first solo album and the first by a member of the Who . Moon did not play drums on the album ; Jerry Shirley did , with Moon providing percussion . Rolling Stone 's John Hoegel appreciated Entwistle 's decision not to let Moon drum , saying that it distanced his album from the familiar sound of the Who .

Moon became involved in solo work when he moved to Los Angeles during the mid @-@ 1970s . In 1974 , Track Records @-@ MCA released a Moon solo single covering the Beach Boys ' " Don 't Worry , Baby " and " Teenage Idol . " The next year he released his only solo album , entitled Two Sides of the Moon . Although it featured Moon on vocals , he played drums on only three tracks ; most of the drumming was left to others (including Ringo Starr , session musicians Curly Smith and Jim Keltner and actor @-@ musician Miguel Ferrer) . The album was received poorly by critics . NME 's Roy Carr wrote , " Moonie , if you didn 't have talent , I wouldn 't care ; but you have , which is why I 'm not about to accept Two Sides of the Moon . " Dave Marsh , reviewing the album in Rolling Stone , wrote : " There isn 't any legitimate reason for this album 's existence . " During one of his few televised solo drum performances (for ABC 's Wide World) , Moon played a five @-@ minute drum solo dressed as a cat on transparent acrylic drums filled with water and goldfish . When asked by an audience member what would happen to the kit , he joked that " even the best drummers get hungry . " His performance was not appreciated by animal lovers , several of whom called the station with complaints .

== Film ==

In the 2007 documentary film , Amazing Journey : The Story of The Who , Daltrey and Townshend reminisced about Moon 's talent for dressing as (and embodying) a variety of characters . They remembered his dream of getting out of music and becoming a Hollywood film actor , although Daltrey did not think Moon had the patience and work ethic required by a professional actor . Who manager Bill Curbishley agreed that Moon " wasn 't disciplined enough to actually turn up or commit to doing the stuff . "

Nevertheless , the drummer landed several acting roles . His first was in 1971 , a cameo in Frank Zappa 's 200 Motels as a nun afraid of dying from a drug overdose . Although it only took 13 days to film , fellow cast member Howard Kaylan remembers Moon spending off @-@ camera time at the Kensington Garden Hotel bar instead of sleeping . Moon 's next film role was J.D. Clover , drummer for the fictional Stray Cats at a holiday camp during the early days of British rock ' n ' roll , in 1973 's That 'll Be the Day . He reprised the role for the film 's 1974 sequel , Stardust , and played Uncle Ernie in Ken Russell 's 1975 film adaptation of Tommy . Moon 's last film appearance was in 1978 's Sextette with Starr and Alice Cooper . This was the last film to star Mae West .

= Destructive behaviour =

Moon led a destructive lifestyle . During the Who 's early days he began taking amphetamines , and

in a New Musical Express interview said his favourite food was " French Blues . " He spent his share of the band 's income quickly , and was a regular at London clubs such as the Speakeasy and the Bag O ' Nails ; the combination of pills and alcohol escalated into alcoholism and drug addiction later in his life . " [We] went through the same stages everybody goes through ? the bloody drug corridor , " he later reflected . " Drinking suited the group a lot better . "

According to Townshend , Moon began destroying hotel rooms when the Who stayed at the Berlin Hilton on tour in late 1966 . In addition to hotel rooms , Moon destroyed friends ' homes and even his own , throwing furniture from upper @-@ storey windows and setting fire to buildings . Andrew Neill and Matthew Kent estimated that his destruction of hotel toilets and plumbing cost as much as £ 300 @,@ 000 (\$ 500 @,@ 000) . These acts , often fuelled by drugs and alcohol , were Moon 's way of demonstrating his eccentricity ; he enjoyed shocking the public with them . Longtime friend and personal assistant Butler observed , " He was trying to make people laugh and be Mr Funny , he wanted people to love him and enjoy him , but he would go so far . Like a train ride you couldn 't stop . "

In a limousine on the way to the airport Moon insisted they return to their hotel , saying " I forgot something . " At the hotel he ran back to his room , grabbed the television and threw it out the window into the swimming pool below . He then jumped back into the limo , saying " I nearly forgot . "

Fletcher argues that The Who 's lengthy break between the end of their 1972 European tour and the beginning of the Quadrophenia sessions devastated Moon 's health , as without the rigours of lengthy shows and regular touring that had previously kept him in shape , his hard @-@ partying lifestyle took a greater toll on his body . He did not keep a drum kit or practice at Tara , and began to deteriorate physically as a result of his lifestyle . Around the same time he became a severe alcoholic , starting the day with drinks and changing from the " lovable boozier " he presented himself as to a " boorish drunk " . David Puttnam recalled , " The drinking went from being a joke to being a problem . On That 'll Be the Day it was social drinking . By the time Stardust came round it was hard drinking . "

= = = Exploding toilets = = =

Moon 's favourite stunt was to flush powerful explosives down toilets . According to Fletcher , Moon 's toilet pyrotechnics began in 1965 when he purchased a case of 500 cherry bombs . He moved from cherry bombs to M @-@ 80 fireworks to sticks of dynamite , which became his explosive of choice . " All that porcelain flying through the air was quite unforgettable , " Moon remembered . " I never realised dynamite was so powerful . I 'd been used to penny bangers before . " He quickly developed a reputation for destroying bathrooms and blowing up toilets . The destruction mesmerised him , and enhanced his public image as rock 's premier hell @-@ raiser . Tony Fletcher wrote that " no toilet in a hotel or changing room was safe " until Moon had exhausted his supply of explosives .

Pete Townshend walked into the bathroom of Moon 's hotel room and noticed the toilet had disappeared , with only the S @-@ bend remaining . The drummer explained that since a cherry bomb was about to explode , he had thrown it down the loo and showed Townshend the case of cherry bombs . " And of course from that moment on , " the guitarist remembered , " we got thrown out of every hotel we ever stayed in . "

Entwistle recalled being close to Moon on tour : " I suppose we were two of a kind " ... We shared a room on the road and got up to no good . " Consequently , both were often involved in blowing up toilets . In a 1981 Los Angeles Times interview he admitted , " A lot of times when Keith was blowing up toilets I was standing behind him with the matches . " In Alabama , Moon and Entwistle loaded a toilet with cherry bombs after being denied room service . According to Entwistle , " That toilet was just dust all over the walls by the time we checked out . The management brought our suitcases down to the gig and said : ' Don 't come back ... ' " .

A hotel manager called Moon in his room and asked him to lower the volume on his cassette recorder because it made " too much noise . " In response the drummer asked him up to his room ,

excused himself to go the bathroom , put a lit stick of dynamite in the toilet and shut the bathroom door . Upon returning , he asked the manager to stay for a moment , as he wanted to explain something . Following the explosion , Moon turned the recorder back on and said , " That , dear boy , was noise . This is the ' Oo . "

= = = Flint Holiday Inn incident = = =

On 23 August 1967 , on tour opening for Herman 's Hermits , Moon celebrated what he said was his 21st birthday (although it was thought at the time to be his 20th) at a Holiday Inn in Flint , Michigan . Entwistle later said , " He decided that if it was a publicised fact that it was his 21st birthday , he would be able to drink . "

The drummer immediately began drinking upon his arrival in Flint . The Who spent the afternoon visiting local radio stations with Nancy Lewis (then the band 's publicist) , and Moon posed for a photo outside the hotel in front of a " Happy Birthday Keith " sign put up by the hotel management . According to Lewis , Moon was drunk by the time the band went onstage at the Atwood High School football stadium .

Returning to the hotel , Moon started a food fight and soon cake began flying through the air . The drummer knocked out part of his front tooth ; at the hospital , doctors could not give him an anaesthetic (due to his inebriation) before removing the remainder of the tooth . Back at the hotel a mêlée erupted ; fire extinguishers were set off , guests (and objects) thrown into the swimming pool and a piano reportedly destroyed . The chaos ended only when police arrived with guns drawn .

A furious Holiday Inn management presented the groups with a bill for \$ 24 @,@ 000 , which was reportedly settled by Herman 's Hermits tour manager Edd McCann . Townshend claimed that the Who were banned for life from all of the hotel 's properties , but Fletcher wrote that they stayed at a Holiday Inn in Rochester , New York a week later . He also disputed a widely held belief that Moon drove a Lincoln Continental into the hotel 's swimming pool , as claimed by the drummer in a 1972 Rolling Stone interview .

= = = Passing out on stage = = =

Moon 's lifestyle began to undermine his health and reliability . During the 1973 Quadrophenia tour , at the Who 's debut US date at the Cow Palace in Daly City , California , Moon ingested a mixture of tranquillisers and brandy . During the concert , Moon passed out on his drum kit during " Won 't Get Fooled Again . " The band stopped playing , and a group of roadies carried Moon offstage . They gave him a shower and an injection of cortisone , sending him back onstage after a thirty @-@ minute delay . Moon passed out again during " Magic Bus , " and was again removed from the stage . The band continued without him for several songs before Townshend asked , " Can anyone play the drums ? ? I mean somebody good ? " A drummer in the audience , Scot Halpin , came up and played the rest of the show .

During the opening date of the band 's March 1976 US tour at the Boston Garden , Moon passed out over his drum kit after two numbers and the show was rescheduled . The next evening Moon systematically destroyed everything in his hotel room , cut himself doing so and passed out . He was discovered by manager Bill Curbishley , who took him to a hospital , telling him " I 'm gonna get the doctor to get you nice and fit , so you 're back within two days . Because I want to break your fucking jaw ... You have fucked this band around so many times and I 'm not having it any more . " Doctors told Curbishley that if he had not intervened , Moon would have bled to death . Marsh suggested that at this point Daltrey and Entwistle seriously considered firing Moon , but decided that doing so would make his life worse .

During the band 's recording sabbatical from 1975 to 1978 , Moon gained a considerable amount of weight . Entwistle has said that Moon and the Who reached their live peak in 1975 ? 76 . At the end of the 1976 US tour in Miami that August , the drummer , delirious , was treated in Hollywood Memorial Hospital for eight days . The group was concerned that he would be unable to complete the last leg of the tour , which ended at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto on 21 October (Moon 's last

public show) . By the time of the Who 's invitation @-@ only show at the Kilburn Gaumont in December 1977 for The Kids are Alright , Moon was visibly overweight and had difficulty sustaining a solid performance . After recording Who Are You , Townshend refused to follow the album with a tour until Moon stopped drinking , and said that if Moon 's playing did not improve he would be fired . Daltrey later denied threatening to fire him , but said that by this time the drummer was out of control .

= = = Financial problems = = =

Because the Who 's early stage act relied on smashing instruments , and owing to Moon 's enthusiasm for damaging hotels , the group were in debt for much of the 1960s ; Entwistle estimated they lost about £ 150 @, @ 000 . Even when the group became relatively financially stable after Tommy , Moon continued to rack up debts . He bought a number of cars and gadgets , and flirted with bankruptcy . Moon 's recklessness with money reduced his profit from the group 's 1975 UK tour to £ 47 @. @ 35 .

= = Personal life and relationships = =

= = = Birthdate = = =

Before the 1998 release of Tony Fletcher 's Dear Boy : The Life of Keith Moon , Moon 's date of birth was presumed to be 23 August 1947 . This erroneous date appeared in several otherwise @-@ reliable sources , including the Townshend @-@ authorised biography Before I Get Old : The Story of The Who . The incorrect date had been supplied by Moon in interviews before it was corrected by Fletcher to 1946 .

= = = Kim Kerrigan = = =

Moon 's first serious relationship was with Kim Kerrigan , whom he started dating in January 1965 after she saw the Who play at the Disc A Go Go in Bournemouth . By the end of the year , she discovered she was pregnant ; her parents , who were furious , met with the Moons to discuss their options and she moved into the Moon family home in Wembley . They were married on 17 March 1966 at Brent Registry Office , and their daughter Amanda was born on 12 July . The marriage (and child) were kept secret from the press until May 1968 . Moon was occasionally violent towards Kim : " if we went out after I had Mandy , " she later said , " if someone talked to me , he 'd lose it . We 'd go home and he 'd start a fight with me . " He loved Amanda , but his absences due to touring and fondness for practical jokes made their relationship uneasy when she was very young . " He had no idea how to be a father , " Kim said . " He was too much of a child himself . "

From 1971 to 1975 Moon owned Tara , a home in Chertsey where he initially lived with his wife and daughter . The Moons entertained extravagantly at home , and owned a number of cars . Jack McCulloch , then working for Track Records (The Who 's label) , recalls Moon ordering him to purchase a milk float to store in the garage at Tara .

In 1973 Kim , convinced that neither she nor anyone else could moderate Keith 's behaviour , left her husband and took Amanda ; she sued for divorce in 1975 and later married Faces keyboard player Ian McLagan . Marsh believes that Moon never truly recovered from the loss of his family . Butler agrees ; despite his relationship with Annette Walter @-@ Lax , he believes that Kim was the only woman Moon loved . McLagan commented that Moon " couldn 't handle it . " Moon would harass them with phone calls , and on one occasion before Kim sued for divorce , he invited McLagan for a drink at a Richmond pub and sent several " heavies " to break into McLagan 's home on Fife Road and look for Kim , forcing her to hide in a walk @-@ in closet . She died in a car accident in Austin , Texas on 2 August 2006 .

= = = Annette Walter @-@ Lax = = =

In 1975 Moon began a relationship with Swedish model Annette Walter @-@ Lax , who later said that Moon was " so sweet when he was sober , that I was just living with him in the hope that he would kick all this craziness . " She begged Malibu neighbour Larry Hagman to check Moon into a clinic to dry out (as he had attempted to do before) , but when doctors recorded Moon 's chemical intake at breakfast ? a bottle of champagne , Courvoisier and amphetamines ? they concluded that there was no hope for his rehabilitation .

= = = Friends = = =

Moon enjoyed being the life of the party . Bill Curbishley remembered that " he wouldn 't walk into any room and just listen . He was an attention seeker and he had to have it . "

Early in the Who 's career , Moon got to know the Beatles . He would join them at clubs , forming a particularly close friendship with Ringo Starr . Moon later became friends with Bonzo Dog Doo @-@ Dah Band members Vivian Stanshall and " Legs " Larry Smith , and the trio would drink and play practical jokes together . Smith remembers one occasion where he and Moon tore apart a pair of trousers , with an accomplice later looking for one @-@ legged trousers . In the early 1970s Moon helped Stanshall with his " Radio Flashes " radio show for BBC Radio 1 , filling in for the vacationing John Peel (see Rawlinson End Radio Flashes) . Subsequently , in 1973 , Moon himself filled in for John Peel in " A Touch of the Moon , " a series of four programmes produced by John Walters .

Guitarist Joe Walsh enjoyed socialising with Moon . In an interview with Guitar World magazine , he recalled that the drummer " taught me how to break things . " In 1974 , Moon struck up a friendship with actor Oliver Reed while working on the film version of Tommy . Although Reed matched Moon drink for drink , he appeared on set the next morning ready to perform ; Moon , on the other hand , would cost several hours of filming time . Reed later said that Moon " showed me the way to insanity . "

= = = Dougal Butler = = =

Peter " Dougal " Butler began working for the Who in 1967 , becoming Moon 's personal assistant the following year to help him stay out of trouble . He remembers managers Kit Lambert and Chris Stamp saying , " We trust you with Keith but if you ever want any time off , for a holiday or some sort of rest , let us know and we 'll pay for it . " Butler never took them up on the offer .

He followed Moon when the drummer relocated to Los Angeles , but felt that the drug culture prevalent at the time was bad for Moon : " My job was to have eyes in the back of my head . " Townshend agreed , saying that by 1975 Butler had " no influence over him whatsoever . " Although he was a loyal companion to Moon , the lifestyle eventually became too much for him ; he phoned Curbishley , saying that they needed to move back to England or one of them might die . Butler quit in 1978 , and later wrote of his experiences in a book entitled Full Moon : The Amazing Rock and Roll Life of Keith Moon (2012) .

= = = Neil Boland = = =

On 4 January 1970 Moon accidentally killed his friend , driver and bodyguard , Neil Boland , outside the Red Lion pub in Hatfield , Hertfordshire . Pub patrons had begun to attack his Bentley and Moon , drunk , began driving to escape them . During the fracas , he hit Boland . After an investigation , the coroner ruled Boland 's death an accident and Moon received an absolute discharge after being charged with a number of offences .

Those close to Moon said that he was haunted by Boland 's death for the rest of his life . According to Pamela Des Barres , Moon had nightmares (which woke them both) about the incident and said he had no right to be alive .

= = Death = =

In mid @-@ 1978 Moon moved into a flat in Curzon Place (later Curzon Square) , Shepherd Market , Mayfair , London , renting from Harry Nilsson . Cass Elliot had died there four years earlier , at the age of 32 ; Nilsson was concerned about letting the flat to Moon , believing it was cursed . Townshend disagreed , assuring him that " lightning wouldn 't strike the same place twice " .

After moving in , Moon began a prescribed course of Heminevrin (clomethiazole , a sedative) to alleviate his alcohol withdrawal symptoms . He wanted to get sober , but due to his fear of psychiatric hospitals he wanted to do it at home . Clomethiazole is discouraged for unsupervised detoxification because of its addictive potential , its tendency to induce tolerance , and its risk of death when mixed with alcohol . The pills were prescribed by Geoffrey Dymond , a physician who was unaware of Moon 's lifestyle . Dymond prescribed a bottle of 100 pills , instructing him to take one pill when he felt a craving for alcohol but not more than three pills per day .

By September 1978 Moon was having difficulty playing the drums , according to roadie Dave " Cy " Langston . After seeing Moon in the studio trying to overdub drums for The Kids Are Alright , he said , " After two or three hours , he got more and more sluggish , he could barely hold a drum stick . "

On 6 September Moon and Walter @-@ Lax were guests of Paul and Linda McCartney at a preview of the film , The Buddy Holly Story . After dining with the McCartneys at Peppermint Park in Covent Garden , Moon and Walter @-@ Lax returned to their flat . He watched a film (The Abominable Dr. Phibes) , and asked Walter @-@ Lax to cook him steak and eggs . When she objected , Moon replied " If you don 't like it , you can fuck off ! " These were his last words . Moon then took 32 clomethiazole tablets . When Walter @-@ Lax checked on him the following afternoon , she discovered he was dead .

Curbishley phoned the flat at around 5 pm looking for Moon , and Dymond gave him the news . Curbishley told Townshend , who informed the rest of the band . Entwistle was giving an interview to French journalists when he was interrupted by a phone call with the news of Moon 's death . Trying to tactfully and quickly end the interview , he broke down and wept when the journalist asked him about the Who 's future plans .

Moon 's death came shortly after the release of Who Are You . On the album cover , he is straddling a chair to hide his weight gain ; the words " Not to be taken away " are on the back of the chair .

Police determined that there were 32 clomethiazole pills in Moon 's system . Six were digested , sufficient to cause his death ; the other 26 were undigested when he died . Max Glatt , an authority on alcoholism , wrote in The Sunday Times that Moon should never have been given the drug . Moon was cremated on 13 September 1978 at Golders Green Crematorium in London , and his ashes were scattered in its Gardens of Remembrance .

Townshend convinced Daltrey and Entwistle to carry on touring as The Who , although he later said that it was his means of coping with Moon 's death and " completely irrational , bordering on insane " . AllMusic 's Bruce Eder said , " When Keith Moon died , the Who carried on and were far more competent and reliable musically , but that wasn 't what sold rock records . " In November 1978 , Faces drummer Kenney Jones joined the Who . Townshend later said that Jones " was one of the few British drummers who could fill Keith 's shoes " ; Daltrey was less enthusiastic , saying that Jones " wasn 't the right style " . Keyboardist John " Rabbit " Bundrick , who had rehearsed with Moon earlier in the year , joined the live band as an unofficial member .

Jones left the Who in 1988 , and drummer Simon Phillips (who praised Moon 's ability to drum over the backing track of " Baba O 'Riley ") toured with the band the following year . Since 1994 , the Who 's drummer has been Ringo Starr 's son Zak Starkey , who had been given a drum kit by Moon (whom he called " Uncle Keith ") .

The London 2012 Summer Olympic Committee contacted Curbishley about Moon performing at the games , 34 years after his death . In an interview with The Times Curbishley quipped , " I emailed back saying Keith now resides in Golders Green crematorium , having lived up to the Who 's anthemic line ' I hope I die before I get old ' ... If they have a round table , some glasses and candles , we might contact him . "

= = Legacy = =

Moon 's drumming has been praised by critics . Author Nick Talevski described him as " the greatest drummer in rock , " adding that " he was to the drums what Jimi Hendrix was to the guitar . " Holly George @-@ Warren , editor and author of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame : The First 25 Years , said : " With the death of Keith Moon in 1978 , rock arguably lost its single greatest drummer . " According to Eder , " Moon , with his manic , lunatic side , and his life of excessive drinking , partying , and other indulgences , probably represented the youthful , zany side of rock & roll , as well as its self @-@ destructive side , better than anyone else on the planet . " The New Book of Rock Lists ranked Moon No. 1 on its list of " 50 Greatest Rock ' n ' Roll Drummers , " and he was ranked No. 2 on the 2011 Rolling Stone " Best Drummers of All Time " readers ' poll . In 2016 , the same magazine ranked him No. 2 in their list of the 100 Greatest Drummers of All Time , behind John Bonham . Adam Budofsky , editor of Drummer magazine , said that Moon 's performances on Who 's Next and Quadrophenia " represent a perfect balance of technique and passion " and " there 's been no drummer who 's touched his unique slant on rock and rhythm since . "

Several rock drummers , including Neil Peart and Dave Grohl , have cited Moon as an influence . The Jam paid homage to Moon on the second single from their third album , " Down in the Tube Station at Midnight " ; the B @-@ side of the single is a Who cover (" So Sad About Us ") , and the back cover of the record has a photo of Moon 's face . The Jam 's single was released about a month after Moon 's death . Animal , one of puppeteer Jim Henson 's Muppet characters , may have been based on Keith Moon due to their similar hair , eyebrows , personality and drumming style .

" God bless his beautiful heart ... " Ozzy Osbourne told Sounds a month after the drummer 's death . " People will be talking about Keith Moon ' til they die , man . Someone somewhere will say , ' Remember Keith Moon ? ' Who will remember Joe Bloggs who got killed in a car crash ? No one . He 's dead , so what ? He didn 't do anything to talk of . "

Clem Burke of Blondie has said " Early on all I cared about was Keith Moon and the Who . When I was about eleven or twelve , my favourite part of drum lessons was the last ten minutes , when I 'd get to sit at the drumset and play along to my favourite record . I 'd bring in ' My Generation ' . At the end of the song , the drums go nuts . ' My Generation ' was a turning point for me because before that it was all the Charlie Watts and Ringo type of thing . "

In 1998 Tony Fletcher published a biography of Moon , Dear Boy : The Life of Keith Moon , in the United Kingdom . The phrase " Dear Boy " became a catchphrase of Moon 's when , influenced by Kit Lambert , he began affecting a pompous English accent . In 2000 , the book was released in the US as Moon (The Life and Death of a Rock Legend) . Q Magazine called the book " horrific and terrific reading , " and Record Collector said it was " one of rock 's great biographies . "

In 2008 , English Heritage declined an application for Moon to be awarded a blue plaque . Speaking to The Guardian , Christopher Frayling said they " decided that bad behaviour and overdosing on various substances wasn 't a sufficient qualification . " The UK 's Heritage Foundation disagreed with the decision , presenting a plaque which was unveiled on 9 March 2009 . Daltrey , Townshend , Robin Gibb and Moon 's mother Kit were present at the ceremony .

= = Discography = =

Solo albums

Two Sides of the Moon (1975)