

Disclaimer: Covers English and American whites. No attempt is made to cover blacks or the French. Emphasis on film, especially experimental, and music, especially rock 'n' roll, from the viewpoint of Los Angeles. This outline is NOT complete.

## **40s**

World War II and aftermath

jazz: Charley Parker

Dizzy Gillespie

literature: Norman Mailer

experimental film: 1943 : "Meshes of the Afternoon" Maya Deren

1947 "Fireworks" Kenneth Anger

## **50s Cold War**

war: 1950-54 Korean War

counter culture: beatnicks

jazz: Miles Davis.

folk music. Blacks like Muddy Waters and Chuck Berry (1957: Roll over Beethoven).

television: free series shows replace radio shows and eclipse movies.

radio: replaces loss of shows to TV with Country music and Rock n Roll for teenage audience.

teen-agers have gangs, wear jeans and ducktails and have a "culture" for first time.

magazines: 1953, "Playboy" founded, showing girls and recognizing beats.

literature "On the Road," "Dharma Bums" Jack Kerouac

poetry "Howl" Allen Ginsberg

1954 "The Doors of Perception" Aldous Huxley

spiritual: zen Buddhism

drugs: marijuana, peyote

art film: 1957 "The Seventh Seal," Ingmar Bergman

increasing car culture and drive-ins. Wide screen color movies compete with television.

movies: "Rebel Without a Cause" James Dean

"The Wild One" Marlon Brando

paranoid sci-fi films: "Invasion of the Body Snatchers."

experimental film: Coronet Theater, managed by Raymond Rohauer

1958: "Anticipation of the Night" Stan Brakhage,

1960: "The Flower Thief" Ron Rice with Taylor Meade.

**transition to early 60s:**

sex: 1961, birth control pill

folk music: Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger, et al.

politics: 1961 Jack Kennedy inaugurated president, establishes trip to the moon, achieved in 1969. Assassinated in 1963.

Civil Rights Movement (1954-68) demonstrations against inequality of blacks in South. Partly corrected by Civil Rights Act of 1964. The key tactic was non-violence, following the lead of Gandhi in India and Martin Luther King, Jr, in the South. Included civil disobedience following example of Thoreau.

film: 1959 Cannes festival discovered French New Wave.

1960 European films: "Breathless" Godard, "La Dolce Vita" Fellini, "L'Aventura" Michelangelo Antonioni, "Last Year at Marinbad," Alain Renais

experimental film: New York. Jonas Mekas "New American Cinema." Covered in Film Culture magazine (quarterly) and weekly column in The Village Voice.

1962: Pop Art. Warhol, Lichtenstein, Oldenburg, Ruscha, Indiana, Rosenquist...

1963: experimental film: "Flaming Creatures: Jack Smith, "Scorpio Rising"

Kenneth Anger, "Twice a Man" Gregory Markopolous, "Dog Star Man" Stan Brakhage, "Chumlum" Ron Rice, "Sleep" Andy Warhol

film theory: auteur theory (Cahiers du Cinéma) advanced in US by Andrew Sarris in Film Culture and a column in The Village Voice. (Real author of a film is the director.)

1963: Movies 'Round Midnight founded in Hollywood autumn 1963 in LA by John Fles and Mike Getz.'

beginning of camp: Robert Nelson "Oh Dem Watermelons" a huge hit at MRM.

film: 1963 "Contempt" Jean-Luc Godard. Distributed as a commercial film.

computing: 1963 concept of "hypertext" Ted Nelson. 1968 Douglas Englebart made first hypertext NLS (oN-Line-System) at Stanford Research Institute. In 1990s hypertext would become the language of the internet.

November 22, 1963. John F. Kennedy assassinated.

war: The Vietnam War escalated under President Kennedy and expanded under Lyndon Johnson. Regular U.S. combat troops were deployed beginning in 1965.

Draft went into effect. The existing civil rights movement expanded and morphed into anti-war demonstrations. These demonstrations became much larger and nationwide.

Free Speech Movement (FSM) at the University of California at Berkeley during

the Fall 1964 semester was the first of the 1960s campus student movements.

**Mid 1960's:** gathering of people for a cause, legal under freedom to assemble (on government streets and parks with permits), in the later 60s morphed again from anti-war into simple "be-ins" and these gatherings became a major way the hippie movement was established. Later augmented with rock groups. There were two other major components of this witch's brew:

drugs: LSD was first synthesized in 1938. In 1961 Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert (later Ram Dass) experiment with LSD to re-orient prisoners.

1964: book: Timothy Leary, "The Psychedelic Experience: A Manual Based on The Tibetan Book of the Dead." Recipient "gets high," the ego dies, and the individual passes through white light and is reborn. Even moderate use of LSD transformed the inner self as only religion had done before. (These were the innocent years before the Guardians of Karma regained their balance.)

The smoking of marijuana rapidly increased, despite being illegal, which made everything more pleasurable, including sex. (In 1961 birth control pill was introduced.)

The third component was mass communication: rock music, heavily influenced by the English invasion (Beatles formed in 1960, Rolling Stones in 1962)

1964 :Beatlemania, long hair, raving teen-age girls. Film: "A Hard Day's Night," by Richard Lester.

(On February 9 1964, The Beatles, starring Lennon & McCartney, made history with their first live television performance in the USA on The Ed Sullivan Show.) long hair introduced to America.

radio: The rock 'n' roll music audience was teen-agers, who had their own musical culture on radio since the 50s. As the 60s evolved, more and more hippie ideas about a new society based on love, showed up in the music, and influenced vast numbers of teen-agers at a very impressionable age. What had been seeded in 50s rock (love and sex) grew into a new way of life. Make love not war. This was uncontrollable by the capitalist authorities since such music made a lot of money. In effect rock music (like the earlier folk music) became a huge "advertisement" for a new live style, much more effective than the commercial ads between the songs.

Centers of "the movement" were in Haight Ashbury in San Francisco, Greenwich Village in New York, the Sunset Strip (later) in Los Angeles, and London (mods

vrs. rockers) in Great Britain.

Some principles of the counter-culture: The body was considered "holy" and kept natural--no piercings or tattoos, but paint ok. Plenty of nudity. No shaving of pubic or scalp hair; in fact, long hair for men as well as women. With the help of LSD and rebirth through the white light, the hippie could achieve "innocence," as expressed in the terms "flower child," or "make love not war." Men discovered their feminine side and women their masculine.

The cultures and religions of entire planet were considered good and legitimate and fascinating, esp. India and Tibet. Saving the planet and all the plants and animals was obvious. Hippies travelled the world with minimal means.

popular dance: It is ok to be yourself and not what society ordains. This was reflected in dance by dancing by yourself and doing any movement you felt like to the music. Previous popular dance was by couples in fox trot, waltz, tango, etc., with specified steps and the man leading.

Huge conflict between mothers and daughters over sex developed, causing many underage girls to run away from home, possibly to a hippie commune with flowers in their hair. Beginning of miniskirts. Hitch-hiking became common to get around cars.

Many hippie environmental ideas, like clean air and water, were codified by federal law in the 70s under Richard Nixon.

Underground newspapers began like the Oracle in SF and Free Press in LA (Art Kunkin) modeled after The Village Voice in New York.

hippie communes were established, to provide extended families.

1964: Merry Pranksters travel with Ken Kesey and Neal Cassidy. Stranded in LA.

1966: Hog Farm collective founded in the San Fernando Valley led by Wavy Gravy (Hugh Romney) and Helena Lebrun.

1965: Assassination of Malcolm X, former leader of "Nation of Islam."

1966: Black Panther party created for self-defense.

gatherings: rock concerts merge with love-ins.

food got healthier: vegetarian, macrobiotic diet

art: new kind of posters, esp. in San Francisco. Light shows accompanied rock music.

LP records had large album covers which allowed a space for new art forms.

rock: 1965 Bob Dylan goes electric.

film: 1966 "Blowup" on swinging London by Antonioni.

Roger Corman hired young directors. Corman gave voice to counter-culture especially in "The Wild Angels" of 1966 and "The Trip" 1967, starring Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper.

politics: 1966-76 Cultural Revolution in China.

experimental film: major new movement in Berkley. (Bruce Baillie founded Canyon Cinema in 1961.) (Robert Nelson, Bruce Conner, Larry Jordan) Film-makers Cooperative in NYC and Creative Film Society (founded by Robert Allen Pike and continued by Angie Pike) in Los Angeles distributed experimental films. exhibition: Movies 'Round Midnight plays San Francisco films, as well as Flash Gordon serials.

experimental film: 1966 Andy Warhol's "Chelsea Girls" is a hit. The "underground film" is recognized in main-stream culture; store theaters begin playing 16mm experimental films. Cinematheque-16 opens in Los Angeles in 1966 (managed by Lewis Teague, founded by Robert Lippert) located on Sunset Strip one block east of the Whiskey-a Go Go, the most important club for current rock groups, with house band "The Doors."

hippies: Sunset Strip curfew riots in summer of 1966 near Pandora's Box club. music: beginning of double albums and very long songs. "Blond on Blond" by Bob Dylan.

renaissance of (psychedelic) rock: English: Beatles, Stones, Who, Cream, Pink Floyd, Traffic, Jimmy Hendrix.

American: Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Janis Joplin, Frank Zappa, Beach Boys, Love, The Byrds, the Doors .

1966 film: "Fantastic Voyage" starring Raquel Welch. LSD-like trip through human body.

1967 and summer of love.

events: Warhol's "Exploding Plastic Inevitable" introduces the Velvet Underground with Lou Reed and Nico.

music: June, 1967 Monterey Pop Festival. Jimi Hendrix discovered. Who play. Beatles release "Sergeant Pepper Lonely Hearts Club Band"

Doors "Light My Fire" is hit single of summer of love.

experimental film: Pat O'Neill, "7362."

Peter Mays shoots "Sister Midnight."

Michael Snow's "Wavelength" launches structuralist film.

Hollywood film: Arthur Penn's "Bonnie and Clyde" popular as parallel to a hippie couple. Penn's later "Alice's Restaurant" and "Little Big Man" anticipate revisionist films of 70s.

1967: Mike Nichols, "The Graduate," starring Dustin Hoffman.

music concerts: Bill Graham ran San Francisco.

1967: Pinnacle formed by John van Hammersveld and Sep Donahaur to put on weekly concerts at the Shrine Exposition Hall near USC. Most major English and San Francisco groups play there through fall 1968. House light show became Single Wing Turquoise Bird.

1968

Vietnam War: Tet Offensive occurs at same time as "Prague Spring" in Czechoslovakia.

protest: April and May 1968: student and worker uprisings in France especially Paris. American universities shut down for two weeks.

politics: April 4 Martin Luther King assassinated at age 39. June 5: Robert Kennedy assassinated.

summer 1968: Democratic Convention in Chicago site for riots between new and old left.

film: early April, 1968: Stanley Kubrick's "2001, A Space Odyssey" parallels acid rebirth trip.

summer: Beatles animated film "Yellow Submarine."

Roman Polanski's "Rosemary's Baby"

music: November 1968 The Beatles "White Album"

experimental film: Morgan Fisher makes ten films between 1968 and 1974.

1969

film: "Easy Rider" Dennis Hopper. Introduces Jack Nicholson as an actor. Produced by BBS, who in 1970s produce "The Last Picture Show" (Peter Bogdanovich), "Hearts and Minds," and many other liberal films.

film: "Women in Love" by Ken Russell.

experimental film: Stanton Kaye, "Brandy in the Wilderness"

protest: June, 1969 Stonewall riots. Start of gay rights movement.

August 8, Manson family murder Sharon Tate, wife of Roman Polanski, and seven others.

Manson was an ex-con "anti-hippie," using the trust and openness of the movement for selfish and evil ends.

four students killed at Kent State, considered to end sixties.

occult: Man lands on the moon.

rock concerts: Woodstock, Altmont

1970s Period of codification of 60s positions.

Young people: get jobs and begin delayed careers.

film: "The Conformist" by Bernardo Bertolucci.

film 1970: "Performance" starring Mick Jagger, by Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg.

1971: Jim Morrison dies "naturally" on July 3 in Paris at age 27. Buried in Pere-Lachaise cemetery, along with art geniuses like Oscar Wilde, Chopin, Isadora

Dunkin... Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin also die at age 27.

1971: Feminist movement begins growth in France, initially by Simone de Beauvoir to legalize abortion and contraception.

1971: Daniel Ellsberg discloses "Pentagon Papers" in New York Times, revealing systematic lies about Viet Nam by the Johnson Administration

war: Saigon falls in 1975 (US out in 1973)

environment protection: Acts passed by Congress, e.g. Clean Air, under Nixon.

politics 1974: President Nixon resigns over Watergate.

sixties tie dyed T-shirts commercialized with printed ads.

rock music: Heavy Metal dominates, led by Led Zeppelin (founded in 1968-English)

1972: David Bowie: "Ziggy Stardust" tour

music: 1972, "Exile on Main St." the Rolling Stones.

film: "The Godfather" Francis Coppola

sex: gay and lesbian movements mature. Roe vrs. Wade allows abortion.

martial arts: Fitness and running.

drugs: cocaine displaces pot

experimental film: structural film dominates.

1974 Michael Snow: "Rameau's Nephew by Diderot"

In 1970 The Anthology Film Archives opens to preserve and exhibit avant-garde film.

special effects film: At CalArts (began in 1961) in early 70s Pat O'Neill teaches Adam Beckett, Robert Blalack, Chris Cassady, Larry Cuba who go on to work on "Star Wars."

art: At CalArts John Baldessari teaches many of first generation of post modern artists.

film: 1974 New German Cinema launched by "Ali: Fear Eats the Soul" by Rainer Verner Fassbinder.

New Hollywood film (2nd Golden Age). Revision of narrative structure, influenced by European art films of 60's and the experimental film. William Friedkin, "The French Connection" and "The Exorcist," Robert Altman, "McCabe and Mrs. Miller" (revisionist western), Hal Ashby, "Coming Home," Francis Coppola, "Godfather" and "Apocalypse Now," Martin Scorsese, "Taxi Driver," Steven Spielberg, "Close Encounters" and "Jaws," George Lucas, "Star Wars (1977)." Disaster and scifi films emphasis physical sensation rather than narrative partly due to 60s drug experience, as well as to play world-wide in many languages.

1977 film: "Star Wars" by George Lucas. "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" by Steven Spielberg.

1979 film: "Alien" by Ridley Scott.

Disaster film and quality sci-fi use special effects to gain world market for Hollywood.

philosophy 1970s: Foucault, Derrida, Althusser, et al bring France up to speed.

1980s

rock music. December 8 1980 John Lennon assassinated.

music: (late 70s-early 80s) Punk Rock. Opposite of hippies. Dance becomes more violent. Store venues, small music distribution, extensive publicity. Again, began in England, this time with the Sex Pistols.

life-style: punk introduces piercing with safety pin thru cheek, tattoos, short hair or bald. This was codified by the modern primitive movement of the early 90s, and later extensive piercings and tatoos especially with women.

politics. Right wing silent majority replaces left.

1980-88: Ronald Reagan president. Along with Gorbachev begins rapprochement with USSR.

media: rise of home video and cable. Music videos for rock groups,

Hollywood film: disaster. epic sci-fi and comic books play world wide, usually in series.

experimental film: 1989 "Water and Power" by Pat O'Neil

1990s

politics: end of Cold War with breakup of Soviet Union.

lifestyle: modern primitive movement codified punk rock. Clitoris and nipple piercing, tattoos. Initiation rites. Codifies the body discoveries of the '60s in social aspect.

civil rights: First of state three-strikes laws. Vast numbers of young blacks jailed, often for crack cocaine, for life.

music: rap (Hip Hop) takes off (started in 70s and 80s). Thus a return to black music with decline of white R&B.

Hollywood film: the fall of Soviet Union in early 90s frees up world television stations for trailers and world-wide openings on same day.

computers: 1990s Internet develops on model of hypertext.