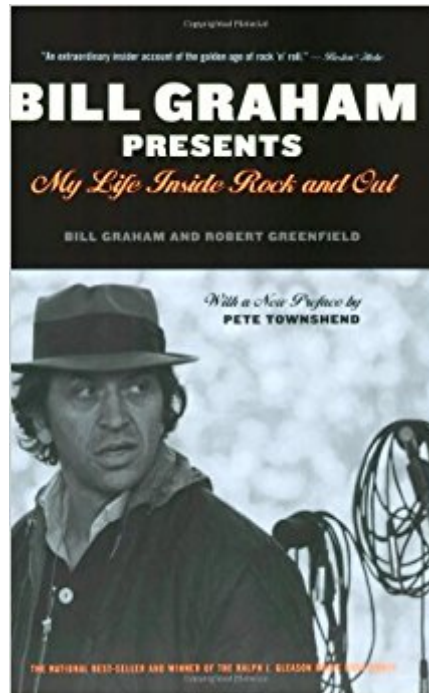




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# Bill Graham Presents: My Life Inside Rock And Out



## Synopsis

As a child, Bill Graham fled Europe to escape Hitler's armies. He grew up on the streets of New York and in the dining rooms of the hotels in the Catskills. After failing as an actor, he headed for San Francisco right before the Summer of Love where he founded the Fillmore and launched the rock icons of a generation--Janis Joplin, Otis Redding, Jefferson Airplane, Cream, the Grateful Dead, and more. He was a complex, caring, compassionate whirlwind of energy who rock stars either loved--or hated. In his own voice and those of the people who knew him--Jerry Garcia, Keith Richards, Grace Slick, Ken Kesey, Eric Clapton, Pete Townshend, and Carlos Santana--we hear Bill's story as well as the scoop on the major events in rock for more than three decades, ending with his tragic death in a 1991 helicopter crash. Gritty, moving, funny, and always fascinating, *Bill Graham Presents* is the inside story of the explosive and unforgettable man who created the business of rock.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rock music promoter Graham and Greenfield ( *STP: A Journey Through America with the Rolling Stones* ) were collaborating on this unfailingly entertaining portrait when Graham died in a helicopter crash in 1991. The book's chronological but unusual format--it consists almost entirely of freestanding quotes, without transitional narration--works well. Sources include Graham's family, members of the Grateful Dead, Eric Clapton, Pete Townshend and actor Peter Coyote; Graham, shrewd and outspoken, tells anecdotes of his own and never misses a chance to rebut his illustrious

colleagues who reminisce here. His tale is the stuff of legends: a Jew born in Germany in 1931 and orphaned soon after, he was evacuated to France in 1939 and sent to the U.S. in 1941. He lived with a foster family in the Bronx, working as a waiter and cabbie until he found his calling as a rock impresario in 1960s San Francisco. Notoriety and controversy followed--for the next quarter century, he had a hand in everything from the Trips Festival to the Fillmore West to Woodstock to Live Aid to Amnesty International's Conspiracy of Hope tour. This look at a businessman unencumbered by timidity is recommended reading as an often hilarious overview of rock 'n' roll. Photos not seen by PW. Major ad/promo. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This lively, loose autobiography of rock's most respected promoter pieces together hundreds of oral interviews with Graham, his family, friends, musicians, agents, and so forth, with connecting passages by Greenfield. The format works well, for the additional comments temper Graham's colorful but frequently caustic and confrontational style. Graham died before the book was finished, and there is an incomplete feel to the story, but all the major events in the impresario's life (e.g., the Fillmore concerts, the Led Zeppelin fight, the Rolling Stones tours, etc.) are covered. The book provides an insightful insider's view of the music industry by one of rock's greatest figures. Recommended for both public and academic libraries.--Debora Richey, California State Univ. Fullerton Lib. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a long lifetime of mad love for Rock and Roll, I have read many, many books on the subject. I find myself astonished to say that this is the single best book relating to R'N'R I have ever read. Bill's story is told in the form of an oral history by Bill, relatives, friends, associates, those embraced and those spurned, and seemingly anyone of consequence who ever crossed his path. And the story is far broader than his life in R'N'R, as the title signifies. The story of his and his sisters' survival during the Holocaust is astonishing, particularly the sister who survived Auschwitz. His life as an immigrant in NYC, getting educated, playing ball in the streets, working in the Catskills, and finally moving to the West Coast itself makes this story almost a parable of the mid-century American immigrant experience. The fact that the book contains amazing R'N'R stories is almost just a bonus. (I'll note, by the way, that Jerry Garcia has never been quoted to greater effect.) I loved every word of this book. You will too.

Reading this book makes me feel sad I never met BG. Just an amazing life this man had, and you'll feel that of when you read this book. If you love reading about music, musicians from the 50's on, what was involved in setting up concerts, this is the book. The stories behind the making of Fillmores East and West, Wintergarden, and such are so incredible. The promoting and bringing to the public's ears and hearts bands like Santana, Grateful Dead, and so on will keep u page turning long after you should have gone to bed. Bill was so much more than a promoter. He gave so much time, effort and money to the world. Until I read this book, I never knew. Great in depth personal accounts from the people who worked with him, the acts, then, Bill telling the story. Book is set up really well in each chapter. A joy to read.

Awesome book by Bill Graham telling his life story. Went to the Fillmore East many times, but should have gone much more, but Bill always scheduled great concerts and a wide variety of music in the same concert. Tough but fair guy who helped the career of many. And we all know how pompous some rockers could be.

This is a awesome book. Slow at first, but it is essential learning behind the greatest promoter, inspire and sooo much more for dozens of the musicians who made music of what it is today. It connects to many other biographies, like c.santana,j.garcia, the band, and many others.I want to read it again.

I found this book very interesting,due to the fact that Graham was around at a period of Rock history that still has impact on us today.Graham broke the rules,and made the rules.Most of what happens in Rock and Roll concerts and touring find their seeds in his company and his way of doing business.Not always a nice bloke in a world where nice blokes get trampled on.I believe his heart was in the right place,and perhaps in the world of big egos and money,he had plenty of both.The book is a series stories really,given by Graham himself and those that knew him and worked with him.If you like the bands he worked with, you will like this book.

I admire what Bill Graham had achieved in the music industry and wanted to read his story. This is an incredible journey and an does not hold back on Bills opinions, his failures and triumphs.There are many well known people who have contributed to this book, a who who's of music megastars and other well known people in the business.I was also saddened to read about Bills early life in Germany during the 1930s & 1940s where he suffered enormously.It's a funny book as well with

some hilarious stories about the interactions with musicians and promoters of well known bands. This is a very well produced and written book that deserves to be read from cover to cover. 5 Stars all the way.

This is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the business of rock n' roll and concert promotion. Bill Graham's life, from a World War 2 refugee to the iconic concert promoter, is a great American success story. Accounts from the point of view of the people who loved and hated him (sometimes both) give this book an honestwarts and all portrayal of a complicated man who had as many enemies as he did friends. No sugarcoating here; Graham is shown as a complicated man whose success was achieved by not just working with some of the greatest rock and roll acts of all time but also sometimes working against them. Includes stories about Graham from members of the Rolling Stones, The Who, The Grateful Dead, The Band, Jefferson Airplane, and many others.

Fantastic book about the legendary Bill Graham. If you have any interest in the music of the time and its history, you'll love this book. Also as interesting is learning about the other aspects of his life pre-music. I've enjoyed reading this book more than any book I can remember in recent years; makes the huge size of it far less intimidating when you're breezing through it!

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