

INTRO

“Brenda”

Most people don't remember “Rock Against Yeast.” As far as *Saturday Night Live's* musical parodies go, it's not nearly as iconic as John Belushi's Joe Cocker impression or the Christopher Walken-anchored Blue Oyster Cult *Behind the Music* send-up (known to all simply as “More Cowbell”). Still, within this mostly forgotten sketch, which aired during the show's February 17, 1979, episode (hosted by the teen idol and television star turned country rocker Rick Nelson), you will find the basis for this book. “Rock Against Yeast” perfectly articulates the current Mick Jagger Problem: Can we continue to worship and desire a man whom we don't really like anymore? The Mick Jagger Problem leads us to question whether we ever really did like him. If the answer is no, then how did this guy remain a constant presence in popular culture for fifty years and not, for one instance in that half century,

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“Under the Influence of Bail”

It started with a case of mistaken identity in early 1967, the “Winter of Love.” Brian Jones leaned against the bar at Blaise’s, a hip London nightclub. Blaise’s hosted light show-enhanced concerts by Pink Floyd and the Jimi Hendrix Experience and quickly became a hub of the city’s new psychedelic rock scene. Once the band’s handsome and talented leader, Jones was now tottering, full of scotch and downers. His chiseled jaw was distorted with bloat and seemed to melt into his thick neck. His brain was addled with pathological insecurity and jealousy. Brian was furious at Mick and Keith for usurping his position in the Stones. They’d emerged, in the last two years, as a formidable songwriting partnership. This, coupled with the media’s fascination with Mick, the face of not just the Stones but the London scene itself,