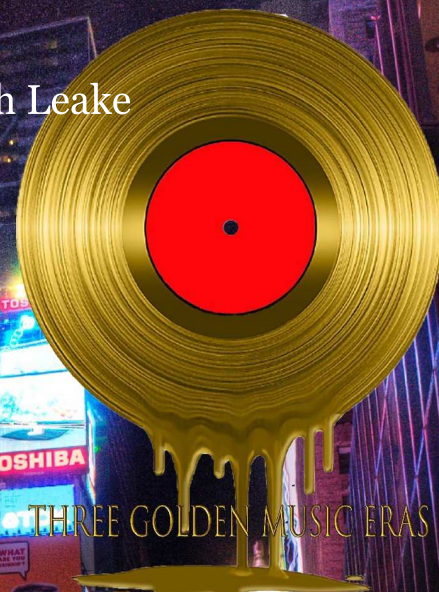


# On Broadway

A Pictorial History Of The Drifters Legends 1953-2016

The Drifters Legends History, Music and Photographic Legacy by Butch Leake



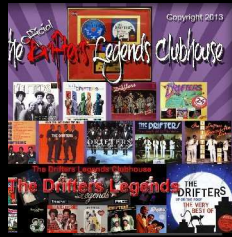
THREE GOLDEN MUSIC ERAS

TOMMY  
EVANS

Butch Leake 2011







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# The Official Drifters Legends Clubhouse

## On Broadway

### A Pictorial History Of The Drifters Legends 1953-2016 by Butch Leake

A unique look in to the history and legend of one of the most profound vocal groups in musical show business spanning some 65 years. One of the early forerunners which helped build the recording giant that we know as Atlantic Records. There were three Golden eras of the Drifters; the early 1950's, the 1960's, and the early 1970's (post-Atlantic period). From these, the first Drifters, formed by Clyde McPhatter, was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame as "The Drifters". The second Drifters, featuring Ben E. King, was separately inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame as "Ben E. King and the Drifters". In their induction, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame selected four members from the first Drifters, two from the second Drifters, and one from the post-Atlantic Drifters.

According to the Vocal Group Hall of Fame: "Through turmoil and changes, the (original) Drifters managed to set musical trends and give the public 13 chart hits, most of which are legendary recordings today." Matching that feat, subsequent formations of the Drifters recorded 13 Billboard Hot 100 top 30 chart hits. A 1970's revival in Britain, with both old and new material, was not matched in the United States, although it saw their biggest successes on the UK pop charts, peaking with the #2 hit "Kissin' in the Back Row of the Movies".



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The Drifters Regal Theater 1960

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THREE GOLDEN MUSIC ERAS



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# The Drifters Family Heritage

Being a Drifter is not easy. It can be a lonely life. Drifters choose to drift for reasons like exploration, new experiences, meeting people, entertaining, which they may otherwise have never been able to do, due to either legal or monetary constraints. Many see drifting as a total freedom from the clutches of modern society.

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Being a drifter requires commitment and possible abandonment of many things such as property and immediate possessions. Severing ties with an old world while in pursuit of new aspirations. Development of a defined code of ethics, so never commit to anything that you can't immediately drop and walk away from at any time.

Accept the place where you land as your home. Try to blend in with the locals and surrounding elements. Stand out if you must but it's always better to be down-to-earth and melt in. Learn the language of those around you. Be polite in all that you do.

Connect with people and surroundings, and form relationships whenever you can. If you get the rare chance, take a traveling companion with you. A human is always better than a dog, so treat others as you would treat yourself. Having a personal moral code will allow you sustain your travels for a long time. Avoid trouble and never resort to any kind of threat or violence. Do good deeds and don't become obsessed with money.

The name Drifters! Where did it come from? Surely prior to the Atlantic Drifters use of the name it had been in circulation among other performing acts during pre-Atlantic years. It has been said that Clyde McPhatter had been toying with the name prior to its adoption by the first classical Drifter group. Yet what does it mean to be a Drifter in the real sense of the word.

Be intelligent! Knowledge and awareness are primary sources of power for drifters. Being a drifter means depending mainly on yourself, so don't rely on what books or mass-media tells you. Instead, study things yourself and become self-educated and self-aware. Your personal experience is the most important and valuable source from which to build a knowledge base.

Know your history! Before leaving behind the comfortable society's eases with all the available powers exercised through legal rights, and finally embarking on drifting adventures around the world, learn as much about human history as you can. Knowing how the world works and what you will be dealing with as a drifter is a matter of extreme importance. You don't want to be held back naivety especially when you are risking everything by becoming a drifter, so be sure to learn as much as possible about what moves society forward and what holds it back from progress.

Love and trust in everyone and everything. NEVER do anything that you don't want to do! This is the most important part of being a true drifter. If you fail to understand it, you will surely fail at drifting with total freedom. Keep in mind that loving everything doesn't mean that you should do everything, and trusting everyone doesn't mean that you should believe whatever someone tells you, it simply means accepting everything as it is and not trying to change anyone, especially yourself! Also, don't let anyone change who you are, and never ever do anything that makes you feel



1  
 1953  
 Clyde McPhatter  
 David Little Dave Baughan  
 William "Chick" Anderson  
 David Baldwin  
 James "Wrinkle" Johnson

2  
 1953  
 Clyde McPhatter  
 Bill Pinkney  
 Willie Ferbee  
 Andrew Thrasher  
 Gerhart Thrasher

4  
 1955  
 Bill Pinkney  
 Gerhart Thrasher  
 Andrew Thrasher  
 Jimmy Oliver  
 David Baughan

5  
 1956  
 Tommy Evans  
 Gerhart Thrasher  
 Charlie Hughes  
 Johnny Moore  
 Jimmy Oliver

1956 through 58 was what you might call a revolving door period of un-stability with the Drifters. With Bill Pinkney being fired to be replaced by former Carols group singer Tommy Evans. Then later in 1957 Evans is fired and Pinkney is brought back through the revolving door and then again in 58 Pinkney is let go to be replaced again by Evans.

1956  
 Bobby Hendricks  
 Gerhart Thrasher  
 Charlie Hughes  
 Bill Pinkney  
 Jimmy Oliver

3  
 1954  
 Bill Pinkney  
 Andrew Thrasher  
 Gerhart Thrasher  
 Jimmy Oliver  
 Johnny Moore  
 David Baughan

7  
 1968  
 Bobby Hendricks  
 Gerhart Thrasher  
 Jimmy Milliner  
 Tommy Evans

8  
 The Drifters Formerly  
 The Crowns 1958  
 Ben E. King  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Elsbeary Hobbs  
 Doc Green

9  
 The original Drifters  
 Bill Pinkney  
 Andrew Thrasher  
 Gerhart thrasher  
 David "Little Dave Baughan

10  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Elsbeary Hobbs 1959  
 Doc Green  
 Johnny Lee Williams

11  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Rudy Lewis 1960  
 Elsbeary Hobbs  
 Doc Green

12  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Doc Green 1961  
 Rudy Lewis  
 Tommy Evans

13  
 Gene Pearson  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Rudy Lewis 1963  
 Johnny Terry  
 Johnny Moore

14  
 Charlie Thomas  
 Rick Sheppard  
 Bill Fredricks 1967  
 Johnny Moore  
 Abdul Samad

15  
 Johnny Moore  
 Bill Fredricks 1969  
 Milton Turner  
 Rick Sheppard

Johnny Moore, Bill Fredricks  
 Don Thomas, Rick Sheppard Late 1968

Johnny Moore, Butch Leake  
 Bill Fredricks, Don Thomas 1970

Johnny Moore, Butch Leake  
 Bill Fredricks, Grant Kitchings 1971

Johnny Moore, Butch Leake  
 Clyde Brown, Grant Kitchings 1974

Johnny Moore, Butch Leake  
 Clyde Brown, Billy Lewis 1975

Johnny Moore, Clyde Brown  
 Joe Blunt, Billy Lewis 1976

Ray Lewis, Clyde Brown  
 Joe Blunt, Billy Lewis 1978

32. Louis Price 1980-86

33. Jonah Ellis 1986

34. George Chandler 1987-89

35. John Thurston (1987-90)

36. Gene Jenkins (1987)

37. Joe Cofie (1988-95)

38. Tony Jackson (1989)

39. Keith John (1989)

40. Roy Hemmings (1990-2003)

41. Peter Lamarr (1990-91 1995-2001, 2004-03)

42. Patrick Alan (1990 1998-2008)

43. Rohan Delano Turney (1991-2003)

44. Jason Leigh (1995-96)

45. Victor Bynoe (2002-08)

46. Michael Williams (2008-present)

47. Maurice Cannon (2008-2011)

48. Steve King (2008-2012)

49. Damion Charles (2008-2012 (present))

50. Pierre Herelle (2012)

51. Ryan King (2008-present)

52. Carlton Powell (2012)

53. Daniel Bowen-Smith 2013-(present)

1966, After three years in the group. Johnny Terry leaves due to health issues. He is replaced by Dan Dandridge in mid-1966 who stays for two months. He is replaced by Bill Brent who was the bass singer in Johnny Moores old group the Hornets....

## Six Generations Of Drifters



# On Broadway

## Pictorial The Drifters Legends

PRODUCTION On Broadway  
DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_  
CAMERA \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE 2017 SCENE \_\_\_\_\_



On Broadway A Pictorial History of The Drifters Legends 1953-2016 Documenting the authentic legacy of the artist who made up the 65 year old brand that spanned three golden age music periods.

As in all stories, the historical backdrop lends a certain charm and mystic to the subject matter in focus. This certainly is no different in the rise in culture, its people, music and fashion of the times. Harlem New York the 1920's 30's Central and West Harlem was the focus of the "Harlem Renaissance", an outpouring of artistic work without precedent in the American black community. Though Harlem musicians and writers are particularly well remembered, the community has also hosted numerous actors and theater companies, including the New Heritage Repertory Theater, National Black Theater, Lafayette Players, Harlem Suitcase Theater, The Negro Playwrights, American Negro Theater, and the Rose McClendon Players. The Apollo Theater opened on 125th Street on January 26, 1934, in a former burlesque house. The Savoy Ballroom, on Lenox Avenue, was a renowned venue for swing dancing, and was immortalized in a popular song of the era, "Stompin' At The Savoy". In the 1920's and 1930's, between Lenox and Seventh Avenues in central Harlem, over 125 entertainment places operated, including speakeasies, cellars, lounges, cafes, taverns, supper clubs, rib joints, theaters, dance halls, and bars and grills. 133rd Street, known as "Swing Street", became known for its cabarets, speakeasies and jazz scene during the Prohibition era, and was dubbed "Jungle Alley" because of "inter-racial mingling" on the street.

NEW YORK  
BROADWAY AND CHAMBERS STREET

New York Broadway and Chambers Street