

FULL CIRCLE

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FADE IN:

INT.NEWSROOM - NIGHT

A male NEWSREADER looks up from his desk as the cameras roll. Behind him, a large screen shows still photos of John Lennon from various stages of his life.

All the classic Lennon personas are there - the mop-top in a suit; the long hair with the round glasses; the shorn head of the peace activist; the mature forty year old with swept back hair; a dapper middle aged man with a grey goatee.

And finally, the thinning haired older man with weary eyes but determination etched into his face...

Words on the screen read: JOHN LENNON 1940 -2001

NEWSREADER

Welcome back to CBS news and this special presentation paying tribute to the late John Lennon. To reiterate our main news story tonight, the Beatle and U.N Peace Ambassador passed away yesterday, August twelve, at the age of sixty, after suffering a major heart attack.

(beat)

Stephanie Hopkins continues now with her look at the extraordinary life of this great man.

He stops, looks at the camera as the screen behind fades and becomes the focus...

MONTAGE

Images of John Lennon and Yoko Ono circa 1980...

STEPHANIE(V.O)

Nineteen eighty was a landmark year for John Lennon. He had returned to the recording studio the previous year, and was ready to be back at the forefront of contemporary music.

John and YOKO ONO get out of a taxi in front of the Dakota; they stroll through Central Park with their son SEAN; John interviewed by DJ ANDY PEEBLES:

ANDY

John, if anything happened to you,
how would you want to be
remembered?

JOHN

As the peace guy.

ANDY

That before your music?

JOHN

Oh sure.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

His new album 'Double Fantasy'
consisted of a fifty-fifty split of
the songs with Yoko. The reaction
was favorable and the couple
continued to record new material in
the lead up to Christmas.

Double Fantasy album cover, track listing, photos...

STEPHANIE(V.O)

Then, on December eight, as John
and Yoko returned to the Dakota
from a recording session, a
deranged fan attempted to kill the
former Beatle.

News clips from the time - police cars, sirens blaring,
ambulances pull up outside the Dakota. A man lies on the
pavement held down by officers. Nearby Yoko watches as
paramedics work on her husband.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

Two bullets hit Lennon in the back,
narrowly missing vital organs but
still doing considerable damage.
Before The lone gunman could fire
more shots, he was wrestled to the
ground by nearby fans of Lennon.
The assailant was later identified
as Mark David Chapman, a twenty
five year old security guard from
Hawaii. He said that he was
prompted to kill Lennon by 'voices
in his head'.

The Roosevelt Hospital - fans keep vigil. Also they camp
outside the Dakota. Similar scenes in England at various
Beatle landmarks.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

For five days the world watched and prayed, and waited to see if the critically wounded musician would survive after complications with infection set in after surgery. But finally Lennon pulled through - doctors said that one more bullet would've killed him.

Pictures of John in his hospital bed, giving the peace sign and thumbs up; later photos of him with hospital staff and the fans who took Chapman down.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

The attempt on his life was like a rebirth for John Lennon. He had been preparing to throw himself back into the world peace movement again. Now he vowed to pursue his goal of global harmony to the max.

Photos of PAUL McCARTNEY, GEORGE HARRISON and RINGO STARR - paparazzi snaps in carparks, hospital corridors.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

During Lennon's convalescence, his three ex band mates made visits to him, avoiding the press where possible.

(beat)

In February of nineteen eighty one, rumours began to circulate that the former Beatles were organising a reunion. Once again the world waited to see if it was true...

Clip of George confronted by a REPORTER at Heathrow. He's in a good mood and up for a chat...

REPORTER

Ah, Mr. Harrison? Do you mind if I ask you a few questions?

GEORGE

George.

REPORTER

I...excuse me?

GEORGE

You can call me George. I think I'm fairly well known at this stage of my life.

His assistants laugh.

REPORTER

Oh, right. Well, thank you...George. Now, the big question at the moment is the possibility of a Beatles reunion. There's talk of a giant concert for charity, a peace rally...

GEORGE

Oh, that's all John's department. You've got the wrong Beatle, hey?

He walks to a check-in gate as the reporter follows.

REPORTER

So that's not a 'no' is it? Wait, you said 'Beatle'. Not 'former Beatle'? So does that mean...

GEORGE

Wow, you're on the ball, man.

REPORTER

So that's a yes?

GEORGE

Lets just say a definite maybe.

Clips of Paul and Ringo talking to the press. John is interviewed by MICHAEL PARKINSON on tv...

PARKY

So, John , I'll get straight to the point...are you, Paul, George and Ringo planning to get back together again? As the Beatles?

John chews his gum, leans back in his chair carefully, his body still tender. He grins that quirky Lennon grin. Yoko sits next to him, silently enigmatic as always.

JOHN

Well, Michael, we would hardly get back together as the Stones or Pink Floyd, would we?

The audience laughs, Parky smiles, shakes his head.

JOHN

But to be serious for a moment...i would never tell a lie because my

JOHN

Aunt Mimi used to constantly berate me about the importance of telling the truth.

(beat)

I'm sure that at some stage in the future, the four of us may consider recording again.

PARKY

Hmm, that appears to be not quite a lie but not quite a truth either.

Audience laughter again.

JOHN

Well, Michael I guess that means my aunty taught me well.

He leans forward for a close-up.

JOHN

Thanks Mimi!

STEPHANIE(V.O)

And then despite all the denials, sidestepping and hints, finally in April of nineteen eighty one...

A promotion for Ringo's film 'Caveman'. Ringo answers press questions about the film, along with co-star BARBARA BACH...

RINGO

...and I play this sort of nerdy caveman named Atouk who's trying to win the love of Lana, played by the beautiful Barbara Bach sitting next to me.

Barbara smiles, gets up suddenly.

BARBARA

Excuse me, Ringo, but I have to...

She leaves the room, heading behind the backdrop. The reporters look confused for a moment but some laugh.

RINGO

See? What chance does Atouk have? You'll have to come see the movie to find out what happens.

The reporters all laugh then there's a silence as Barbara returns. She stops, and directs Paul, George and John to the seats next to Ringo. Uproar. The buzz around the room is pulsating. The reporters rush to the front, taking photos.

RINGO

Hey, where did you guys come from?

He grins at his mates. The reporters pause to take in the sight of the four Beatles all seated together again after twelve long years. None of them yell out or demand answers such is the mystique of these men. Finally...

REPORTER

Ah, Ringo? John? Anybody? Does this mean the Beatles are reunited?

The four look at each other for a moment, reluctant to step into this new world just yet.

PAUL

I guess it does. John? It's your call, right? You started this band up in the first place.

JOHN

And you ended it.

There's a stunned silence before the four burst out laughing at the reporters' faces. That old Beatle humor never dies...

PAUL

With a little help from my friends, yes. But its all good now and George here has all the details of what we're planning!

GEORGE

Thank you, Paul. Ok, with no fanfare...in four weeks time, we'll be playing a special charity concert at Madison Square Gardens. And we'll be recording some new material before then as well.

The noise in the room is like a physical thing. The Beatles sit back as the reporters pile on the questions.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

When interviewed later by Larry King and asked 'why now', the Beatles were unanimous in their answer - because the time is right.

Footage of the Beatles' historic comeback concert at Madison. John wears his famous NYC shirt and at the end of the gig, hundreds of balloons with the peace symbol are released.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

After the show, John reiterated the peace message.

In a crazy dressing room, a reporter chats to John, Yoko by his side.

REPORTER

Fantastic show! The new songs are great. Will there be an album? A tour maybe?

JOHN

I...whew, man that was a blast! An album? Yeah, we're halfway through it now. Probably be out in July. but a tour we aren't sure about it. Small steps...small steps.

REPORTER

And the peace message? That's as strong for you as it was in the seventies?

John accepts a handshake from Mick Jagger before replying.

JOHN

Oh sure. I mean, look at the world as it is now. It's even more vital we all get together and do something or else we're gonna die off as a species.

REPORTER

Are you talking about pollution or wars or poverty or just...

JOHN

I'm talking about it all, you know? Why do we focus so much energy on killing each other? Why do governments not listen to the voice of the people?

REPORTER

So you plan to be more active in this line of work? Promoting peace?

JOHN

Line of work? Come on, man, this is not a job. This is a lifetime thing that we affects us all. It affects our children and their future.

Muhammad Ali claps John's shoulder, nods as he passes.

REPORTER

So there's a chance we could see you in the U.N one day? Nominated as a world peace ambassador?

JOHN

I...well, yeah that would be great.

He pauses a far off look on his face, turns to Yoko, nods. The moment is shattered by Ringo's voice across the room.

RINGO

Hey, Lennon. Stop yer dreaming and get over here.

John looks up to see his band mates in a huddle, beckoning to him. He kisses Yoko, strolls over. A hush in the room as the celebrity friends and family watch a special moment.

The Beatles in a circle, arms on shoulders, leaning in, heads close, locked in a timeless embrace.

STEPHANIE(V.O)

So would begin John Lennon's quest for world peace...

END MONTAGE

The screen fades to black and the newsreader is at his desk.

NEWSREADER

After a word from our sponsors, we will return with more in this tribute to the late John Lennon...

SUPER ON BLACK - A FEW WEEKS LATER

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

A section of the park nearest to the Dakota building. An open part of the pathway is roped off and covered with a large colorful sheet. Its a beautiful spring day.

A mixed crowd of onlookers - politicians, celebrities, fans and police officers watch as Yoko, now sixty eight, walks to a mobile podium. She smiles, taps the microphone softly. Behind her stand Sean, Paul, George and Ringo.

YOKO

Ladies and gentleman, distinguished guests, friends of John and I, and, most importantly, the people of the world who John loved so much and worked so hard for...

Polite applause.

YOKO

Thank you for being here today as we remember John and dedicate this area of the park he cherished so much, to him.

(beat)

It will be named Strawberry Fields and is a quiet zone where people can come and reflect on John's life and all the great things he achieved.

She steps back and Sean takes her place.

SEAN

My father was proud of his role in meeting with world leaders over the years to generate the understanding that mankind needs. Humbled but not overawed in the presence of people like Yasser Arafat, Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, my father worked tirelessly to better the lot of the underprivileged and poverty stricken. He may even have misjudged the awe that these leaders had in meeting him.

He looks up and smiles...

SEAN

I guess that's the power of the Beatles' music and legacy - it helped bring us all together for a second time.

(beat)

My father was immensely proud of his efforts working with the late Princess Diana in her campaign to

SEAN

rid the world of unexploded mines,
and to be nominated for the Nobel
Peace Prize in nineteen ninety
eight. Although ill health
prevented my father from many of
his projects for the last year, he
continued to play an active role
within the organizations he had set
up.

He looks up at the sky, eyes moist.

SEAN

I love you, Dad. Thank you.

He steps back, the sound of quiet weeping amongst the crowd.
Yoko hugs him, nods to the three Beatles. They step
forward and take hold of the sheet.

As one they lift it, revealing a large round tiled mosaic
set into the pavement. The words 'IMAGINE' are in the middle
of it. The crowd gasps then applauds. At the same time, a
basket is opened and a single white dove flies out and up.

POV OF THE DOVE

New York City spread out under a blue sky. Flying between
Manhattan buildings. Ahead looms the World Trade Centre.

Rising up towards the top of the Towers. Passing the Windows
On the World restaurant in the North Tower. Diners are
visible through the glass.

DAUGHTER(O.S)

Oh Mommy, look. It's a bird flying
past. I think its a dove?

MOTHER(O.S.)

Mmm? Oh my, yes, its beautiful.

(beat)

Maybe it was the one released for
John Lennon? I'm sure the ceremony
was around this time.

DAUGHTER(O.S)

Wow, that is so cool. We read about
him in school. So sad he died.

MOTHER(O.S.)

Yes, it was. But what a life.

DAUGHTER(O.S)

Is the world a better place as he
wanted, Mom?

MOTHER(O.S.)

Yes.

(beat)

Yes, I think it is...

LATER

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The dove descends lands near the Imagine mosaic. A few
walkers stop and take photos. The dove hops to the centre of
the design. Suddenly a page of a newspaper blows past, a
gust of wind surprising an old man reading it nearby.

As he scurries after it, the New York Times front page is
visible near the dove; the date reads:

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 2001

FADE OUT