

What

When

Where



[Events Home](#)

[Arts & Culture](#)

[Comedy](#)

[Family & Kids](#)

[Film & TV](#)

[Music & Nightlife](#)

[Food & Drink Events](#)

[What's On Today](#)

[What's On This Weekend](#)

[All Events](#)

[News & Previews](#)

[Latest Reviews](#)

Beatle brother Mike McCartney's images of Liverpool's Jacaranda revealed for first time in 50 years

Can you help solve mystery of Jacaranda's Philomena?



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Mike McCartney

Mike McCartney never goes anywhere without a camera.

And now the photographer and Scaffold performer has uncovered some 50-year-old negatives of images he captured with his Rolleiflex camera at **Liverpool's** famous Jacaranda coffee bar.



Mike McCartney

A photograph of Philomena, sitting in the Jacaranda in Slater Street in the early 1960s. The negative has become damaged over the last 50 years, creating this interesting effect

The images, never seen before, have suffered from the effects of time, with the disintegration of the negatives creating interesting patterns around the central subject.

Two of them feature a young woman called Philomena, while the other – taken by a passer-by – sees a young Mike, then a trainee hairdresser at Andre Bernard’s salon in Church Street, pictured with friends John Seddon, fellow crimper Mike Weinblatt, and John Gorman, then a post office engineer.

Mike said today: “The photos were taken in 1962 around the time of the Merseyside Arts Festival, which John Gorman organised at Hope Hall.



Mike McCartney

Walking past the Jacaranda - a young Mike McCartney, left, with friends John Seddon, Mike Weinblatt - a fellow hairdresser at Andre Bernards, John Gorman , Philomena and an unknown man

“Mike Weinblatt was a London lad who worked with me and fancied himself as an artist. He said ‘you’re artistic aren’t you? You’d like the stuff we’re doing’. It was Mike who introduced me to John Gorman.

“We all had jobs, but had dreams of doing something else, that there was more to life. And the Jac was the place in Liverpool to meet. It’s where the groups, and people who were artistic, went. I think Philomena was an artist.”

The Jacaranda opened in Slater Street in 1958, and was run by Allan Williams who also operated the Blue Angel.

The Beatles, then the Silver Beetles, played there on a number of occasions and when

not performing, they helped decorate, with John Lennon and Stu Sutcliffe painting a mural in the ladies' loos.



A photograph of Philomena, sitting in the Jacaranda in Slater Street in the early 1960s. The negative has become damaged over the last 50 years, creating this interesting effect.

Are you Philomena, or do you recognise her? Anyone who can identify the mystery sitter should email catherine.jones@liverpool.com or call 0151-472 2459.

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