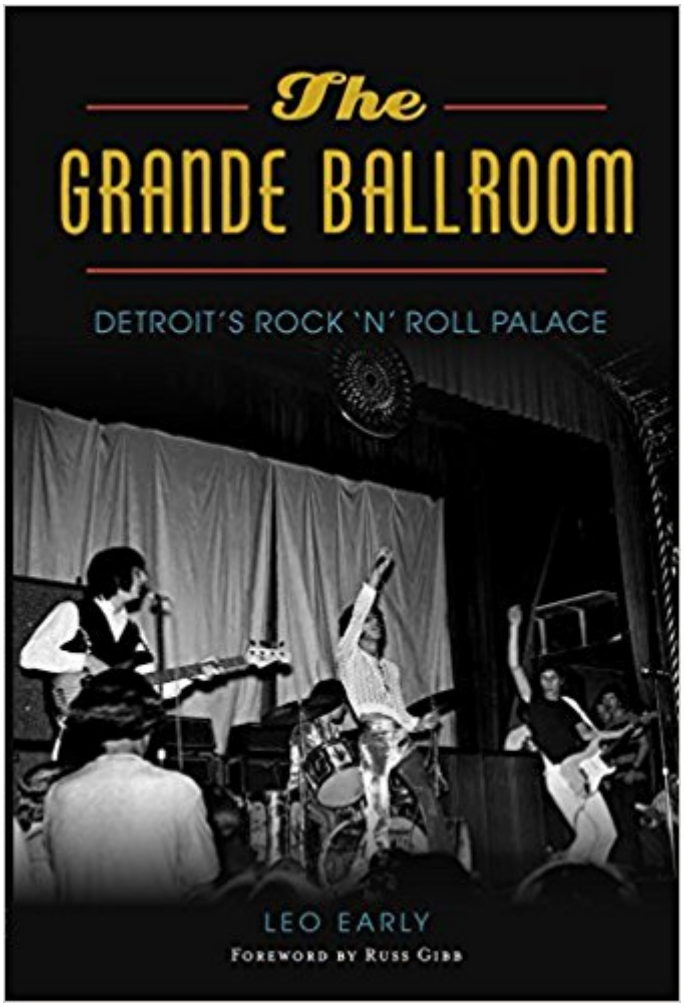
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Grande Ballroom, The: DetroitÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Rock Ã¢â‚¬Ëœn Ã¢â‚¬â„¢ Roll Palace (Landmarks)



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Synopsis

In the 1920s, a jewel of Detroit entertainment arose on the WestsideÃ¢â ¬â ¢the Grande Ballroom. The venue flourished under the ownership of infamous gambler Harry Weitzman and management of dance scion Paul Strasburg. The advent of rock Ã¢â ¬â„¢nÃ¢â ¬â„¢ roll pushed the ballroom into hard times, but in 1966, local schoolteacher and disc jockey Russ Gibb resurrected it with the promise of live rock music. The new psychedelic ballroom style attracted scores of suburban baby boomers and helped launch the careers of local legends like the MC5, Iggy Pop, Alice Cooper and Ted Nugent. Soon the ballroomÃ¢â ¬â„¢s prestige attracted international acts like Cream, the Who and the Jeff Beck Group. Detroit music history expert Leo Early celebrates this beloved venue.

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Customer Reviews

"With a keen eye for detail and a sharp historical sensibility, Dearborn author Early revisits the tale of the venerable west side ballroom that became one of the country’s psychedelic rock meccas in the late ’60s. Grande Ballroom lore has loomed large in Detroit through the decades (the documentary "Louder Than Love" was issued on DVD this summer), but nowhere has it been covered at a more granular level than in this 222-page book, which recounts fun rock ’n’ roll tales ("The MC5 Versus Cream"), key moments (the Who’s live premiere of "Tommy") and signature characters such as Russ Gibb and Tom Wright. " Detroit Free Press

Leo Early is an author, musician, historian and preservationist. He enjoys researching and writing about Detroit history, focusing especially on DetroitÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rise and reputation as a music capital. In 2003, Leo launched the GrandeBallroom.com to share his research, and the result was an unexpected groundswell of interest in the ballroom. Early has since met and corresponded with many who experienced the Grande firsthand and, in so doing, has inadvertently become a subject-matter expert on this building, a nexus of Detroit music.

I have been reading books on classic rock for almost 20 years now and I found this book just excellent. It has a brief, but interesting introduction to the history of the Grande before it starts discussing it’s classic rock roots. The chapters are formatted into brief stories in chronological order that were well written and included quotes from people who were there and pictures interspersed. The formatting of the chapters into these mini stories made the book very easy to read and I did not even use a bookmark. The writing itself is well done and kept my interest the whole week I quickly devoured this book. Overall, I learned a lot I didn’t know (how unfortunate about the historical nomination that didn’t happen) and would definitely recommend for anyone interested in classic rock, Detroit history or any mix of the two.

I just read this book , while sitting with my wife in the hospital. I recommend it highly. Very well written. Amazing pictures , and very in depth. This book covers the history of the city , the architects , the history of the building and buildings like it, as it flows into the era we came up in with great stories of the music, uncle Russ ,the rest of the staff and beyond. I thoroughly enjoyed this book from cover to cover. Superb job Leo .

Excellent history of the legendary Detroit music venue . A fine piece of historical research and journalism .

Great book! Brought back many memories of my life in the sixties. I spent most of weekends there. Who could imagine seeing Led Zepplin (at their first appearance, billed as "The New Yardbirds") for $5! Ah, those were the days. Highly recommended.

I attended many concerts at the Grande. It was an important part of my musical life during my college years.

Wow, fantastic job. Great photos, mostly new ones that I haven't seen. I really enjoyed this book. Not just a rehash of the usual. Good job.

Item was exactly as described.

good stuff

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