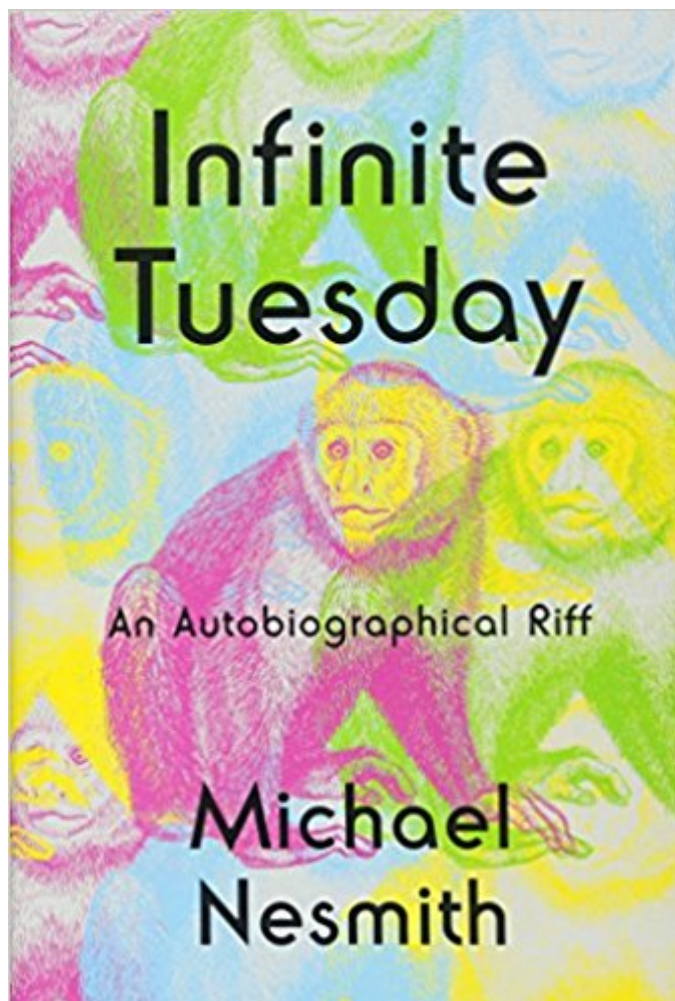


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Infinite Tuesday: An Autobiographical Riff



Synopsis

Michael Nesmith's eclectic, electric life spans his star-making role on The Monkees, his invention of the music video, and his critical contributions to movies, comedy, and the world of virtual reality. Above all, his is a seeker's story, a pilgrimage in search of a set of principles to live by. That search took Nesmith from a childhood in Dallas, where his single mother Bette invented Liquid Paper, to the set of The Monkees in Los Angeles; to the heart of swinging London with John Lennon and Jimi Hendrix; and to an unexpected oasis of brilliance in the Santa Fe desert, where his friendships with Douglas Adams and Los Alamos scientists would point him toward the power of the infinite and the endless possibilities of human connection. This funny, thoughtful, self-aware book is a window onto an unexpected life, inflected at every turn by the surprising candor and absurdist humor of an American original. Opening *Infinite Tuesday* is like stepping into the world of Michael Nesmith, where something curious is always unfolding, and where riffs on everything from bands to dogs to the nature of reality make for an endlessly engaging journey.

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Customer Reviews

Praise for *Infinite Tuesday* "Beautifully written." —New York

Times "Penetrating" | As a writer, Nesmith is practical without being conventional. And he riffs on metaphysical topics like ænon-time moments, when portent and symmetry seem to enter our lives without sounding trippy or losing his relatability. He also abstains from using his pen to settle scores, something from which other celebrity memoirists

could learn. In fact, he's delightfully self-deprecating [Infinite Tuesday is] a nonlinear realm to which [Nesmith] is a distinctly likable, erudite guide.

•Washington Post "In his memoir, *Infinite Tuesday*, the highlights of [Nesmith's] career speak for themselves Jimi Hendrix, who supported the Monkees on their first tour, got the Monkees; John Lennon got the Monkees; Zappa did too. These countercultural icons understood the genius of its premise — simultaneously celebrating and satirizing popular culture, fabricating a faux-Beatlemania to rival Beatlemania itself — and recognized its brilliant execution.

•Wall Street Journal "This selectively revealing, insightful memoir casts the cerebral Monkee as a spiritual seeker and self-deprecating visionary. Popular culture has barely revealed the tip of the iceberg that is Nesmith. A book — and a life — unlike any other in rock."

•Kirkus Reviews (starred) "Nesmith may be most remembered for his role as the stoic guitarist in the Monkees, but his brilliant, candid, and humorous new autobiographical musings give readers a much clearer picture of his originality and inventiveness...Nesmith's entertaining memoir reveals his creative genius, his canny ability never to take himself too seriously, and his restless questions about the value of spirituality."

•Publishers Weekly "The Monkees were the beginning for me, the amazing thing is they were only the beginning for Mike Nesmith. This is the way a genius lives life right. Great stories of his buddies Hendrix, Timmy Leary, and Douglas Adams, adventures while inventing the music video and changing home video, yogis in California, VR, and why you should never complain about the air conditioning on a private jet. Nez inspired me when I was 13 and now with this book he continues to inspire me at 61."

•Penn Jillette of Penn & Teller "You know it's a good book when you quote lines and anecdotes from it, and claim them as your own. *Infinite Tuesday* is fascinating and funny! In a word, Nezmerizing."

•Jack Handey, author of *Deep Thoughts* and *The Stench of Honolulu* "Mike Nesmith is a pop-culture spirit guide. Every creative person should take this revealing, hilarious, semi-hallucinogenic trip back in time through all the biggest cultural revolutions of the late 20th century. Nesmith himself was a driving force in many of them. This book is honest, moving, and inspirational."

•Jay Roach, director of *Austin Powers* and *Meet the Parents* "Infinite Tuesday is a picnic in forward motion. The table is full of gems, big and small, and studded throughout with a full cast of characters. I am already looking for volume two and, please, let there be one."

•Ed Ruscha "Nesmith is an artist, adventurer and thinker whose nimble creativity soared far above the appellation he was given: The smart Monkee. In *Infinite Tuesday*, he details the

inner forces, from personal to spiritual, that kept him forging ahead – and that created stumbling blocks as well. Unsparing and revealing, this book is an unusual, unforgettable read.

• Ben Fong-Torres “Nesmith is witty and ironic and has a fund of amazing and often absurd stories. Infinite Tuesday is unlike any other music or movie autobiography.”

• Alex Cox, director of Repo Man

MICHAEL NESMITH's career in music and television took him from starring in The Monkees to a celebrated run of albums as a solo artist and in the First National Band. He created the TV show Popclips, a forerunner of what would become MTV, and produced the films Repo Man and Tapeheads. He is the author of two novels and the founder of the Pacific Arts Corporation, which produces projects in the worlds of audio, video, and virtual reality, including Videoranch 3D. He lives in Carmel, California.

INFINITE TUESDAY is a fun read – but also a bittersweet read. Growing up in the 60s in Los Angeles, I loved listening to the Monkees' fun tunes, as well as watching their show on TV. To us kids, it never occurred to us that someone else might actually be performing the songs. We just LIKED the Monkees. Several chapters in INFINITE TUESDAY describe the author's mixed experience with the band. The show was produced at the “corner of Sunset and Gower, on a soundstage built in the 1930s. Part of the time we were filming, Cary Grant was next door making one of his last films. Sally Field was doing The Flying Nun on another stage.”

• Michael wanted the four to make a more genuine artistic contribution to the band and to the show. He was happy with his modest (by today's standards) paycheck, but as an artist, he knew he could do more: “I started to think that maybe there would be some further progress in recording an album of us playing and singing our own songs.”

• He especially disliked being associated with a fake album, which “crossed a line somewhere.”

• Michael's urging that the team actually perform as real musicians did not go over well: “Making our own record was the only idea I ever had for the TV show, and it would prove to be fatal to the whole enterprise.”

• Headquarters was “the only album the four of us ever made as the Monkees.”

• Eventually, of course, the four would indeed learn to sing and perform well enough to go on tour. Michael is the first to admit they weren't really that good – but the live tours were still a fun experience. Besides the fun look

behind the scenes at the TV show, INFINITE TUESDAY tells us some interesting tidbits about the life of Michael Nesmith apart from the Monkees. I had no idea, for example, that the author was really in the U.S. Air Force! (Until everyone figured out he should just leave. He exited with a "General Discharge.") Of course, after the Monkees, the author achieved success as both an artist as well as a video producer. The outcomes were mixed. I was sad, for example, to read about the bitter lawsuit with PBS in a dispute over video distribution: "They sued me personally, so I had to sue them back in defense, and we were off to court. It took five years to get there, and it was a fight. The jury eventually a huge amount to Nesmith--\$47.5 million in direct and punitive damages. I found the latter part of the book to be mostly sad. The author tells of being devastated by his long-time girlfriend leaving him, as well as financial disasters. Furthermore, Michael struggled with severe medical problems--loss of vision from cataracts, as well as a mysterious condition that left him largely crippled. The author explains the practice of Christian Science, and how he could use a doctor to treat his medical issues: "One rule that Christian Scientist practitioners are taught is not to treat a medical condition that a doctor is treating. . . In agreeing to take the medicine, I had to agree with myself to abandon my practice of the Science for healing and lean on the good intentions of the doctor and his immune-system reboot. Fortunately, the treatment worked, and he regained mobility. After he regained his health, Michael turned his focus to "More prayer and meditation. More mathematics, more research and development. More performing. More playing. The book ends on an upbeat note. Michael was awarded a patent "For the embedding of real time video into a virtual environment. He was deliriously happy--so happy that the strength of my reaction surprised me. He donated the patent to charity: "It was a way to give the patent the wings of the infinite and a way to give the patent to the artists who used it as a performance medium. The whole process, I came to realize, had been a gift. The patent was granted on December 25, 2012. It was a Tuesday, or an "Infinite Tuesday. Advance Review Copy courtesy of the publisher.

Infinite Tuesday is Michael Nesmith's autobiographical look at his life, career and spiritual journey. He touches on the people in his journey, including The Monkees, his mother, his first wife Phyllis, Jack Nicholson and more with humor, thoughtful insight and extremely frank honesty. Monkees fans might be disappointed that he doesn't dwell more on the group, but the book is about Nesmith's life journey of which the Monkees were just a part of the journey. It's a wonderful book with revealing

insight on the man. A definite must have for fans of Michael Nesmith.

I have been a Mike Nesmith fan for about 20 years now, beginning with an instinctual fascination with his role on The Monkees, all the way down to his solo career. When I heard that he was coming out with a tell-all memoir, I immediately jumped on purchasing this book. What I love most about this text is its distinct rhythm - which is perfect considering Nesmith's roots as a strong Folk/Country Rock musician. It seems to ebb and flow like a calming guitar melody, with each memory or idea acting as a sort of sequential 'riff' in his life's symphony. The book has chapters respectively, however he doesn't follow a linear style (i.e., Chapter 1 - My Birth; Chapter 2 - My Childhood, and so forth). Instead, his memories are muddled together which is more accurate of how a person WOULD and SHOULD reflect on their lives. Memories are not singular independent from one another. Nesmith seems to know this. Memories are intertwined and are what essentially makes up a person's composition and philosophies. One minute he is talking about his early days with his first wife Phyllis, then in the next paragraph he is talking Christian Science. It is refreshing to read a memoir that reflects the notion that all of life's moments are inherently linked, and that one can't reflect on their life as if it occurred systematically or in any type of order. I also enjoy how openly candid he is to reveal his failures or near-successes and how he seems to regard them with a sense of true spiritual learning. He is not bitter or stoic in this text - a common misconception of Nesmith. Rather, he is gentle, vulnerable, and a little innocent sounding which is a real treat to finally see. There were times when I actually sighed and said, "awww" out loud because of how honest he is in this book. I just want to give him the biggest hug!!! Also, really liked how he purposefully left out commenting on The Monkees story too much. He mentions it a little. We all know the story, guys. It was a good show, it opened doors for him, he learned a lot, but it wasn't the end-all-be-all of his career. I'm glad he sort of skipped over that. One critique - I wish he delved into the Nurit scandal a little more. That was always a little peculiar to me, but I gather that the book isn't really about his personal life per se. Seems more like a recount and realization of who he is as a person, musician, and businessman. Overall, the book is fantastic - fun, yet endearing; fast-paced, yet rhythmically regulated; simple, yet deeply spiritual. Nesmith rockssss. LONG LIVE THE TEXAS PRAIRE CHICKEN!!!

This book is a rarity--one that hasn't been "dummied down". I have strong verbal skills but Mike uses some words that I had to look up which I admire (I love learning new words) but not so advanced that would turn off someone not as I. As far as the content I learned quite a bit about him

as a person and as a performer. Some questions I had had for a long time were answered but others were not which made me want more. All in all I'd highly suggest picking up this book if you are considering getting it.

The book is quite good, although a bit navel-gazey, but Nesmith fans might expect that. The book itself, however, appears to have had something like oil or grease splashed on it - there are saturated spots on many of the pages. I'm a little disappointed in the quality from that standpoint.

As a long-time fan of Michael Nesmith, this book provided a lot of back stories that shaped the public persona of Nez. I was very taken with all that he has been able to accomplish in his lifetime as a result of sheer will and persistence in following his personal muse.

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