

FLEETWOOD MAC HISTORY SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION SCRIPT

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deep breath and remember to talk slow

start talking

TITLE INTRO

The classic rock band, Fleetwood Mac, is the most successful band from the 20th century with the messiest history consisting of many genres, members, albums, affairs, and drugs. In this presentation, I aim to share the research I have completed on their substantial chaotic history of their rise to success and complicated personal lives. In case some of you can't match their faces to their names, from left to right we have Lindsey Buckingham, Stevie Nicks, Mick Fleetwood, Christine McVie, and John McVie.

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RELEVANT POP CULTURE MOMENTS

To begin, here are some recent pop culture moments that involve Fleetwood Mac. The book and TV adaptation, *Daisy Jones and the Six*, written by Taylor Jenkins Reid was inspired by the band's known chaoticness and was very well received.

There is the guy @420dogface802 who gained popularity during the pandemic for riding his skateboard to *Dreams* by Fleetwood Mac while drinking cranberry juice.

play clip half of @420dogface802 skateboarding

So yeah, I believe most of us remember this guy.

And last but not least, the 1997 Fleetwood Mac performance of *Silver Springs* that arbitrarily went viral for Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham's iconic stare down.

play clip of stare down 4:30-5:10

Stevie wrote this song about Lindsey in the 70s and as you can see, there is still a lot of raw emotion between them in '97.

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THE BAND'S BEGINNINGS

Now to get into the band's history, Fleetwood Mac was first formed by Mick Fleetwood and Peter Green. Before the success and fame that came with Fleetwood Mac's classic and pop rock albums, they were a British blues-rock band until 1970 with Mick's lively rhythmic drumming,

Peter's blues-rock guitar, John McVie's bass, and guitarists Danny Kirwan and Jeremy Spencer. As well as a session pianist who later becomes a core member of Fleetwood Mac, Christine Perfect. But she is better known as Christine McVie since she married the bassist, John McVie. Here is a snippet of their blues song, *Need Your Love So Bad*.

play part of the Need Your Love So Bad Song from 0:30-0:45

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LOTS OF CHANGING MEMBERS

In 1970, the band's members began to change rapidly. Due to a bad trip on LSD, Peter Green left Fleetwood Mac because his mental health declined, was diagnosed with schizophrenia and admitted to psychiatric hospitals. Then, the first album made after Green's departure featured Christine McVie as an official band member. This 1970 album was also the last to include guitarist Jeremy Spencer who disappeared one night on tour and turned up days later at a sectarian commune called the Children of God. Another guitarist, Bob Welch, replaced him for their '71 album. The final album for guitarist Danny Kirwan was in '72, who subsequently got fired on tour for alcoholic rage and was replaced by Bob Weston.

After some success in the UK, Fleetwood Mac moved to Los Angeles in '74 to be at the center of the music industry. Once their first album in LA was completed, Bob Welch departed and was replaced by the American guitarist Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks joined as their lead singer.

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STEVIE AND LINDEY'S START

Lindsey and Stevie gained the attention of Mick Fleetwood through their 1973 duo album *Buckingham Nicks*. This album didn't make any charts and was only recently released on streaming platforms. The inclusion of Stevie and Lindsey transformed the band from unknown to a band that created hit after hit.

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PREMIERE FLEETWOOD MAC GROUP AND FIRST ALBUM SUCCESS

Now with Fleetwood Mac's core members, Mick Fleetwood, John McVie, Christine McVie, Lindsey Buckingham, and Stevie Nicks, the first album they created called *Fleetwood Mac* in '75 rushed to number one on the American album chart with hits like *Rhiannon* and *Say You Love Me*. This also marked the beginning of the band's infamous drug use with cocaine being bought in "bulk" and rampant alcohol use.

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AFFAIRS AMIDST THE MAKING OF *RUMOURS*

In 1977, Fleetwood Mac had even more success with their album *Rumours*, which ended up becoming one of the bestselling albums ever created with seven Top 10 hits. This includes *Go Your Own Way*, *The Chain*, *Dreams*, *You Make Loving Fun*, *Second Hand News*, and *Gold Dust Woman*. What makes this album even more interesting is that the member's personal lives were imploding during its creation, which inspired the album to be called *Rumours*.

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MICK FLEETWOOD

Now before we get into the drama that occurred during the creation of *Rumours*, we're going to go back to '72 to talk about Mick Fleetwood's relationship. During this time, Mick was married to a woman named Jenny Boyd who he had two daughters with, and Bob Weston was still a band member. Jenny went on tour with the band in '73 and became friends with the members. Except, she became more than friends with Bob Weston, and they had an affair. As soon as Mick found out, he kicked Weston out of the band and divorced Jenny. Although, in 1977 they got remarried, but we will get back to that later.

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JOHN AND CHRISTINE MCVIE

As mentioned earlier, John and Christine McVie met while in the band, and they got married in '68. They had 3 happy years of marriage, but marital problems began around the making of *Rumours*. At the time, Christine claimed John was turning into a monster since he began to excessively drink. Christine became unhappy in their marriage due to his new behavior and found herself turning to the affection of another man. She started an affair with Martin Birch who was the band's sound engineer. John eventually found out and fired Martin. Their marriage was in complete shambles at this point, and Christine began another affair with the band's lighting director, Curry Grant. During this time, everyone knew about the affair except for John, but he and Christine were also not on speaking terms. Incidentally, Christine secretly wrote *You Make Loving Fun* about Curry while telling John it was about her dog. Ultimately, John's behavior and the strain of affairs was too much, and they got divorced in '76.

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LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM AND STEVIE NICKS

Lindsey and Stevie met while they were in high school and had immediate music and romantic chemistry. They joined Fleetwood Mac together, but their relationship began falling apart soon after. With the mix of relationship issues, a strong emotional bond, and drugs, they wrote a lot of both loving and spiteful songs about each other. They freshly broke up before the creation of *Rumours* which added to the awkwardness and tension during recording sessions. Then in '77 an

affair begun between Stevie and Mick while Stevie was in a relationship with a man not in the band and Mick was married to Jenny for the second time. Their romance was on and off for several years but they did report that it was primarily fueled by drugs and alcohol during their tours. Stevie also admitted that she greatly regretted that the affair took a toll on Mick's family since it did lead to his second divorce with Jenny. For Lindsey, he married photographer, Kristin Messner, in 2000 and started having kids with her in the 90s.

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THE BAND TODAY

As of today, their lives have calmed down, they are in their 70s, and they have all been on good terms for a very long time. Christine McVie continued in the music industry with a solo career but sadly she suffered a stroke and passed away in 2022. Mick Fleetwood and Lindsey Buckingham are both enjoying their time with their families and occasionally perform in studios and live. John McVie has seemed to retire due to health and personal reasons since he has sold all his musical equipment. Stevie Nicks is still creating solo music and is currently wrapping up a very successful North American arena tour. Fleetwood Mac remains one of the most successful bands in history with an incredible amount of chaotic drama. Yet they will not perform again due to their statement of there being no chance of putting the band back together without Christine McVie.

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say thank you for your attention