

dedicated his poem "The Risen" to him) and Syd Barrett, and acted in the theatre alongside Ian McKellan and Peter Cook. He obtained a scholarship to London's Slade School of Art as a painter, but instead took up filmmaking under the tutelage of noted British director Thorold Dickinson.

Whitehead was at the very heart of Swinging London and its counterculture, music and arts scenes of the 1960s. He filmed The Rolling Stones in drag, Allen Ginsberg at the Royal Albert Hall, and Peter Brook directing the Royal Shakespeare Company's protest against the Vietnam War. In the U.S., he recorded the presidential campaign of Robert Kennedy and the occupation of Columbia University by student radicals. He was a pioneer of the pop music promo, working for Top of the Pops on British television, and filming acts such as The Animals, The Small Faces, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, Nico, and the aforementioned Stones (who were also the subjects of Whitehead's legendary, never-released 1966 documentary *Charlie is my Darling*, one of the very first films about the band).

Retiring from filmmaking in the 1970s, Whitehead spent many years in North Africa, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as a falconer. Since 1987, he has written several novels.

*"I hope my films are more than a mere interrogation of the frivolous fable of the 60s, the antics of a pop music-loving generation letting their hair down and having fun as never before. The truth is, my films are not about me or London. They are about America. Sixties London was a daunting place, its soul raped by an imperialist culture hellbent on dumbing it down to a spiritless faith in a world of objects. We became objects ourselves, coerced by the media to consume more, more, more. Desire junkies. Thing junkies"*

Photo: Peter Whitehead with Bolex photo by Mick Jagger

**EVENT: Monday 11 December at 6.30pm:** 'Pop Concertos for Film' Peter Whitehead & Maxa Zoller discuss the underground film scene in Britain '65/'66. A screening of Whitehead's unseen footage of Indica gallery and excerpts from his seminal films including 'Wholly Communion' & 'Tonite Let's All Make Love In London'