

## Rock photographer Barrie Wentzell brings his prime shots to NYC for 'Melody Maker: The Best Years, 1965-1975'



Pete Townshend and Towser, 1971, Pete's garden, opposite Eel Pie Island, Twickenham by the River Thames.

(BARRIE WENTZELL)

**BY JENNIFER H. CUNNINGHAM**

Updated: Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 6:00 AM

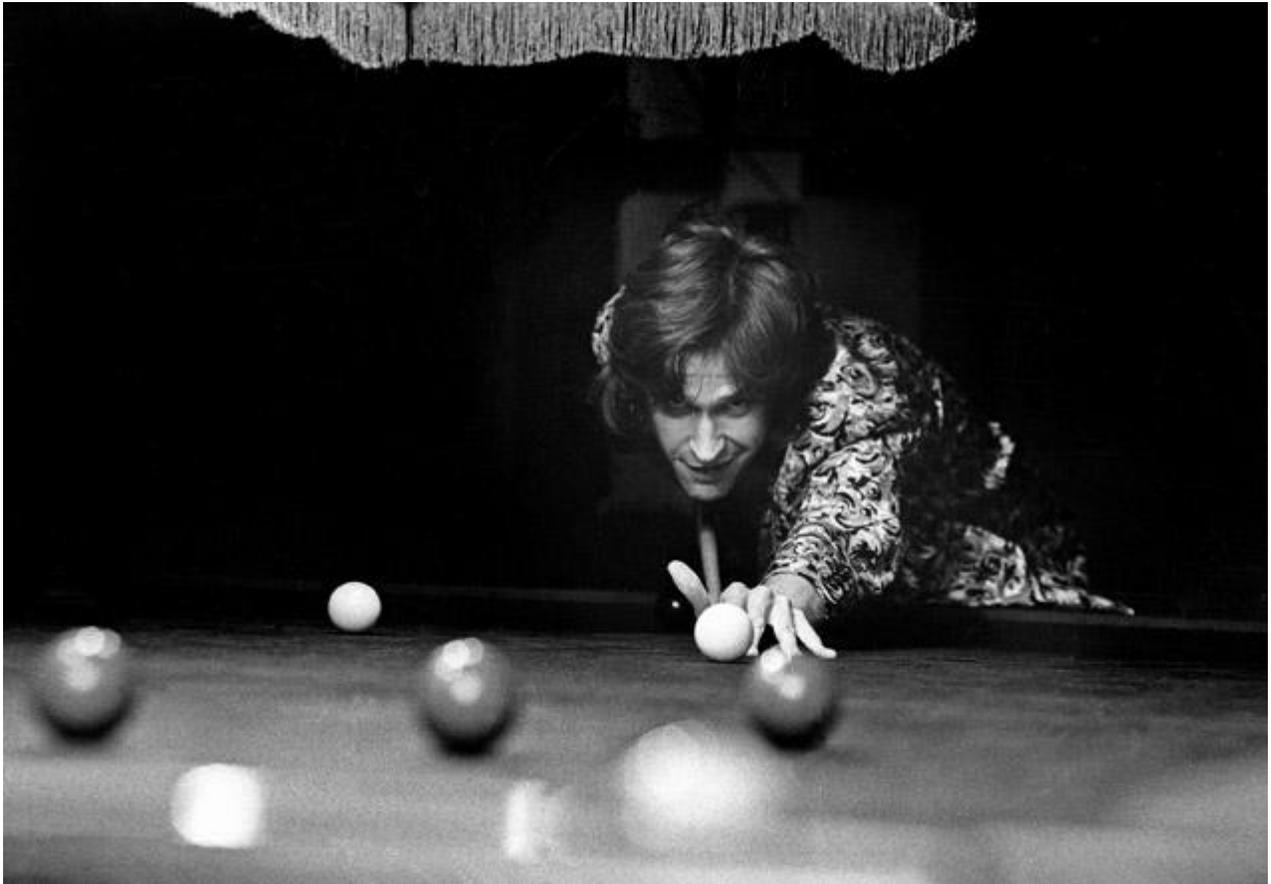
A “magical time.”

That’s how famed rock shutterbug Barrie Wentzell sums up the years he photographed some of music’s biggest legends.

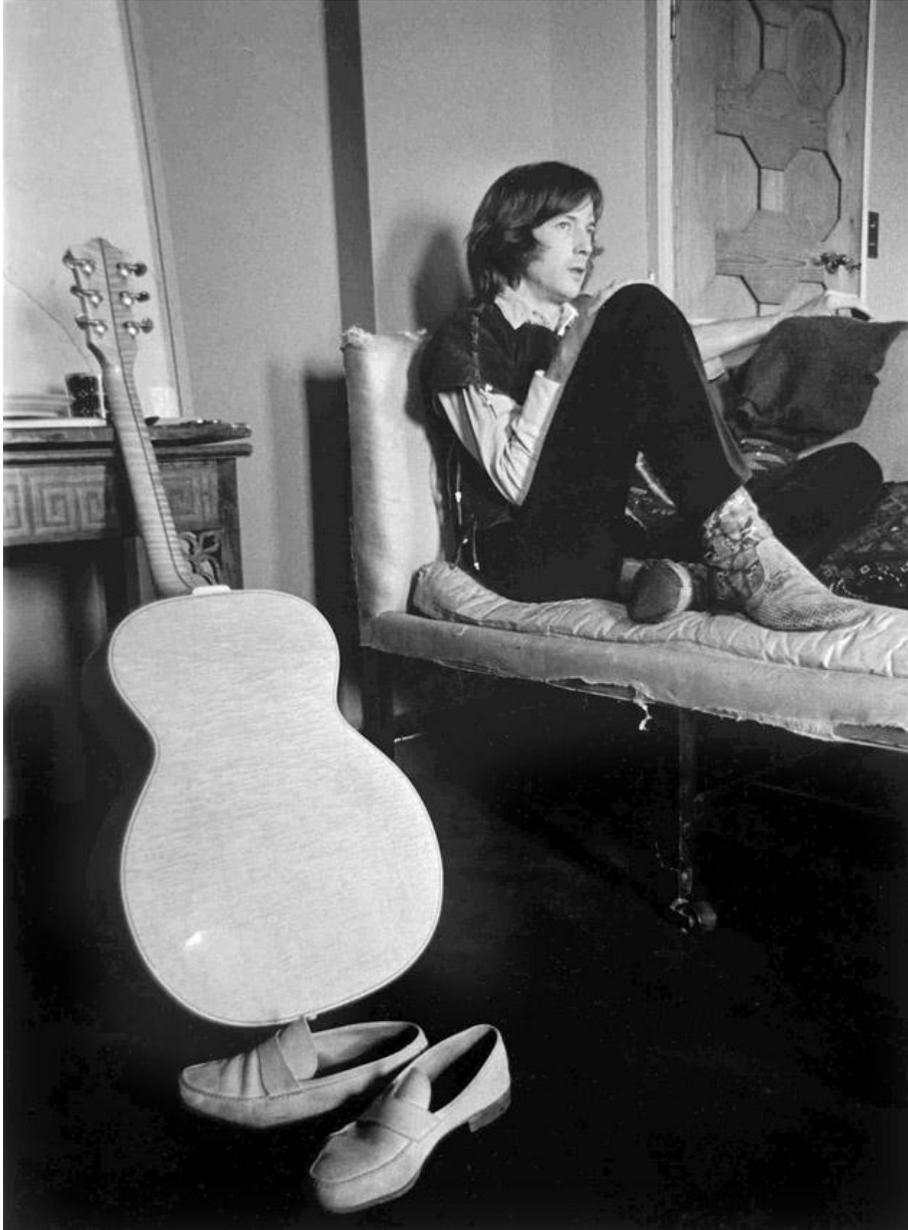
Talents like Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones — Wentzell shot them in their heyday.

“We got to see Clapton, Lennon, or Hendrix in their flat, maybe have a magic cigarette, or a drink,” recalls Wentzell, who left high school at 16 to study art and shoot film in night clubs. “It was a magical time.”

And now, he has brought his best prints to New York for a show at The Morrison Hotel Gallery in SoHo.



*Barrie Wentzell  
Ray Davies, 1974.*



*Barrie Wentzell  
Eric Clapton at home, 1969.*

Called “Melody Maker: The Best Years, 1965-1975, The Photography of Barrie Wentzell,” the exhibit features his work as the chief photographer for the British music mag Melody Maker.

Wentzell said he’s surprised that the photos still touch people after all these years.

“There was one woman in the gallery, who was in tears (looking at of Elton John). She said, ‘Your picture moved me.’ I didn’t realize that picture — 40 or 50 years ago — that it would have such resonance,” he said.

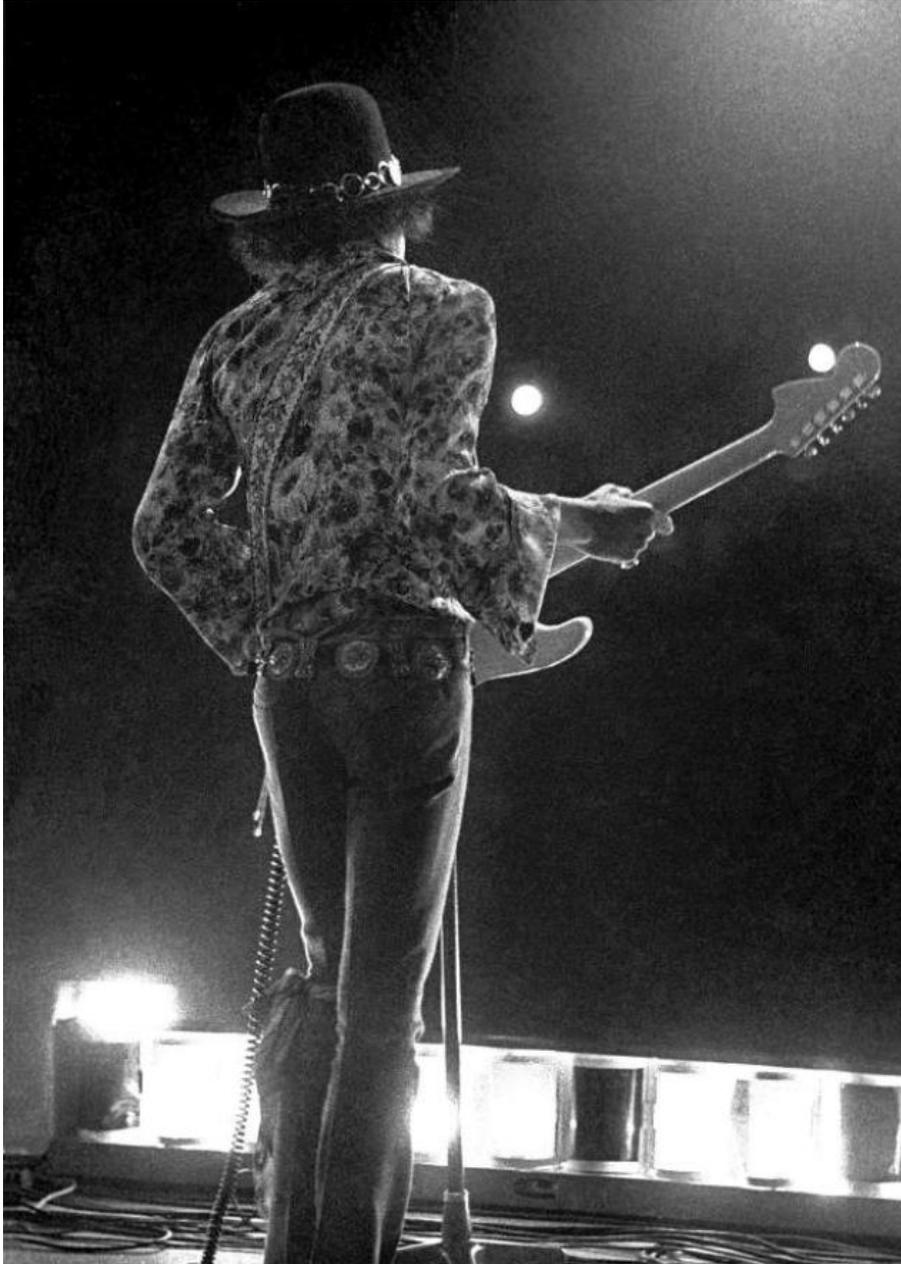


*Barrie Wentzell*

*Elton John (l.) and Bernie Taupin, Hampstead Heath, 1970.*

“It was just something we did for five seconds and moved onto the next one.”

For several shots, Wentzell took the Daily News on a photographic trip down memory lane, reminiscing on the wild stories behind some of his iconic images:



*Barrie Wentzell*

*Jimi Hendrix, 1968, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, England*

“This was a Melody Maker-sponsored show at stately Woburn Abbey, the home of the Duke of Bedford. The stage was around 10 feet high and not great for shooting ... all you could see was Jimi’s head, so I went backstage and got a few shots from the side, including this one from the back against the spotlights.”



*Barrie Wentzell*

*Pete Townshend and Towser, 1971, Pete's garden, opposite Eel Pie Island, Twickenham by the River Thames.*

“Pete Townshend was sending in so many letters to the Melody Maker about this and that, so Ray Coleman, the editor, had the bright idea to ask him if he’d like to have a page for himself so he could write about anything he wished. ...I arrived at his home to find him dressed up in a ‘Pearly King’ outfit with a banjo setting up a collection of his daughter’s toys in his garden. His faithful spaniel Towser was recruited and posed perfectly during the shoot!”



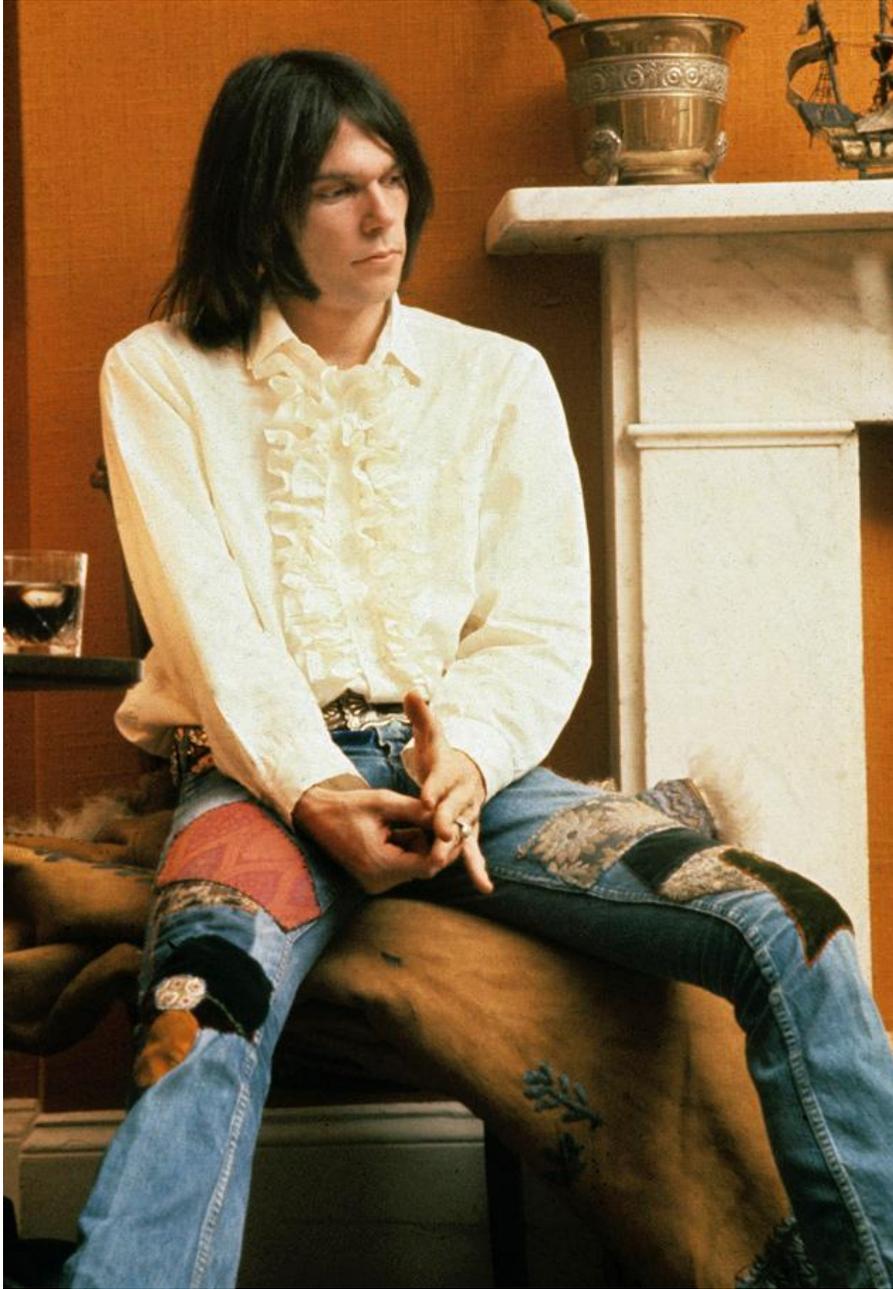
*Barrie Wentzell*

*Bob Dylan, 1965, BBC TV Studios, London.*

“Bob was rehearsing for a live TV show during his ‘Don’t Look Back’ tour.... I never had any ‘idols’ but Mr. Dylan had changed the times for us. He was the biggest influence on us Brits since Elvis. He was hanging out during a break from rehearsals, so I asked if I could shoot some pictures, and in his very ‘Bob’ way, wearing a big smile, he said, ‘You can shoot yourself if you want to ... sure it’s cool, carry on,’ so I did! I later snuck in and photographed the rest of the rehearsal unimpeded.”



*Barrie Wentzell  
Jimmy Page, 1970.*



*Barrie Wentzell  
Neil Young, 1970.*