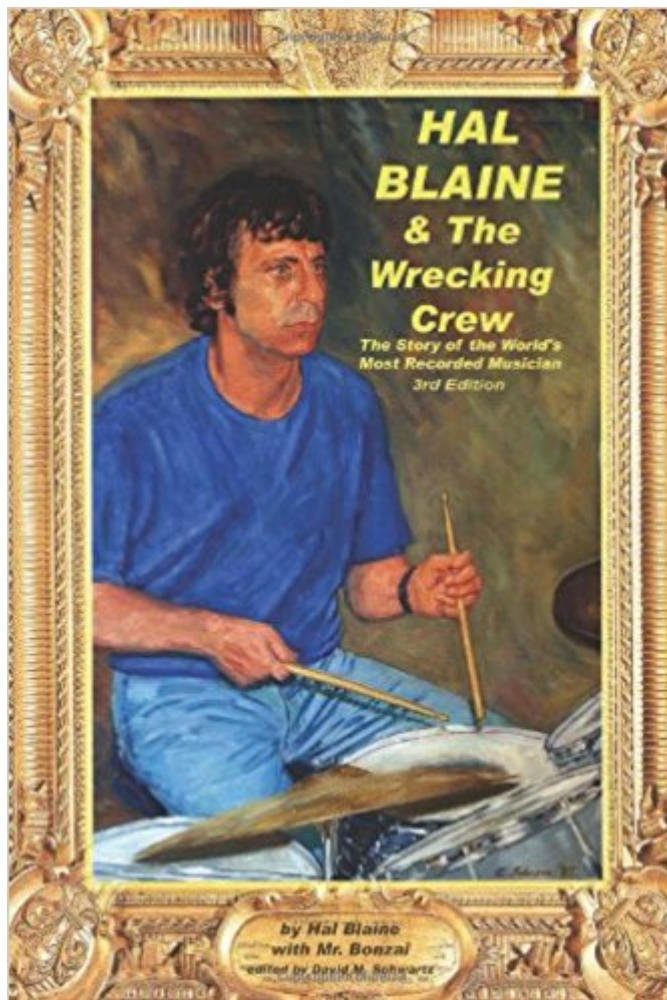


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Hal Blaine And The Wrecking Crew



Synopsis

(Book). Ever wonder what it would be like to be the most recorded musician in popular music? This updated bestselling autobiography spotlights Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and drummer extraordinaire Hal Blaine and his remarkable life experiences. From the Sinatras to the Beach Boys, Blaine drumrolled through the '50s, '60s and '70s, driving over 40 songs to the Number One slot. His works with Phil Spector and the Wrecking Crew sessions, his touring experiences and other hitmaking pressure sessions are amusingly revealed in this rare glimpse into a golden age of music. Exclusive scrapbook photos round out this biography to provide an entertaining and educating book for musicians and fans alike. The update brings his life into the 21st century, including info on his inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Musicians Hall of Fame in Nashville, dealing with Spector's infamous trials, and recently, the renewed interest in his golden era of recording with the documentary film on the Wrecking Crew and all the new wave of accolades that followed.

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Customer Reviews

Hal Blaine is a Hal Leonard author.

If you are over fifty, and possibly even younger, there are a group of musicians you have heard more than any others, sometimes known as The Wrecking Crew. If you listen to music, especially music from the sixties, you will have heard Tommy Tedesco on guitar, Carole Kaye on Bass and Hal Blaine on drums many, many times over, accompanying a diverse group of singers and forming the backbone of most groups, by having played a major role in the creation of their recordings. The list of

names is impressive, and if you are interested, you can spend hours searching the Internet and learning about these musicians. The important thing to remember, at least from my point of view, is that these musicians not only played on numerous hit records, they also created their own parts for most of these recordings. The Wrecking Crew were much more than performers, playing their assigned parts, they worked with the name artists and producers to actually mold the songs into a finished product, and no one was more skilled at this than Hal Blaine. From the rhythmic hooks on Phil Spector recordings to the tom-tom roll in The Carpenters Close To You, Hal Blaine was the consummate drummer and could take an average song to a new level because of his sense of how songs, especially hit songs, worked. In all fairness, one could say the very same thing about other members of The Wrecking Crew. Carole Kaye created many memorable bass lines which powered songs into being hits and Tommy Tedesco was a guitar virtuoso whom created many memorable guitar parts over the years which led the sound of guitar in popular music. Hal Blaine tells his part of the story and does so with dignity, grace and modesty. He speaks of other musicians in admiration and respectfully. He is a pro all the way. Having worked as a musician and having met innumerable musicians, I have observed that the true pros rarely speak badly of other musicians. Hal Blaine carries on that tradition nobly. Bless you, Hal. Bless you and the rest of The Wrecking Crew; you are part of my soul.

I knew of Hal Blaine from the work he did with The Mamas & Papas. They, unlike many artists, were proud to put the names of the musicians on their liner notes, probably because they were singers and not musicians themselves. Being a musicologist, I also closely read all of the liner notes of all of the albums I purchased, so I repeatedly saw his name. A couple of months ago I read The Wrecking Crew, and was looking forward to reading this book. Unfortunately, I probably should have read this first. While I did enjoy reading Mr. Blaine's story, it was not as well written as The Wrecking Crew. However, I do not agree with some of the low marks given by some of the reviewers. Definitely, I would urge you to read both of these books. However, I would read this one first.

This was a nice entertaining and informative read. Books like this most likely will appeal mostly to baby boomer musicians or music aficionados in so much as it's sort of a documentary style book. This is no Pulitzer Prize winner but it also was never intended to be. What it is is an excellent first-person account of a period in my life that will live on in my memories forever, and now I have additional insights into how the music of my youth was made. Like 'The Wrecking Crew' which reviews the same characters with perhaps a broader purpose, they both provide insights that are as

enjoyable to read about as they are informative.

Entertaining book about one of the best session drummers in the LA area. Nice anecdotes, good insight stories about the recording industry. Maybe I would like a little bit of more depth in some chapters.

As an insight into the prime years of the West Coast recording industry, this book is irreplaceable. The information is fascinating, and all the detailed anecdotes will be interesting to most musicians and music aficionados. As a publication, this edition is less than professional, with many misspelled words and amateurish artwork. Great info, poor presentation. I still loved it, but couldn't give it 5 stars.

Excellent book if you like music history. Tells the Wrecking Crew story very well and Hal's part in it.

If you thoroughly enjoyed The Wrecking Crew, and/or are simply interested in Pop/Rock of the '60s/'70s, this is an excellent 'next book' to read. In fact, you may not be able to put it down once you start reading. But be aware that it is only 118 pages long (plus discography, etc.), hence comparatively quite pricey; that is the main reason it got four, not five, stars.

stories of a great musician, very well written. inside look of working methods in those great LA studio's. stunning how many artists they helped getting great sounds on worldwide hits. Spector and Wilson are certainly geniuses, but without the crew, music history would without any doubt have been different. (I also liked a lot the book written by the late Tommy Tedesco "for guitar players only")

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