



The Who
***Quadrophenia The Director's Cut* Exhibition,**
London Pretty Green shop, Carnaby Street, 26 October.

To celebrate the forthcoming release of The Who's *Quadrophenia - The Director's Cut*, Liam Gallagher's flagship store, Pretty Green, is holding an exhibition telling the story behind the concept of *Quadrophenia* and, along with stills from the film adorning the displays, Who fans can take delight in looking at some original hand-written notes and sketches from Pete Townsend. *Quadrophenia* was The Who's sixth studio album and their second rock opera. Guitarist Townsend had a vague idea for the story as early as 1966, after recording their second album, *A Quick One*, but the project was really conceived in 1972 and recorded throughout 1973. The title, *Quadrophenia*, was a variant of schizophrenia and about identity disorder, reflecting the four distinct personalities of its central character, Jimmy, each one representative of the members of The Who. Encased in glass is an original sketch by Townsend, wherein he explains to his fellow bandmates the idea behind the project - a fascinating piece of rock history with a simple drawn shape of the human head, with the brain divided into three outer segments and one inner. On the outside, Pete has simply written, "outside very fucked up, inside completely unaffected". One can only guess what discussions may have led from this work of art, but the rest as they say is history. Also on display are original demo tape boxes, a studio diary documenting the recording and overdubbing of the opus, presentation notes regarding the running order, and hand-written lyrics to the timeless 5.15. Of course, this exhibition would not be complete without a vintage Vespa for the Mods to marvel over. Well worth a visit if you happen to be in the area, the exhibition is held in the basement of the Pretty Green store and you can even snap up a snazzy commemorative T-shirt. Entrance is free and the exhibition runs until 31 January 2012.

Mark Taylor