

Pillow book

In the Summer 2012 catalog for art-book publisher Taschen, photographer **Harry Benson** recalls how he came to take an iconic early photograph of the Fab Four, aka the **Beatles**. "We were all staying at the **George V** in Paris on the same floor, and my brief was to cover it as a news story," he writes. "Their [gay] manager **Brian Epstein** was a good man. If you were legitimate, he wouldn't get in your way. They were friendly, and I got on with all of them. **George** and I even shared a room a few times.

"I had heard that they liked to have a pillow fight, and knew that this would make a great picture, but there was another photographer in the room from *The Daily Mirror*. I suggested to the Beatles that we do the photograph. They weren't keen at first, **John** said it would make them look childish, then he hit **Paul** in the back of the head with the pillow, and it went on from there. I didn't give them any directions, it was just pure spontaneous joy, captured perfectly." Just boys being boys.

"Then driving from the Plaza Hotel to *The Ed Sullivan Show*, I was in the limo with them, sitting on **John's** lap, photographing American Beatlemania through the car window." That's photographer intimacy alright.



The Beatles have a pillow fight in the George V hotel, Paris, January 1964. (Photo: Harry Benson, courtesy Taschen)