

(From left) The classic Rolling Stones lineup of Bill Wyman, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts, and Brian Jones in 1963; Watts, Richards, Jagger, and Ronnie Wood today



IF MICK JAGGER AND Keith Richards made a deal with the devil, that contract went into effect on July 12, 1962, at London's tiny Marquee Club. It was there that Jagger, Richards, and guitarist Brian Jones first performed as the Rolling Stones (or "the Rollin' Stones," anyway). Which makes 2012 the band's 50th anniversary, right? Right—unless you happen to *be* a Rolling Stone.

"We always thought it was 1963—that's the year we called our first," says Richards, 68, sounding amused that for once it's the rest of the world that doesn't know what year it is. The Stones' riff-master and legendary bon vivant regards the band's first release—their 1963 cover of Chuck Berry's "Come On"—as the technical start of the Stones story. That incredible tale has featured no shortage of incident—including Jones' 1969 death—as well as more than 100 singles, two dozen studio albums, and a jaw-droppingly large array of compilations. There's always room for one more of those, apparently, since the hits package *GRRR!* arrives Nov. 13 as part of an anniversary celebration that also features a Stones-on-film exhibit at New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Nov. 15 HBO premiere of the *Crossfire Hurricane* documentary (see sidebar, page 35). Fans are most interested, though, in four concerts (two each in London and New Jersey) between now and Christmas at which, it is rumored, the core lineup of Jagger, Richards, Charlie Watts, and Ronnie Wood may be joined by ex-members Bill Wyman (bass player from 1962 to '93) and Mick Taylor (guitarist from 1969 to '74). We asked Jagger and Richards to take a moment away from their London rehearsals to revisit some of their other anniversary years—and, in deference to Richards, we counted up from 1963.

Rolled Gold

The Rolling Stones at 50

A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE YEARS WITH MICK JAGGER AND KEITH RICHARDS AS THEY CELEBRATE FIVE DECADES OF SEX, DRUGS, AND ROCK & ROLL. BY GEOFF BOUCHER