

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY™

# GRAPHIC ELVIS®

## Special Preview

Featuring the Talents of:

Stan Lee

Paul Pope

John Cassaday

Jeevan J. Kang

Steve Rude

Mukesh Singh

Greg Horn

Gilbert Hernandez

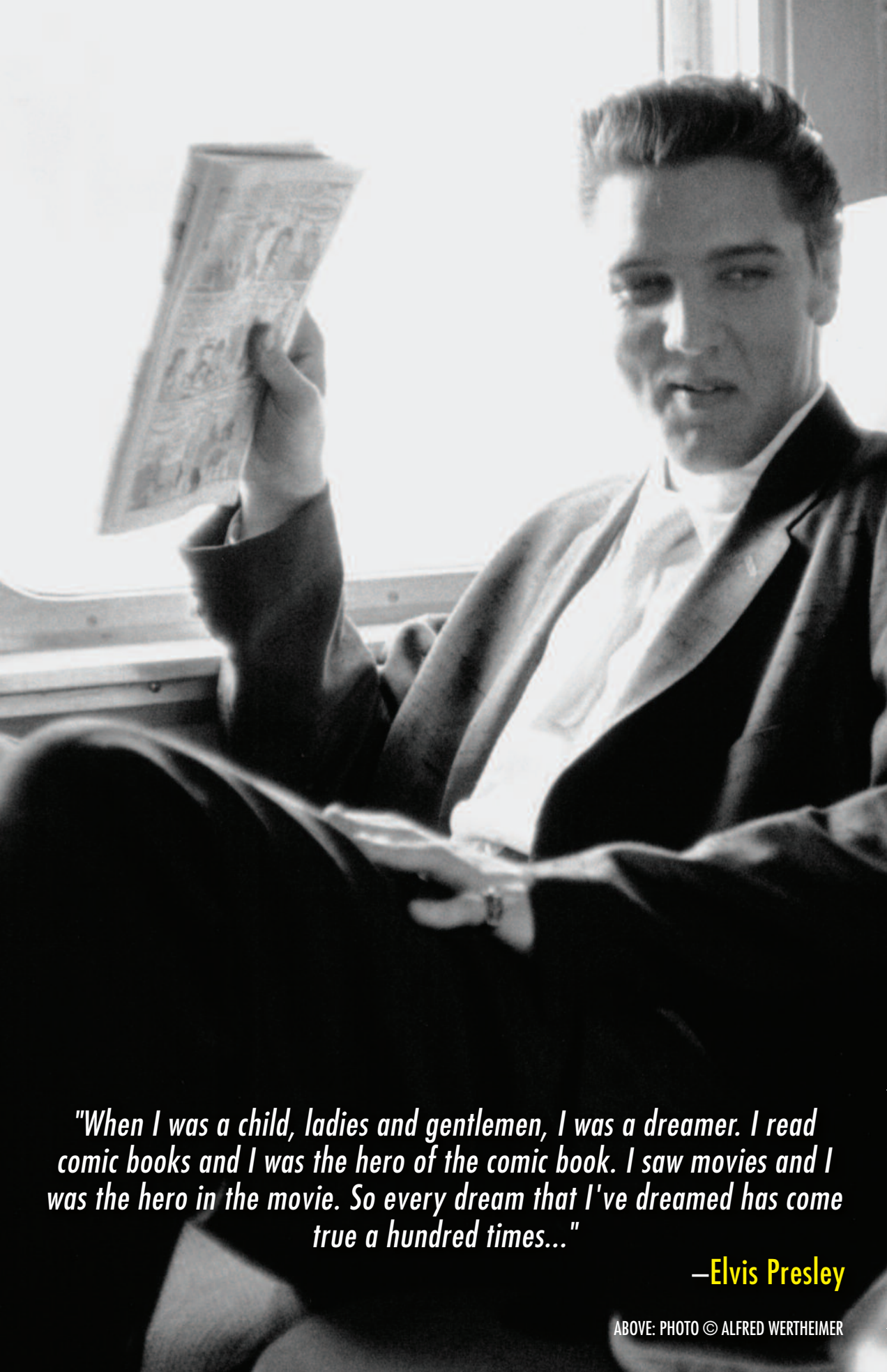
Tony Millionaire

Luke Ross

and more...

THE WORLD'S GREATEST  
GRAPHIC NOVEL  
CREATORS  
CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF THE  
WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
ROCKSTAR!

LIQUID COMICS™



*"When I was a child, ladies and gentlemen, I was a dreamer. I read comic books and I was the hero of the comic book. I saw movies and I was the hero in the movie. So every dream that I've dreamed has come true a hundred times..."*

**—Elvis Presley**

ABOVE: PHOTO © ALFRED WERTHEIMER



## **On January 15th, 1971 Elvis Presley**

stepped up to the podium inside a rather unglamorous auditorium in Memphis, Tennessee. He appeared nervous, dressed modestly in a black tuxedo and a white shirt with a bowtie. It was the first and only award show he'd ever attended in person. Always humble, Elvis had not even accepted his Grammy Award in person. When Elvis began speaking, his words seem to come out cautiously, very much the opposite of what one would expect since he usually glowed while in front of a crowd no matter the size. For days, Elvis had agonized over the words he would use to accept the honor he was being given by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of America for being one of the nation's Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1971.

For while he performed hundreds of hit songs written by others during his career,  
the words he spoke that night would be his own.

Cue the pin drop silence:

***"When I was a child, ladies and gentlemen, I was a dreamer. I read comic books, and I was the hero of the comic book. I saw movies and I was the hero in the movie. So every dream that I've dreamed has come true a hundred times..."***

Those who knew Elvis best, including his young wife Priscilla and a small entourage of friends and family who were part of the audience that night, were well aware that his words rang true. Despite the fact that he was already the world's greatest rock star and had won countless gold records as well as many other prizes and awards from around the world, it was this award that he would cherish because it was for his efforts to make the world a better place.

One could assume, in that moment, the familiar superhero-like twists and turns he had experienced in his remarkable life came together in way that helped everything make sense.

The greatest comic book heroes are always misfits, a motley crew of sages, seekers, and psychotics that defy rules, dream of greatness, and dare to embrace it. Elvis' fascination with the heroes of comic book lore spanned his entire lifetime. From days spent thumbing through secondhand comics as a young boy in Tupelo, to the stacks he kept by his side in the '50s while traveling from one sold-out concert to the next, to the "Taking Care of Business" logo he fashioned for himself and his buddies, the king loved comic books and what they represented.

Elvis realized that true greatness lurked beyond fame and fortune. The margins of his personal copies of books like Kahlil Gibran's "The Prophet" and Herman Hesse's "Siddhartha" were filled with scribbled words like "Love," "Spirit," and "God." After all, every hero's ultimate quest is for answers — answers to who we are, why we're here, and what it's all about. Elvis Presley got closer than many.

***"All I want to know is the truth, to know and experience God.  
I'm a searcher, that's what I'm all about..."***

As the presenters of this original work — a marriage of Elvis' own reflections, quotes, correspondences, writings, photos, and memorabilia with original artwork created by some of the world's leading graphic artists and storytellers, we can attest to having a great admiration for the man, the lore, and the searcher that Elvis was. To have the opportunity to listen to his music and interviews, to study the photos and documents in the archives at Graceland, and to immerse ourselves in the magic that is Elvis' home in Memphis, is to have experienced something truly amazing and almost indescribable.

But even more so, as we approach the 35th anniversary of Elvis' death, to be a part of a celebration and re-imagining of one of modern history's greatest creative icons is an honor of the highest order.

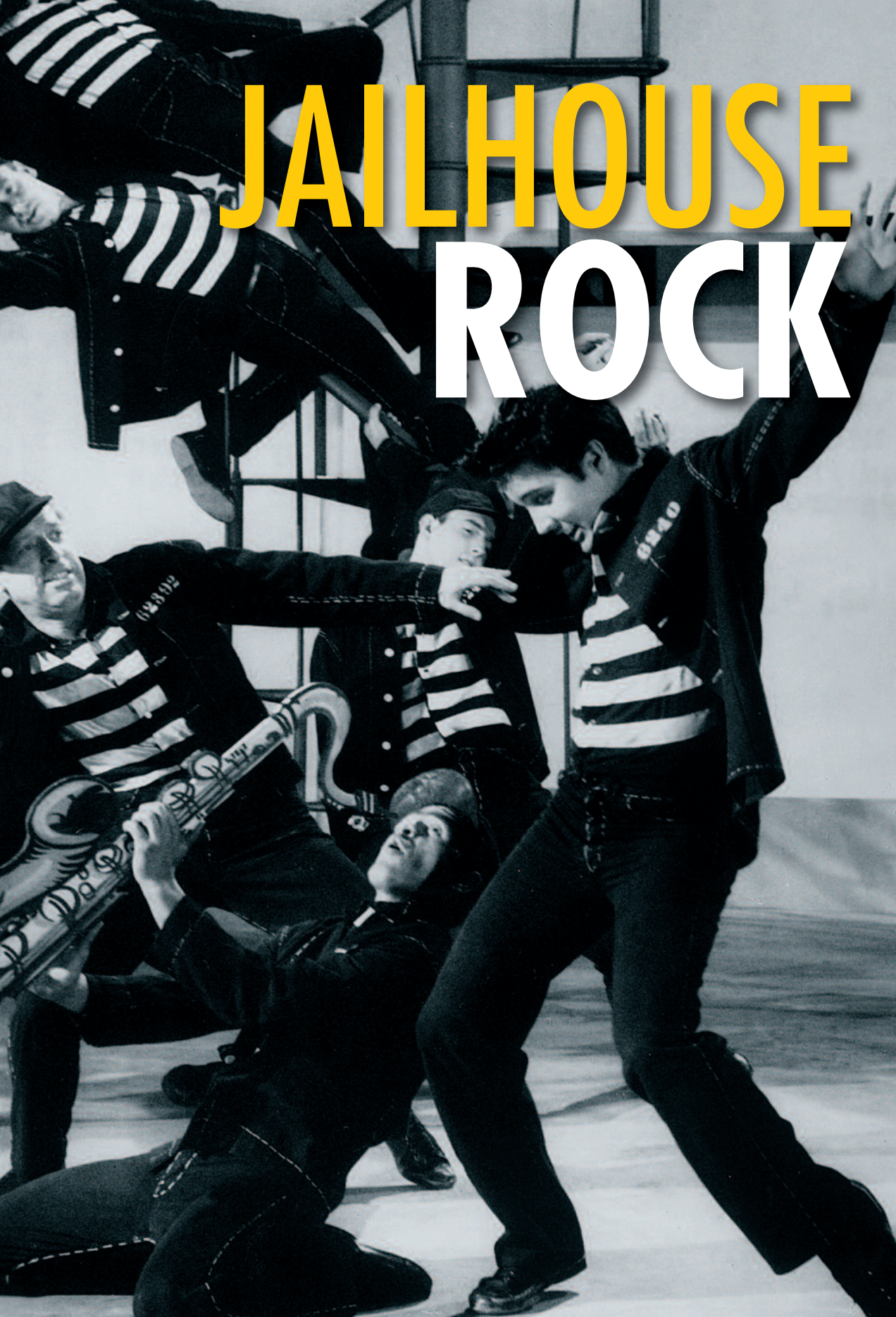
Our profound thanks to the Elvis Presley Estate, the Presley family, and the millions of fans that have ensured Elvis will always be with us.

If it was Elvis' dream to be a comic book hero, then what a gift it is for us to have played some small role in helping to make that dream come true.

**Gotham Chopra & Sharad Devarajan**  
December 2011

This is a Free Comic Book Day Special Preview of the "Graphic Elvis" limited collector's edition hardcover book, featuring selected stories and excerpts. To purchase the full book, please download the interactive digital app or visit [GraphicElvis.com](http://GraphicElvis.com) to purchase the book.

# JAILHOUSE ROCK



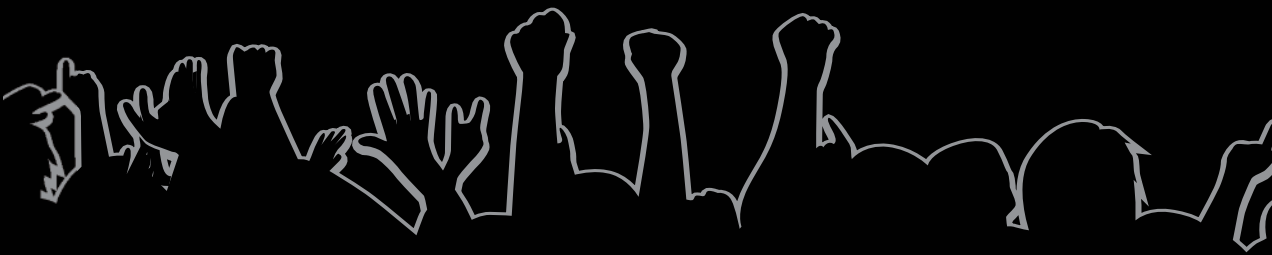
PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE ARCHIVES AT GRACELAND

ARTWORK: GILBERT HERNANDEZ





*"When I first heard Elvis' voice, I just knew that I wasn't going to work for anybody, and nobody was going to be my boss. He is the deity supreme of rock and roll religion as it exists in today's form. Hearing him for the first time was like busting out of jail. I thank God for Elvis Presley." —**BOB DYLAN***



*"Before Elvis, everything was in black and white. Then came Elvis. Zoom, glorious Technicolor."* —**KEITH RICHARDS**