The Fugitive (1993)

Backbeat

As a gratuitous entry for the 30th anniversary of the Beatles' arrival in the United States, this film may seem a little shallow at first. However, director Janetta Scattiffe offers a different perspective on the group's history, at a time when the boys from Liverpool were struggling for recognition in sticky Hamburg nightclubs. The story focuses on the friendship between art schoolmates John Lennon (Ian Hart) and the original "Fifth Beatle," bassist Stuart Sutcliffe (Stephen Dorff). Scattiffe uses this as a vehicle to explore Sutcliffe as a tortured artist and Sutcliffe's burgeoning relationship with German existential photographer Astrid Karcher (Shery Lee). This is not the conventional Beatles biopic that you'd expect, as it casts the other group members in the shadows. This may prove especially distressing for some Beatles fans, but Ian Hart's uncanny simulation of Lennon's signature is the film's saving grace. Of course, there's music, and the re-recorde...