Freda Kelly was almost 17 years old when she went to work for a local band in Liverpool. Although she had no concept of how far they would go, Kelly had faith in The Beatles from the beginning, and The Beatles had faith in her. For 11 years as the Beatles’ devoted secretary, “good ol’ Freda” was there as history unfolded, witnessing the evolution and revolution of the greatest band in history.

“Kelly is a complete charmer,” says Atlanta magazine. “Prepare to fall in love with her.”

Kelly will visit ETSU Monday, Nov. 10, for a screening of the new documentary about her experiences with the legendary Fab Four. On Nov. 10 at 7 p.m., the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts will present a screening of Good Ol’ Freda with Kelly and filmmaker Kathy McCabe in ETSU’s Martha Street Culp Auditorium.

Following the screening, which is as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, Kelly and McCabe will engage the audience in a discussion about the film and their work. A reception will follow the Q&A. The screening and reception are free and open to the public.

In Good Ol’ Freda, Kelly tells her stories for the first time in 50 years. One of few documentaries with the support of the living Beatles and featuring original Beatles music, the film offers an insider perspective on the beloved band that changed the world of music.

“This is the first time we get to hear her perspective,” says Anita DeAngelis, director of Mary B. Martin School of the Arts. “She’s been interviewed before but she intentionally stayed in the background when she was their secretary. I’m a Beatles fan, grew up with The Beatles, so, to me, it’s an extraordinary story.”

Kelly has talked little about what she calls her “dream job,” because she says, “I don't want fame. That's not me.” Good Ol’ Freda Director Ryan White says that even Kelly’s daughter did not know most of the stories in the film. But now that Kelly – who was at one time dubbed “The
Most Coveted Girl in the World” – has a grandson, she says she wants him to know about her adventures with the famed rock group.

A secretary for the last 20 years for a slightly less exciting group, of solicitors, Kelly says, “I don’t know why they picked me. It was just fate. I was taken along on this 10-year exciting life … I was, am still am a Beatle fan.”

Now Kelly has her own fans. “Delightful doc gets as much mileage from its subject's cheer as from Beatles lore,” says John Defore of The Hollywood Reporter.

Other reviewers have called the film "fantastically entertaining ... a rollicking good time,” and "incredibly fun and charming."

Sprinkled with original Beatles music – a belated bonus to Kelly from her former employers – “This story of Freda Kelly’s will be one of the last true stories of the Beatles,” says Angie McCartney, Paul’s stepmother.

Filmmaker and producer McCabe is an award-winning photographer and Beatles expert with extensive experience in the music industry. She has worked as a publicist and manager, a music video and album producer and a recording studio manager, as well as serving publicist and marketer for Pelada. McCabe initiated and engineered the production of Good Ol’ Freda.

Follow @goodolfreda on Facebook and Twitter and visit http://goodolfreda.com for more on the film.

The film is visiting 18 sites across Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Kentucky and the Carolinas with the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers. Good Ol’ Freda was audience choice award for best film at the Cleveland International Film Festival and audience choice documentary at the Sidewalk Film Festival in 2013.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. South Arts, founded in 1975, is a nonprofit regional arts organization building on the South's unique heritage and enhancing the public value of the arts. Their work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective through an annual portfolio of activities designed to address the role of the arts in impacting the issues important to its region and linking the South with the nation and the world through the arts.

For information about the ETSU Mary B. Martin School of the Arts, call 423-439-TKTS (8587) or visit www.etsu.edu/martin. Please “Like” ETSU Mary B. Martin School of the Arts on Facebook and follow it on Twitter and Instagram @ArtsAtETSU.