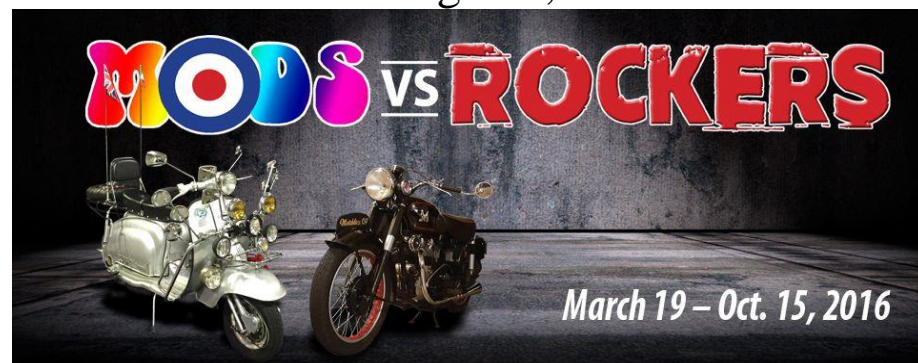


1969 BSA

A65L LIGHTNING

At the BSA factory in Birmingham, the 1969 Lightning was one of the highpoints of the larger BSA twin line, giving excellent acceleration and handling—just what a young Rocker, or any young man, likely wanted. The motorcycle “looked fast, standing still.” It promised speed and excitement, and—capable of over 110mph in stock form—delivered on that promise. The Lightning featured a beautifully-sculpted fiberglass fuel tank, paint, and chrome work, and remains aesthetically pleasing. It had plenty of power and room for two-up riding, though it did suffer from considerable vibration at higher engine speeds.

Its Manufacturer was B.S.A. Motorcycles, Ltd., Birmingham, UK



Museum Loan from: John Sterling Ruth – Bethlehem, PA

In the late 1960s, the British manufacturers found their position and very survival progressively threatened by the Japanese. Incrementally ceding market share, beginning with the smallest scooters and motorcycles, and then the middle-weights, the British engaged in what author Steve Koerner dubbed “segment retreat.” Giving up on designing and selling one class of motorcycle after another, the former world leaders in motorcycle sales finally found their factories on shrinking islands of their own making, producing primarily large, high-performance motorcycles for young male buyers . . . and little else.

DID YOU KNOW!

The BSA Lightning was designed as the all-round sports machine of the 1960s, planned largely for export to the US market.

Specs:

Engine: 654cc pushrod, OHV parallel-twin
Claimed power output: 52hp
Carburetion: (2) 30mm Amal concentric
Transmission: 4-speed, unit construction, chain primary-drive
Wheels/tires: 19” x 3.25 (front); 18” x 4.00 (rear),
Weight (dry): 395 lbs
Top speed: 112mph

This vehicle is unavailable for adoption.



