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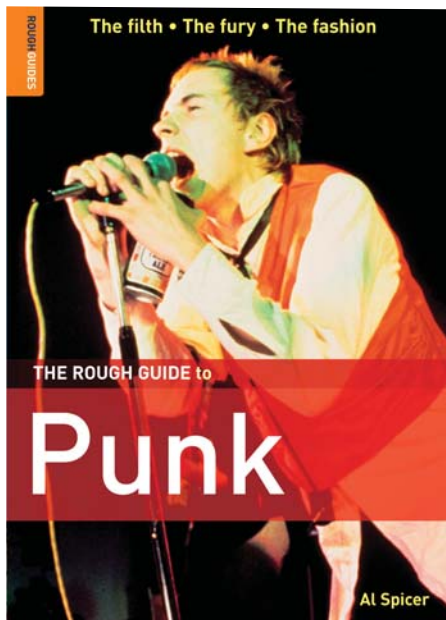
**Contact: Katy Ball: (212) 414.3712
katy.ball roughguides.com**



The Rough Guide to Punk

THE FILTH • THE FURY • THE FASHION

by Al Spicer



A trip down the plaid and mohawked St. Mark's St. in NYC or a quick listen to the radio, where fondness for bands like The Clash and Green Day only seems to grow with time, unequivocally shows that punk's far from dead. With the induction of The Sex Pistol's into the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame this March, and the band's pointed refusal to attend the ceremony, it's clear punk rock--and the vital spirit of defiance which spawned it--is still very much alive here in the US.

And what better way to immerse yourself in the bollock-busting bands, albums, history and hairstyles of this iconic music genre than in the pages of *The Rough Guide to Punk* (\$24.99, Sept. '06)?

Inveterate author Al Spicer has safely-pinned his heart to his sleeve with this exhaustively researched book that, thankfully, includes no appreciative gobbing (see pg. 30). It does, however, boast a comprehensive timeline of the punk movement that informally rings in its 30th anniversary this year, as well as "A Punk A to Z" chock full of band and album info and loads more.

"WE'RE AGAINST BUREACRACY, HYPOCRISY..AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT ENDS IN 'Y'" -JOHNNY ROTTEN

Highlights include:

- Extensive profiles and critical discographies for more than 250 bands and artists from Adam and the Ants to the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Zounds
- Coverage of every snarling sub-genre, from British louts to leering Krauts and classic American punks like The Ramones up through more modern acts like Green Day and Babyshambles
- Feature boxes on the Situationists and Dadaists, the word "punk" through the years, classic venues like CBGB's, fanzines, Hardcore Transatlantica, the straight-edge movement and much more
- Hundreds of photographs, including concert shots, album covers and much in the way of candid shots
- A wealth of playlists throughout

The Rough Guide to Punk / Al Spicer

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About the author: Having paid his punk-rock dues in the rough and tumble London borough of Lewisham as a bass player (X-Films, 78-80), **AL SPICER** was later the editor of the second edition of *The Rough Guide to Rock* while also managing the first incarnation of the Rough Guides' online music site. He has since worked as a freelance writer and editor, and lives with his partner Jane and their three cats in South London.

from **THE ROUGH GUIDE TO PUNK** (pg. 3):

What's in a word?

Dave Marsh may well get the credit for coining the term "punk rock" in 1971, but the word punk has been around for much longer than that. It first surfaced around 1600 when it meant a whore or prostitute, and was used by **Shakespeare** in his play *Measure for Measure* ("He may be a punk; for many of them are neither maid, widow, nor wife"). A second definition --perhaps related to the first--originated in the US around 1700 and meant a piece of **rotten wood** or fungus which, when dry, could be used as tinder. Different usages then started to proliferate like fungus, usually with the sense of something cheap or rubbishy. In **US prison slang** of the early twentieth century it was the name given to a passive male homosexual (with the verb "to punk" meaning to bugger), from here it came to mean a young hoodlum or petty criminal, cropping up in every other **Hollywood** crime movie from *The Public Enemy* (1931) to *Dirty Harry* (1971). And that's more or less how it remained until the first punk rocker pogoed into sight.

For more information, please contact **Katy Ball**

katy.ball@roughguides.com

212/414.3217

ROUGH GUIDES

345 Hudson St., 4th floor

New York, NY 10014