



## As Rough Guides turn 25, Punk turns 30

Punk is 30 years old. 1976 saw the release of the Ramones' debut album, the launch of Punk fanzine *Sniffin' Glue* and the signing to EMI of the Sex Pistols – who promptly delivered *Anarchy in the UK* and a gob in the face of the establishment that they never quite wiped away.

“Punk started off as a way of dealing with the straight, conventional, boring, mainstream world”, says Al Spicer, the author of *The Rough Guide to Punk*. “It combined music and fashion, new art, graphics, theatre, comedy, poetry and dance. Punk, as a lifestyle, was broad enough to welcome your out-and-out style terrorists at one extreme, who lived to shock through their clothing, and at the other the weekenders who just liked to ‘punk-up’ for nights out. And it included all the rest, from anarchist activists to stoners, drunks, junkies and speed freaks, rastas, feminists, bikers and even rockabilly rebels. To reinvent yourself, all you needed was the guts to stand up in front of a crowd and make your statement.”

“When punk happened, it was more exciting than anything I’d ever heard. I adored the way it embraced freedom and adopted a lip-curling dismissal of anything tainted with hippy-dippy peace’n’lovie-doviness. Like anyone else with an ounce of cool or a hint of rebellion, I had to be part of it.”

Over the last 25 years, Rough Guides have written travel guides to everywhere from Antigua to Zanzibar. *The Rough Guide to World Music* and *The Rough Guide to the Internet* have long been leaders in their fields. *Rough Guides to Rock, Jazz, Hip-Hop* and even *Heavy Metal* take pride of place on many music lovers’ bookshelves. Fine. Now, though, just when you thought it was safe to join your kids in a wry chuckle at your old bondage trousers, Rough Guides go and publish a definitive punk compendium. It’s time to shake out all those carefully pressed memories.

But it’s not just about nostalgia: punk lives on. As Al Spicer says: “Punk is something you take part in. Much as I hope people love this book, they should all get out to a club and experience it live at first hand. It may be small-scale these days, but it still manages to set termites at the foundations of society. Even more important than that, it’s sure to rock your backside right out of your underwear.”

### Who is the book for?

Old punk rockers in bondage trousers, of course, and their kids, and anyone with an interest in the music and culture that made today’s alt-lifestyles possible. It’s a book to dip into, a Rough Guide to browse through, an ideal gift.

## What's in the book? Everything.

**The Punk Rock Years:** The story of punk from prototype punks like the Stooges to Grunge, pop punk and the “End of History” – or, if you prefer, to Pete Doherty and Babyshambles. The full story of the filth, the fury and the fashion.

**Punk Pictures:** Numerous evocative rare and unusual black and white pictures with emphasis on some of the lesser known performers.

**The Good, the Banned and the Ugly:** Artist profiles, from A Certain Ratio to Zounds, via 160 others, including The Stranglers, The Dead Kennedys, Crass, Ian Dury, Talking Heads and The Clash. The Clash were famously described by Charles Shaar Murray as “the sort of garage band that should be speedily returned to the garage, preferably with the motor still running”.

**Punk Playlists:** Cut the crap, the best tracks from the best bands.

**Celebrity Punk Playlists:** My punk, by figures including Billy Bragg, Glen Matlock, Paul Weller, Moby, Bob Geldof, Steve Jones, The Prodigy's Liam Howlett and The Von Bondie's Jason Stollsteimer.

**Singled Out:** Iconic singles that smashed their way into lives and living rooms: New Rose, Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll, Teenage Depression, Safety Pin Stuck in My Heart, Blank Generation, Public Image, One Chord Wonders, Blitzkrieg Bop, Psycho Killer and Oh Bondage! Up Yours!

**Punkology:** Overdose on recommended punk books, films and websites, and track down the real deal.

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### NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Rough Guide to Punk is the 10<sup>th</sup> large-format guide to a musical genre from Rough Guides. Already published: Classical Music, Heavy Metal, Hip-Hop, Jazz, Opera, Reggae, Rock, Soul & R&B and World Music. Forthcoming: Blues. Rough Guides published the Rough Guide to Greece in 1982 and now publishes 300 travel titles and 60 reference books on subjects ranging from Bob Dylan to Climate Change and from iPods to MySpace.

### The Rough Guide to Punk

Author: Al Spicer

Price: £15.99

Format: Large, 234mm x 169mm, fully illustrated.

ISBN: 1-84353-473-8

### Al Spicer

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

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Rough Guides Ltd • 80 Strand • London • WC2R 0RL  
Rough Guides Press 020 7010 3701 [press@roughguides.com](mailto:press@roughguides.com) [www.roughguides.com](http://www.roughguides.com)

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THE ROUGH GUIDE to

# Punk

Al Spicer

