

SELECT

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE MONTH AHEAD

SERVER

The Clash

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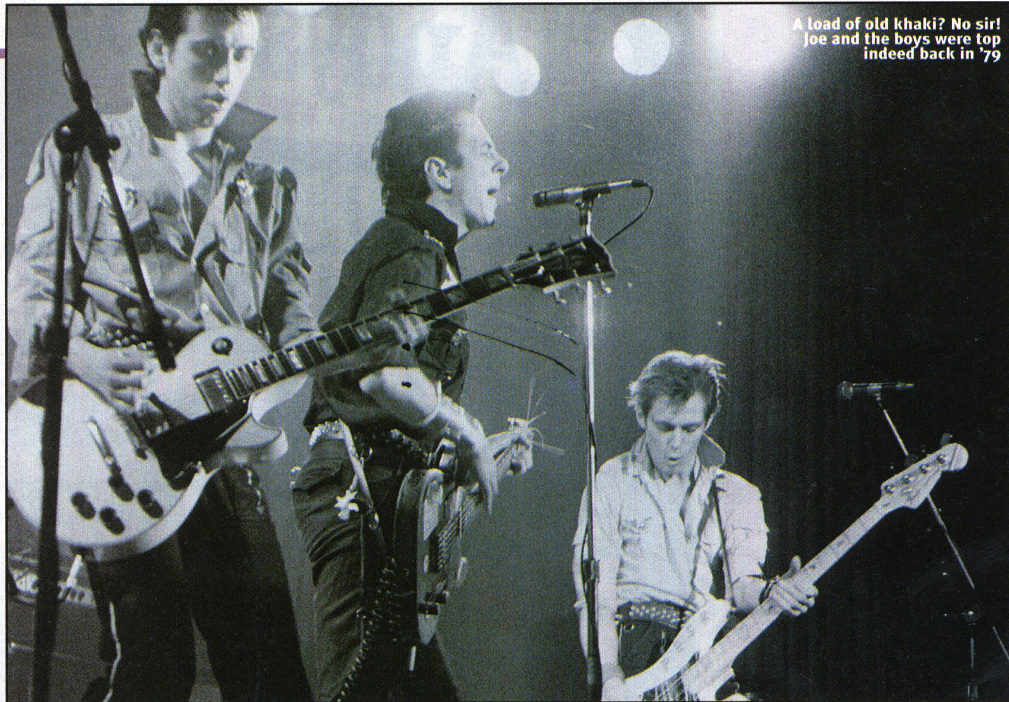
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A load of old khaki? No sir! Joe and the boys were top indeed back in '79



"NOTHING REALLY HAPPENS BEFORE LUNCH"

Gentleman Joe Strummer on tumbleweeds, Tony Blair and life after The Clash

Are you proud of the live album?

"I don't want to get accused of not taking the live album seriously, but I've been a bit scared of live albums. When you're dealing with a riot going on in front of you, the last thing on your mind is singing in tune, and the last thing you need is someone recording every last utterance. But now they've unearthed these tapes and they sound pretty damn good to me."

What do you think were The Clash's greatest achievements?

"Hmmm... I'm not really fond of looking back. I like to look forward... Hey, look, it is 11 in the morning! I'm a great believer that nothing really happens before lunch... [Two minutes' silence, as Strummer can be heard in background conferring with his wife, until finally...] I mean, fucking hell, this is like tumbleweeds blowing through the desert! I guess we never lost our sense of humour, except maybe at the very, very end. So many people, when they get a bit of success, they over-dignify themselves. The Clash never really did that."

You appear to have enjoyed Glastonbury in recent years...

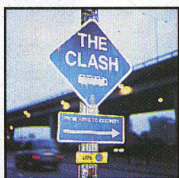
"The main thing about going to a festival is getting down with people. You never know who's going to walk up. You should always be prepared to greet them."

What's the story behind the track on your new album, 'Techno D-Day'?

"That came from when we went to the Megadog festival in Cornwall in '98. I was spinning records on the beach, but we had to turn the rig down while the local councillors were getting readings on their noise-o-meters. I mean, here we were on a beach under a bloody cliff. There was no more perfect site to turn the sound up a bit. There was no way you were blowing out the nearest golf course... Anyway, I was watching whole armies of these pillocks crawl around, and it just made me think that we're really under the hammer here. I think Blair's whole Cliff Richard style of leadership shows he's on another planet. Either that or he's completely insane. Neither option is very attractive." AP

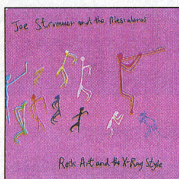
THE CLASH
From Here To Eternity

COLUMBIA
OUT 4 OCT



JOE STRUMMER AND THE MESCALEROS
Rock Art And The X-Ray Style

CASBAH/MERCURY
OUT 18 OCT



● Vintage Clash performances selected and sequenced by guitarist/vocalist Mick Jones and bassist Paul Simonon. And not forgetting the inspirational Joe Strummer's first solo LP in nine years.

The Clash were the punk band who never went on *Top Of The Pops*, never sold out and even, despite million-dollar offers, never reformed. The Manics in their early days, lest we forget, were a Clash facsimile with a bigger library.

'From Here To Eternity' is a big moment. The listener is left in no doubt how ace it must've been to see The Clash, when they would blast out punk's best tunes and then venture into electro-dub like 'Armageddon Time'.

Clash gigs were often perilously overfilled. Listen to bootlegs and it's chaos throughout. Here, however, it's like Texas at Wembley Arena. If a live album had been released in '82, it may have sounded very different.

Joe Strummer has actually had little to do with this live document. Now 47, Joe remains a heroic figure despite a solo career that takes in a stint as stand-in for Shane MacGowan in The Pogues, plus appearances with Fat Les.

These days, he gets his hands dirty with Bez and pals at Glastonbury, which is where he met co-songwriter Anthony Genn - the man who streaked onstage with Elastica at Glastonbury '95. But 'Rock Art...' is no relic thanks to contributions from The Grid's Richard Norris, demonstrated by the programmed drumming and even a splash of techno.

Occasionally a bit pedestrian, but full of soulful vibing, 'Rock Art...' is better than it has any right to be. It also has some pretty tasty maraca stylings. Could the Bez-Strummer alliance have now made it onto record?

ANDREW PERRY

All bands say they're dangerous. Very few, though, have caused a full-blown riot, with armoured cars rolling through the streets, just because they'd had one of their gigs pulled by the council.

This happened to The Clash in Belfast in October 1977.



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MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

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