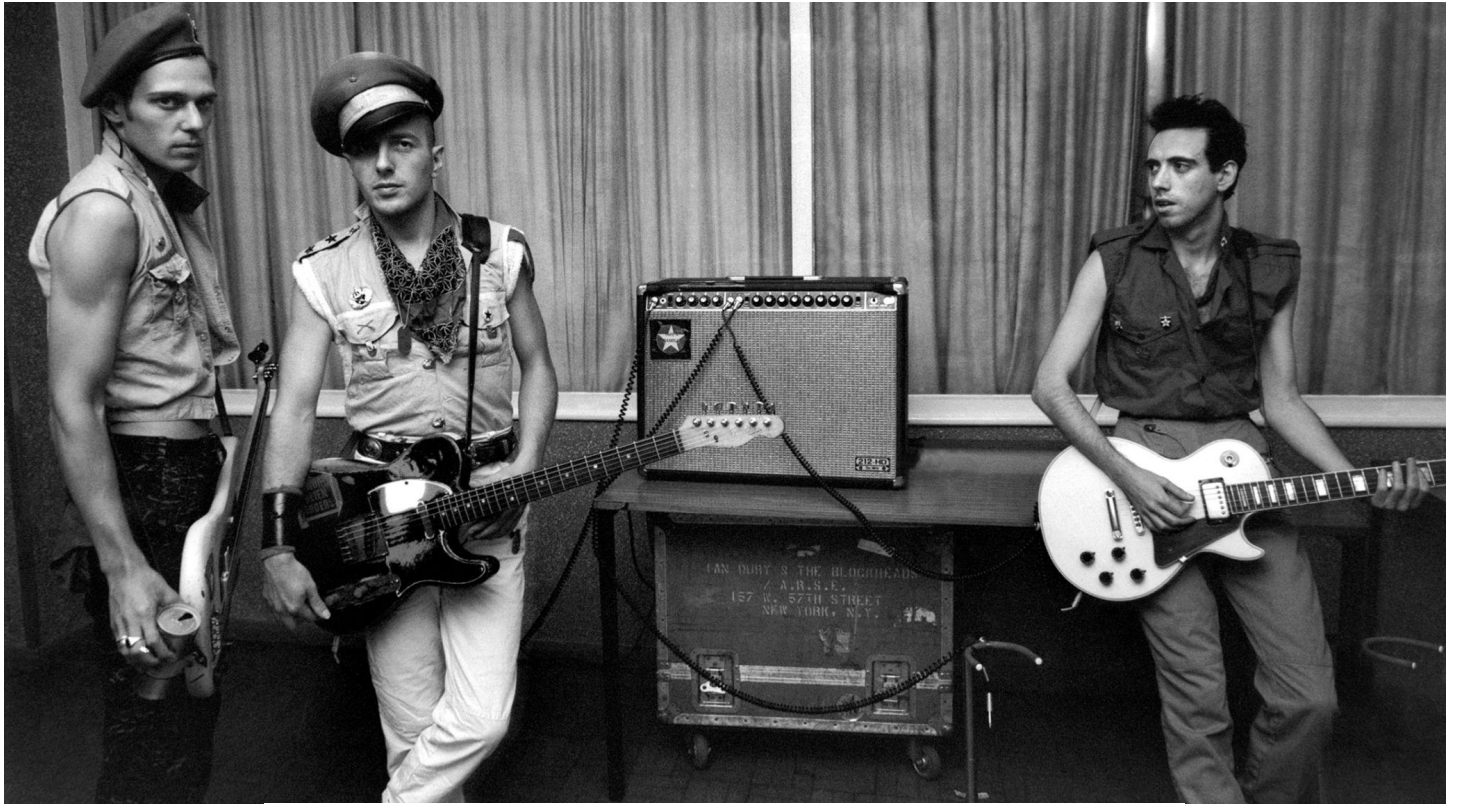


Adrian Boot Blog



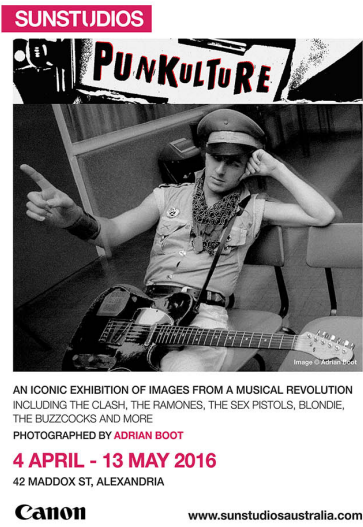
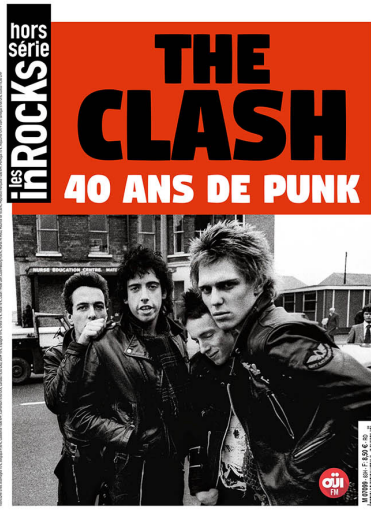
BLOG

THE CLASH STORY

APRIL 3, 2017 | ADRIAN | 22 COMMENTS

The Clash exhibition opened just before Xmas and ended early in the new year 2011. It was an exhibition based around 3 important 1977 photo sessions with some live and backstage bits and pieces added to the mix. The Clash Story had a theme favored by The Proud Gallery was "London Calling" the Clash in London. Not strictly true, since one of the 3 important photo sessions was The Clash in Belfast. The other two main sections were The Clash at the Camden Rehearsal Studios and The Clash under London's A40 Westway. Maybe it should have been called "UK Calling. The Proud Gallery in Camden is located at more or less the same location as the original Clash rehearsal studios. Aptly named "Rehearsal Rehearsals" it was also my first encounter with The Clash.

This is a link to our THE CLASH photography archive [HERE](#).



The Camden Sessions

The Clash Story begins for me up on London's Chalk Farm road and inside today's bustling trendy Camden Lock market, the old stables can still be seen tastefully integrated into the Proud Gallery's club and bar. Back in early 1977, it was all very different. Then it was a disused and dilapidated two-story end terrace railway storage shed that housed the infamous Rehearsal Rehearsals studio. Now it is completely integrated into a continuously redeveloping market complete with tourists. What remained of the original market was burnt to the ground during the 2008 Camden Market fire. A fire that also destroyed the famous Hawley Arms a favorite haunt and inspiration to the late Amy Winehouse.



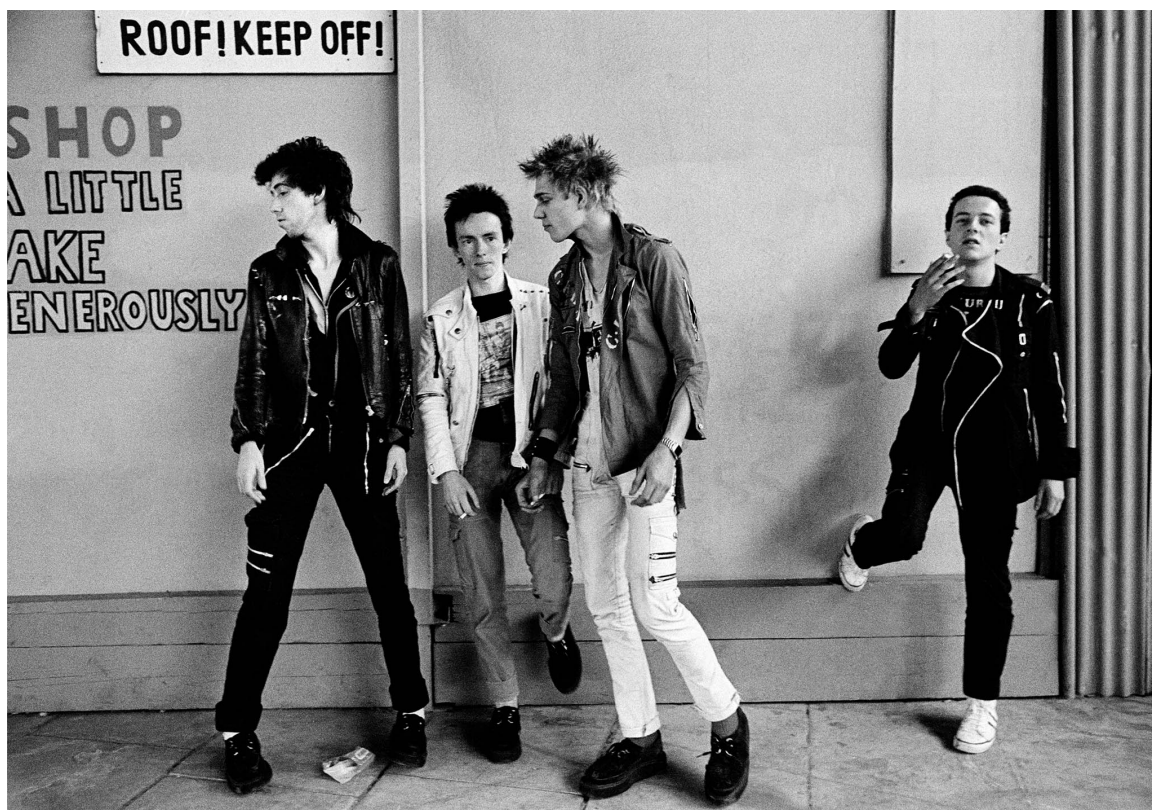
The Clash at Rehearsal Rehearsals Camden London 1977

On a cold grey 1977 punky London afternoon I arrived at Rehearsal Rehearsals, an urban squat littered with old barbers chairs, collapsed sofas, empty beer cans and food containers, bits of wire everywhere, piles of rubbish, a jukebox and Paul Simonon tearing from room to room firing his bb gun at anything or anyone that moved. It was in this hazardous environment, inside this urban war zone, I found myself with instructions to take some photographs of The Clash. It was the first time I had met the band. Described to me by the press officer at the CBS Soho square headquarters, as a "Punk" band and as such difficult and unpredictable. Apparently, I had been asked because of my Jamaica track record and possibly because of my generally disheveled and scruffy appearance. Perhaps they thought I would blend in more. At the time I didn't quite understand why Jamaica was relevant. This bunch of council-estate art-student angry white boys. What connection could they possibly have with tropical sunny colourful Jamaica, with their aggressive raw power punk rock, their urban anarchy and drab black combat gear.

But of course, as I was later to discover, the Clash and Jamaican Music had always been deeply intertwined. So .. the photo session went ahead, bullets flying, with none of the band prepared to sit in any one place for more than a few seconds, charging around, revolution for the hell of it, more anarchy. It was like I was holed up in this bombed-out building with a lightly armed bunch of musicians waiting for world war three to start on the streets of London. It was all over in 30 minutes, and i was safely out of this surreal war zone. Maybe London's Burning didn't happen then, but it certainly did decades later. Early in 2011 not long after the Clash exhibition at the Proud Gallery had closed, fires and riots unfolded all over London. Anarchy was back in fashion. I guess not much has changed. The band's message seems as valid now as it was then, just with a new more savvy generation of young, disenfranchised, jobless, ripped off, betrayed young people.

The Westway Sessions

If you keep walking all the way down London's Portobello road, way past the tourists, the bric-a-brac stalls and antique shops and you will eventually find yourself under the A40 Westway. These days most of the arches under this motorway fly-over form part of a West London urban cultural complex, with an impressive collection of cool restaurants, trendy clubs, art galleries, and boutiques. Once a year the shops and restaurants are boarded up, roads are blocked off and the area reverts to a former urban self as the focal point of the infamous Notting Hill Carnival. During this august bank holiday carnival, the real heat of the event will be found under and around these motorway arches. It is here you can find the coolest sound systems, the best jerk chicken stalls, and as always, it's the place where trouble starts.



The Clash – London Westway Photosessions – 1977

Towards the end of 1977 the Westway boasted none of its present-day urban beautifications. Instead it was just another post war depressed, undeveloped, graffiti-covered wasteland with a grey 60's concrete elevated urban freeway overshadowing the neighborhood. The previous year the area was host to the infamous 1976 Notting Hill Carnival riots. Tempers had reached boiling point among young black men over police use of the "sus" law, under which anybody could be stopped, searched and held. A refined version of the law still angers locals today in 2012. Windows were smashed, fires were lit and ill-equipped police officers picked up dustbin lids and milk crates to charge the rioters. More than 100 officers and 60 other people were taken to hospital. A year later the post riot debris was still in evidence. This was surely the ideal inner city location for the continuation of the Clash story and photo-session. Most of the band only had to take a short stroll from home to the location. It was a bright sunny day and everyone was in a great mood the band were own home turf. After one hour we had finished, with no makeup, no stylists or art directors or press officers to delay things. Simple and fast, organic and relaxed, the best way to take photographs.

Clash in Belfast

October 1977 The Clash "Get Out Of Control" tour was supposed to start in Belfast and I was sent along by CBS to cover the opening night and to grab some off stage shots of the band in Belfast. The gig at Belfasts Ulster Hall was cancelled at the last minute, before even a sound check could take place. Officially it was because of insurance problems. However rumours were circulating suggesting that

Joe Strummer had received a death threat. Either way the cancellation resulted in heavy handed police enforcement which left the disappointed fans and the band angry, sad, confused and helpless.



The Clash in Belfast - 1977

So instead of a sound check I was to do a photo-session with the clash, a simple walk about, black and white, location photo-session. Here we are, so lets make the most of it. The day was a typical overcast grey autumn day, with a slow drizzle in the air. Stepping out of the fortified Europa hotel, then the most bombed hotel in Europe, with the band and friend artist and activist Caroline Coon. We climbed into a car, a taxi, with the intention of finding a suitable urban landscape for the photo-session. Over breakfast that morning I was strongly advised that it might be dangerous to take the band out into the city for what I described would be a wander. Belfast was in the midst of the troubles and anything could happen, it was dangerous so go somewhere safe, the High Street or the Park or perhaps the hotel lobby would do.

I was young then and infinitely more cavalier than I am today. So when someone in the group asked where the falls road was and why can't we go and look, nobody in the car so much as blinked. The driver oblivious to the value of his passengers, treating us like any other fare did a U-turn and headed off towards the Falls road. The exact opposite to the advice I was given, and I didn't try to insist otherwise. In mitigation, at the time I only had a vague idea of the importance of the Falls Road as a location for "The Troubles" rather than a Clash photo session.



The Clash in Belfast - 1977

Anyway, the photo session proceeded without any hint of trouble, no bad vibes, nothing. The locals we met were friendly, even the British Army lads on duty at every street corner were friendly. We wandered around climbed back into the car, found another war zone location, and another and then returned to the Europa our scalps intact. The following week the images graced the covers of all three weekly music papers, The N.M.E. The Melody Maker and Sounds. CBS was thrilled, they even forgave me for putting one of their top acts at risk.

You can find these events and photo session mentioned in my Biography and Timeline. For more on the Clash story go to www.urbanimage.tv or click on one of the links below.

[Clash in Belfast](#) : [Clash Live](#) : [Clash Backstage](#): [The Westway sessions](#) : [The Camden sessions](#)

◀ CLASH ◀ FEATURED ◀ LONDON ◀ MUSIC ◀ PUNK ◀ ROCK ◀ THE CLASH ◀ UK

22 THOUGHTS ON “THE CLASH STORY”



Mistie Doil

MAY 14, 2017 AT 1:08 PM

Saved as a favorite, I like your site!

**Michaele Androes**

MAY 14, 2017 AT 1:10 PM

Excellent site you have here.. It's hard to find quality writing like yours nowadays. I honestly appreciate individuals like you! Take care!!

**Ollie Fantozzi**

MAY 17, 2017 AT 7:18 AM

Hey There. I found your blog using msn. This is an extremely well written article. I'll make sure to bookmark it and come back to read more of your useful info. Thanks for the post. I will definitely return.

**Mitsuko Tolley**

MAY 17, 2017 AT 7:18 AM

Hmm it seems like your website ate my first comment (it was extremely long) so I guess I'll just sum it up what I submitted and say, I'm thoroughly enjoying your blog. I too am an aspiring blog writer but I'm still new to the whole thing. Do you have any points for novice blog writers? I'd certainly appreciate it.

**Lacy Satre**

MAY 17, 2017 AT 7:33 AM

If you wish for to grow your knowledge simply keep visiting this site and be updated with the newest information posted here.

**Travis Schepcke**

MAY 19, 2017 AT 12:37 AM

Hi to every one, because I am genuinely keen of reading this website's post to be updated on a regular basis. It includes fastidious stuff.

**Linwood Cifaldi**

MAY 19, 2017 AT 12:39 AM

Hi! I could have sworn I've been to this blog before but after going through a few of the posts I realized it's new to me. Anyways, I'm certainly pleased I stumbled upon it and I'll be bookmarking it and checking back often!

**Olin Heartsill**

MAY 19, 2017 AT 12:54 AM

This paragraph gives clear idea in support of the new visitors of blogging, that truly how to do blogging. |



Ardis Madan

MAY 21, 2017 AT 12:25 AM

Do you mind if I quote a couple of your articles as long as I provide credit and sources back to your blog? My blog is in the exact same niche as yours and my users would certainly benefit from a lot of the information you provide here. Please let me know if this ok with you. Cheers! |



★ adrian

MAY 23, 2017 AT 3:30 PM

OK..



Ursula Clagg

MAY 21, 2017 AT 12:27 AM

I know this web site offers quality based content and extra material, is there any other website which offers these kinds of data in quality? |



Vern Deptula

MAY 21, 2017 AT 12:27 AM

I was wondering if you ever thought of changing the layout of your blog? Its very well written; I love what youve got to say. But maybe you could a little more in the way of content so people could connect with it better. Youve got an awful lot of text for only having 1 or two images. Maybe you could space it out better? |



★ adrian

MAY 23, 2017 AT 3:30 PM

you can view more images here

http://www.urbanimage.tv/portfolio/C0000hlvSO_OrRBQ/G0000RVT2SC0wVjo



Zack Seamans

MAY 21, 2017 AT 12:42 AM

I am actually glad to glance at this blog posts which carries plenty of useful data, thanks for providing such information. |



adu banteng

MAY 25, 2017 AT 3:21 AM

I think this is among the most important info for me. And i am glad reading your article. But wanna remark on few general things, The web site style is great, the articles is really excellent : D. Good job, cheers



★ **adrian**

MAY 25, 2017 AT 12:19 PM

thankyou



Adu Ayam

JUNE 11, 2017 AT 3:32 AM

Your style is very unique in comparison to other people I've read stuff from. I appreciate you for posting when you have the opportunity, Guess I'll just bookmark this web site.



Sabung Ayam

JUNE 11, 2017 AT 7:40 AM

Hello there! This blog post couldn't be written any better! Looking at this post reminds me of my previous roommate! He continually kept talking about this. I'll send this post to him. Fairly certain he's going to have a good read. I appreciate you for sharing!



sabung ayam online

JUNE 21, 2017 AT 8:33 PM

I needed to thank you for this good read!! I definitely enjoyed every little bit of it. I have you bookmarked to check out new things you post...



sabung ayam online

JUNE 24, 2017 AT 11:52 PM

It's nearly impossible to find knowledgeable people for this topic, however, you sound like you know what you're talking about! Thanks



sabung ayam

JUNE 25, 2017 AT 4:15 AM

Good day! I could have sworn I've visited this web site before but after looking at a few of the articles I realized it's new to me. Regardless, I'm definitely delighted I discovered it and I'll be bookmarking it and checking back often!



judi sabung ayam

JUNE 25, 2017 AT 10:35 AM

I love reading through an article that will make people think. Also, thanks for permitting me to comment!

COMMENTS ARE CLOSED.