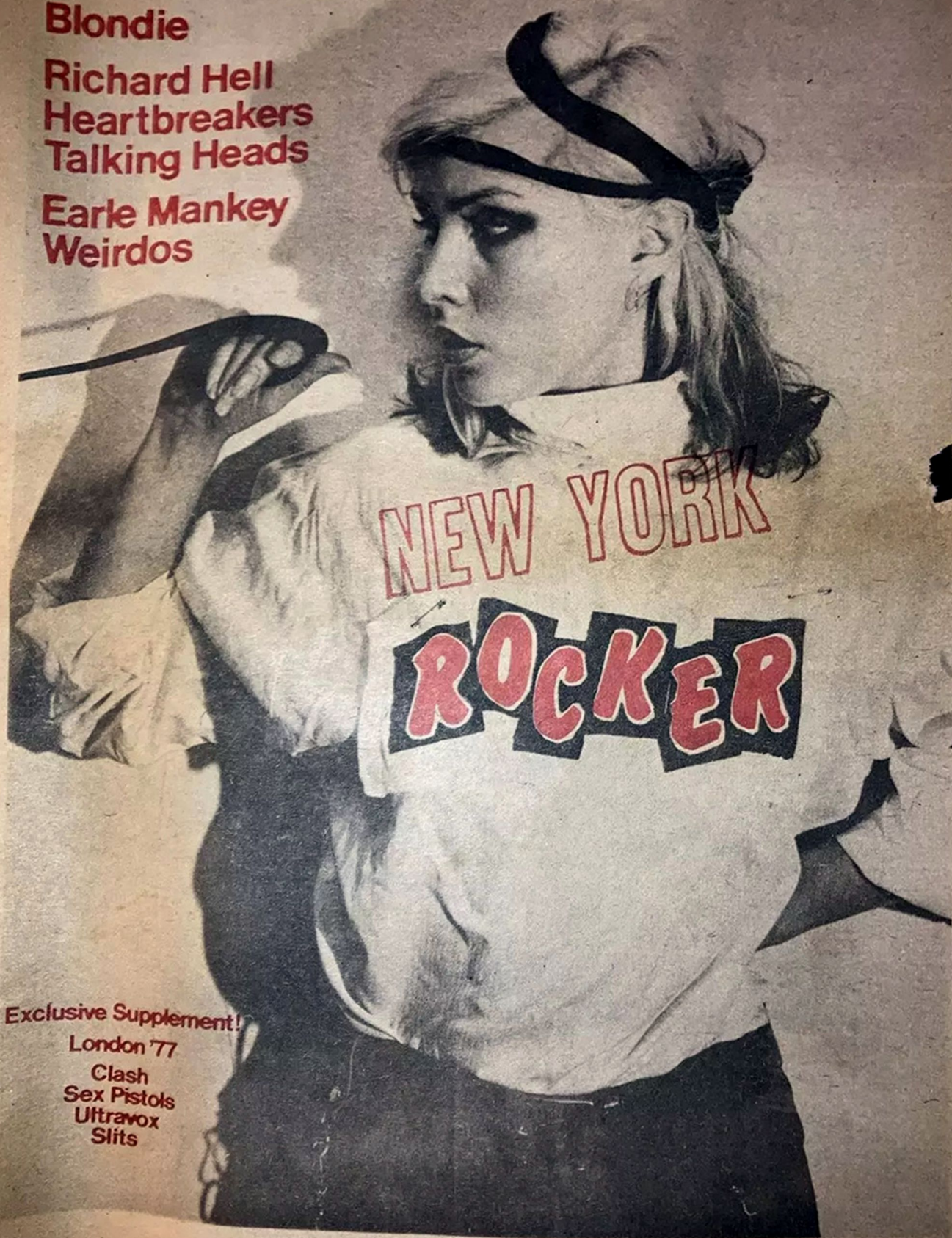


\$125/75p.UK

Blondie

**Richard Hell
Heartbreakers
Talking Heads**

**Earle Mankey
Weirdos**



Exclusive Supplement!

London '77

**Clash
Sex Pistols
Ultravox
Slits**

The Clash discuss being banned, violence with the Teds, their LP, America, roots and the future. The interview took place on a stretch of Kings Rd. between the Roundhouse & Dingwalls.

Paul: You don't know what to believe. One of the Teds just killed a punk.
Other guy: I just got killed the other day too. (laughter)
Paul: It's fuckin' horrible!
What's Your Name?
Drummer: Nickie Headon but they call me "Topper."

How long have you been with the Clash?
NT: About three months.
Are you better than Rat Scabies?
NT: Fuck, alot better!
Are you in permanently now?
NT: Yeah.
What happened to your last drummer?
Paul: We got rid of him.
Why?

Paul: I don't know. We've had so many drummers it's hard to keep track. But like the first one we had was Terry Chimes, but...
Bernard Rhodes: Not actually the first drummer we ever had was Rat Scabies. We found him.
Paul: Alright. That's before. I wasn't in the group then... but we got rid of one drummer, then we had another drummer. I don't know. We've had so many drummers because their views weren't the same as ours. Ya know?
B.R.: We found Rat and caught him with his pants down... and we told him about our group. He like auditioned for us as a drummer. He was terrible. We started off with him and since then we've had how many?
Paul: About 200 (smiling). Now we have the last of the line. We had auditioned 77 since Christmas.

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Yes they do take pictures with their drummer!

You wrote a song called "I'm Bored With The U.S.A." What provoked that?
Paul: We ain't got nothing against you. It's just that in this country all we have on the telly is Kojak and American TV all the time. Cops all the time. I can't really answer that because I didn't write the song. Mick wrote it.
(Joe and Mick are not yet present in the office.)
I wanted to ask Joe a few questions on the 101'ers.
Paul: Oh God, don't!
Why not?
Paul: Oh, they weren't really a group. In the way that he was completely different from the other members. The other members were all really good musicians, where he wasn't as good as them so it was always like he felt a bit out of it somehow. The whole attitude of the group wasn't how a group should be; so when he met us—me and Mick—it went right. He saw us and actually thought to himself that we're the type of blokes that actually looked as if we'd like to be in a group with.

Who else was in the 101'ers?
Paul: Nobody I know. Only Joe. Joe was the only one that actually stood out. The single is alright. Anyhow that's all Joe's part. Things are different now. We don't sing anything like that.
(To the drummer) You weren't on the LP?
NT: No.
How about the single?
Paul:—21

NT: I was on the B-side, "London's Burning." It which was a live version not used on the album. It was recorded at Dunstable which is about 30 miles outside of London.
Is it really hard for you to get jobs playing?
Paul: It's quite difficult. Yeah.
Who's been banning you?
Paul: What?
For playing in Birmingham. Or are you in general banned all over?
Paul: More or less, yeah. We can if we want to play abroad, but in this country yeah.
Do you want to play in the states?
—yes
Do you want to see anything in particular?
Paul: Yes, some friends. They live in New York.
Do you like any of the American bands that have originated from C.B.G.B.'s?
Paul: Yeah, The Ramones, Patti Smith Band.

NT: Talking Heads.
Paul: Yeah, Talking Heads. Yeah they were quite good... well not all of them. Actually only two, that's about it.
Did you see Blondie when they came?
Paul: I didn't see Blondie. They really didn't inspire me to go see them. Also, like the image she puts across is very typical of what men expect women to look alike. Just the idea she's sort of like... I mean I don't like Television. I haven't seen them but I heard some of their album and it doesn't excite me. It sort of seemed like jazz music or something. I don't like jazz music; is sort of like too self indulgent.

What about English groups?
Paul: Subway Sect. Sex Pistols and a girl group called the Slits. Subway Sect have a really good song called "Nobody's Scared." It's a very abstract song, very strong.
Can you play on Top Of The Pops now?

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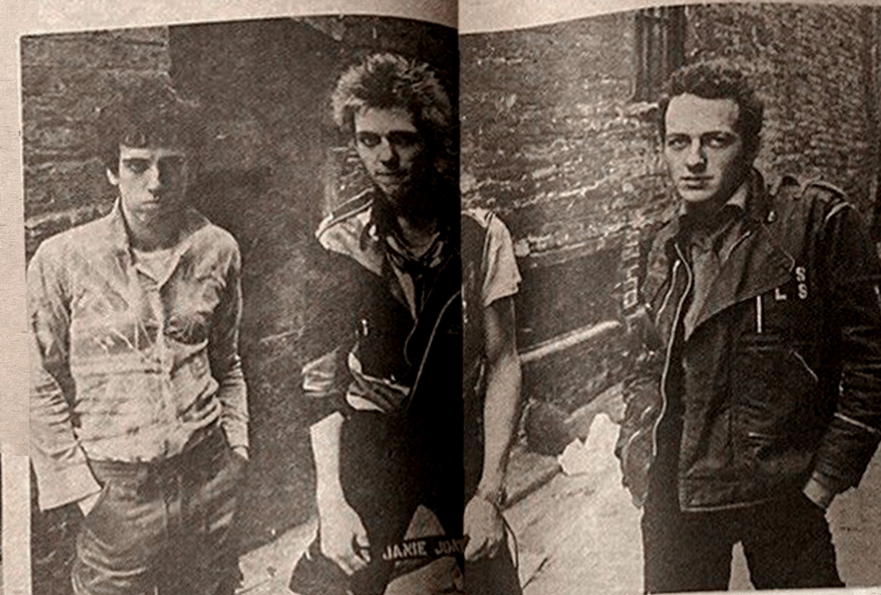


What's your typical day like now since the band was formed?

Paul: We come into the studio and rehearse.
Do any of you live with your parents?
Paul: Mick lives with his granny. I live with friends.
Does your grandmother read the dailies and get outraged?
Mick: I'm too much in transit, now. We just work. Just sort of fool around with what we gotta do. We write songs, Joe and me. We rehearse, practice. It's quite alot. Sometimes design clothes. Like the ones we're wearing. I mostly just do my own.
Do you ever go to Seditionaries?
Mick: I only went there when it was Sex. I haven't been there recently.
Is the clothing gonna ruin everything by creating senseless fads?
Mick: Well it's like a fashion, just a fashion sort of thing. It's an attitude that's all. It's really neat.
How about this stuff with the Teds. Have the papers sort of liked...
Paul: They caused it all
—They started it.
Paul: It's dangerous when you walk down the road. I'm a person who's always looking to see what's coming up behind my back. They're even people who are 30 or 40. Just ordinary blokes on the street who aren't even Teds. It's like when we were playing at RCA, the art college and there're like loads of kids who have come to see us and really enjoy it. And there're some blokes who are 35 and they're throwing bottles and like the whole stage was littered with bottles. They're really at it because there were all these young kids on stage playing music.

What do you think you're doing in 5 years?
—I dunno.
—we'll be dead, battered by Teds!!!
You're really battered by Teds!
Paul: Well nobody likes getting their heads kicked in.
Mick: It's hard to deal with it.
Paul: You just got to be careful where you go. I mean if you go down to the Adam and Eve pub, you're in for trouble. 'Cause it's a Ted hangout. You just get to know where not to hang out. Ya know? That's one place where I can think of that's a Ted hangout.
Has it ever been different.
Paul: Yeah once before I one... Long time before. Teds now 'cause I don't see friends now. I lost all me

The Clash



The Clash (L-R): Mick Jones, Paul Simonon, Joe Strummer.

Mick:—22 (Mick enters)
You're the old man in the group?
Mick: No, Joe's older... he's 50. (Note: Joe is 23)
What do you think of the Roxy LP?
Mick: It's horrible. We don't like any of the groups, except for the Buzzcocks.
Paul: Yeah, the Buzzcocks are good.
NT: The Unwanted.

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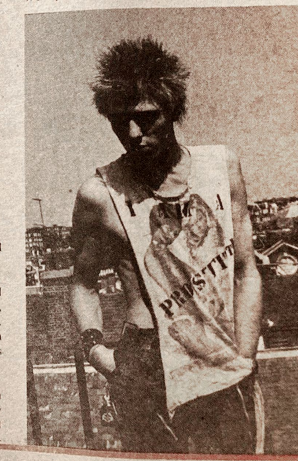
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(To himself, Paul sings a line from "5 Star Rock and Roll")
You don't like that song?
Paul: It just makes me laugh because Joe sings it. He doesn't want to talk about it?
Mick: No. Don't bother. It's all in the past. I mean it's a completely different form of group.
Mick: Have you heard the LP yet?
No, just the singles. It wasn't out in America before I left.
Mick: Buy it here and bring it back to all your friends.
Have you seen any money from the album?
Paul: Not for the last five weeks. We ain't seen our wages because there ain't no money left.
Were you getting alot?

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Paul: Enough to live on.
Enough to change you alot?
Paul: Oh, you could say yeah to a certain extent. But I mean like there are better things to do.
Mick: One or two things.
Paul: Yeah like I bought a motorbike.
Mick: And I bought a stereo.
Paul: And Joe bought a pub (laughter) That's just a joke.
Paul: (mumbles) A motor car factory, a tuba and a swimming pool in France.

NT: You should have come to the party last night. It was really awful. Me and Robbie played table tennis till 7 o'clock in the morning.
Do you do any non-originals?
Mick: Yeah, "Police and Thieves". A Junior Marvin song. Clash defined!!! "Pressure Drop".
—"Jumpin' Jack Flash" (laughter)
You're going to Birmingham?
Paul: Yes, tonight. Yeah, we're going up there to show the kids that we're ready to play, but because of your local authorities they stopped us. We can't play, so we wanna show the kids that we actually did show upto play.
Why did they stop you?
Paul: They don't like us, they think we're depraved.

Mick: This was gonna be a real big event with thousands of people.
Do they let the Jam play?
Paul: I don't really wanna answer that question. I don't like Jam. It's their whole sort of attitude in what they do. "We vote conservative". They came up with those jackets just like the Who used to wear. Wearing the suits, the three piece suits just like the Who.
Mick: They're just a bunch of reactionary puppets. Do you guys take drugs?
Paul: Ganja.
Mick: It's good for you, it got rid of me cold. We

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Paul: Ganja.

What about getting work?
Paul: Well, we got the band, so we've got work.
What were you doing before?
Mick: Starving!!!
What kind of family do you come from?
Mick: Just a family, ya know.
What's your father do?
Mick: He's a teacher, but I ain't seen him in years.
What did you do? Did you run away?
Mick: I just sort of finished school and started flying.

Happy with your album?
Mick: Yes. A bit bored with it actually. Bit bored now.
Too familiar with the songs?
Mick: Yes—you know it's like to do with the past. There are new things to be done now.
Do you mean another LP?
—We already have the best LP of 1977!!!
Do you have songs already? What are they called?
Mick: Joe'll tell you.
—No, tell him.
—We'll write and tell you (laughter).
Why can't you tell me?
Paul: You asking me? I can't tell you and I'm not the one who writes them. You'll have to ask one of them to let the secret out.
—They are there.
Mick: We still have to fight over the titles. We ain't had to fight over the titles yet so it ain't quite concluded yet. There's about 10 titles for each number.
Do you have any favorites on the first LP?
—Really all of them.

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Joe walks in. He looks noticeably older than the rest of the band.



Joe: Who are they?

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Not even British favorites?

Mick: Well, there was a few I liked. Alex Harvey. I quite enjoyed that a bit, but I couldn't really see anything else. It was like the night I saw the Sex Pistols. They really got me because they really worked it over.

—I liked some of Slade's songs.

Have you heard "Shenna Is A Punk Rocker"?

—I quite enjoy it.

—It's like the Beachboys.

Do you dislike the Beachboys, because I was reading this British fanzine that said they didn't like "Sheena" because it was just as unrelatable as the Beachboys? Is surfing just a totally unrelatable subject?

Paul: Oh you can. When the Beachboys play London lots of people turn up. Like some of my old roommates in Art College in Wales really dig the Beachboys.

* * *

Are you all from London?

—Yes.

Like the Buzzcocks who come from Manchester, did they have to come to London?

—I don't know. They started off playing a few dates in Manchester then they came here. They call it the "Smoke".

Fog?

Paul: That's what they call this city. They say we're

coming to the smoke. It's kind of a big deal for them.

Mick: So we don't have fog any more.

Paul: No, THEY don't want it any more. We sold it to the Americans.

—How have they done away with this? It's a pity I used to remember it...

Girl: I've never seen fog here, really.

—They stopped it, right?

—They banned it here. THEY BANNED IT!!! They used to have this small fog, with small scrolls (???) it would get dark in the afternoons. WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL IT USED TO GET DARK IN THE AFTERNOONS WITH SMOG, but now they have no-smokeins. Now they don't actually have smog. They've effectively done away with the weather.

Paul: They've banned the sunshine already.

(Girl starts talking to this other guy about the blackout in New York. Mick overhears and comments on the looting.)

Mick: It's the best thing that's happened to New York in ages. Often it gets really good because like it started like that last year when you had the riot at Nottingham Gate. Because in like some of the streets, you'd have a whole street taken over by these black kids and they'd just be smashing up these shops and there'd be people running up these different roads with food and stuff like that. Because the area is so run down and there's no sort of opportunity or anything like that for anybody...

they took everything they could get.

Was "White Riot" influenced by this?

Mick: Yes, because me and Joe were there and Joe wrote the song with the help of me.

Do you like reggae?

Mick: Like it very much. We like Fred Lox, Biggie Ouf, The Gladiators, there's quite a few.

Do any of you ever think you could turn to playing discos as a last resort for making money?

Paul: No. I'd never do it. I only wanna do things I enjoy.

That's not always possible.

—But basically you try and do what you enjoy. That's like when I worked in a factory. I used to work in a factory. I used to take days off just to do some drawings or something.

—Well, disco is like a factory.

What do you think will be the future of the new wave?

—Well, we'll be around, unless we have arguments and split up. I MEAN LIKE WE AIN'T GONNA GO AWAY. WE'RE GONNA STILL PLAY IF THEY LET US!!!

Have you seen the New York Rocker before?

NT: Yes, it's really quite good. Everything is interesting.

Mick: What's the Weirdos like?

I've never heard them, all I know is that they're from L.A. Have you seen this one the Dead Boys?

Mick: Bunch of imitators, right? He looks stupid. They're doing it wrong.