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## The Clash Newcastle Polytechnic Oct 28 1977 and Dec 2 1978

Posted July 16, 2012 by vintagerock in Richard Hell and the Voidoids, The Clash, The Slits. Tagged: concert, concerts, gig, gigs, music, pop, punk, rock, rock n roll. [10 Comments](#)

The Clash Newcastle Polytechnic Oct 28th 1977 and Dec 2nd 1978  
Support acts: Richard Hell and the Voidoids (1977); The Slits (1978)

The Clash came back to Newcastle later in 1977, and again in 1978. I only have vague memories of the 1977 gig, and can't be certain that I attended, although I think I did. I remember there was trouble and some fights at one, and maybe both, of the gigs. I read somewhere that Richard Hell had a firework thrown in his face. I have very vivid memories of the 1978 gig. By 1978 The Clash were massive, and the gig sold out almost immediately. I also bought tickets for their gig at Middlesbrough Town Hall, but sold them to a couple of mates so that I could go and see The Jam at the Mayfair that night. That night at Newcastle Polytechnic I saw something different in The Clash. It was as if they had moved up couple of levels, and were now a confident, and great rock band, rather than another punk act. The place was packed, with everyone standing on chairs and tables. I think they started with Safe European Home; I do remember that they were just stupendous. I also remember being particularly impressed by Mick Jones guitar work, and when he took the lead for Stay Free, which remains one of my favourite songs to this day. This was the best time that I saw The Clash, and the night I realised that there were a major rock band. I remember saying to Marie that, on that night, for me they were up there with The Who and Zeppelin as one of our best live rock acts.



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Posted by Tony Poolan on September 7, 2014 at 8:10 am

I was at both. There was a big fight – I avoided it thankfully – at the first and a lot of windows were smashed as people weren't students or couldn't get in. There was a lot of 'gobbing' at the first and Strummer eventually got angry and took his revenge at the front in similar fashion. The air was electric the Clash were hyped up and 100mph but they were a much better band than expected – Complete Control was amazing as was City of the Dead – a cracking gig. The second was more Give Em Enough Rope orientated and they had calmed down a little as had the crowd although there were still scuffles and the spitting had died down too.

Reply



Posted by vintagerock on September 7, 2014 at 8:24 am

Those gigs were pure electric Happy days Thanks Tony Peter

Reply



Posted by sjlavery on December 26, 2014 at 11:30 am

Reblogged this on [SJ Lavery](#) and commented:  
Thinking of when I headed out Christmas shopping in 2002 and heard his death announced on the radio. I was stunned. Saw him live '77 and '78 at the Poly. Richard Hell moaned a lot about all the gob on his guitar !

Reply



Posted by vintagerock on December 26, 2014 at 12:10 pm

Cheers Best wishes Peter

Reply



Posted by Michele on May 17, 2015 at 8:42 pm

I was at the '77 gig. Turned up for the soundtrack at around 3pm, met Joe and Paul who then put me on the guest list for the gig. Fourteen tears old and on the guest list!!

Reply



Posted by vintagerock on May 17, 2015 at 8:43 pm

Many thanks Michelle best wishes Peter

Reply



Posted by Paul Anderson on March 24, 2016 at 12:57 pm

I was at the '77 gig. What an experience for a young punk. 16 years old and just reaching out to this new phenomena. Loved the music. Didn't have a ticket. You had to be a student at the Poly. I was still at school. Couldn't get in as the crowds outside the front door were massive. Hung round the back and, behold, Richard Hell let me in. I'd shouted to him that I loved his album (I did!) What a pure punk moment for me. The Clash were of course stupendous. As was Richard Hell and the Voidoids. I'll never forget him.

Reply



Posted by Chris Brookes on October 9, 2016 at 7:04 pm

Weren't French punk band the Lou's also at that first Clash gig at the Poly. I was there because my brother was at the Poly. I remember the gig as superb but genuinely scary.

Reply



Posted by vintagerock on October 16, 2016 at 2:44 pm

can't remember the Lou's, but you may well be right. Does anyone remember?

Reply



Posted by jez on April 4, 2019 at 11:34 am

Can anyone confirm the exact address for the student union bar ?

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