

2 December 1978

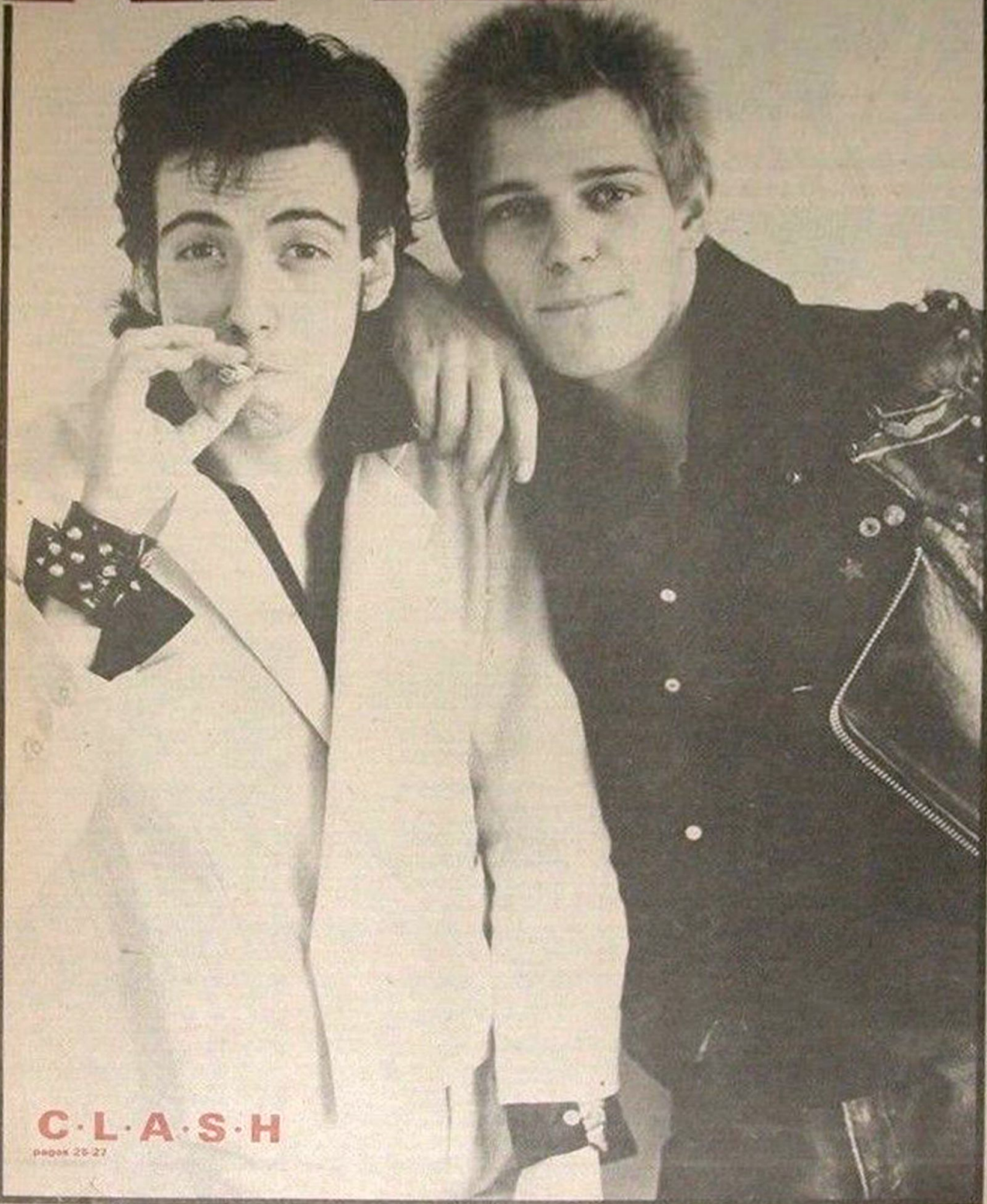
U.S. \$1.10c/Canada 80c

20p

NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS NME

DEVOTO True Confessions

pages 34-37



C·L·A·S·H

pages 26-27

MADE IN FRANCE BY PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE LOWE



**What, THEM again?
Fraid so.
No apologies . . .
On The Road Fax
by
NICK KENT:
Biro & Quiz
PENNIE SMITH:
Pentax & Flu**

CLASH

JUST WHAT the world needs — another NME piece capturing The Clash On The Road Part 128, you say?

Well yes and no, the writer decries. Nothing lengthy in the Bangian style of extended narrative, nor is there any grim detailing of spiraling trauma like Chris Salewicz depicted in his article penned during The Clash's last tour of Britain.

The tee-shirts printed for this current fax read in simple white lettering on a black background — "The Clash — The Sex: Our Tour" and although the person actually wearing the garment, a newly drafted Welsh roadie, will claim otherwise, that particular statement of intent is, it seems, being adhered to both practically and ideologically with a fair degree of success.

The gig I caught at Manchester's Apollo Theatre apparently fell into a linear focus for, as far as the opening stretch of a tour can go, The Clash's particular working policy is successfully being implemented.

Certainly as a musical entity, the band are in ripe old form, the current set kicking off with "Safe European Home" and segueing through a strong rendition of The Bobby Fuller Four's "I Fought The Law" and "Jail Guitar Doors". It manages to take in most of the "Rope" album with its sturdy deans like "Police And Thieves" denoting a more varied tempo allocation until the set climaxes with a brace of the first album's little classics, basically "Jamie Jones", "Bored With The USA" and "White Riot".

It's that "White Riot" that gets 'em up every time, grows one of the roadies after the set's conclusion, which tonight, like every other time, draws the front row of kids onto the stage itself on anarchy — as though they were being physically impelled there by some perverse form of suction.

It's the band's expressed desire that the kids who've amassed on stage for the closing minutes of the set are allowed to remain there that appears to be causing disension amongst The Clash road crew. And Caroline Cross, the band's new manager, will state this dilemma diplomatically to a surprised Joe Strummer at the hotel bar later: "They don't feel as though they're doing their job properly."

Meek Jones, however, balks at this latest problem and remarks judiciously about the roadies' apparent suppressed functions.

And so it goes. They still spit at boards up North, by the way — something I hadn't witnessed for a while and thus considered obsolete — and Strummer gets a good dronching for his troubles while Jones gamely sports a large white globe of phlegm on his current lacquered-back haircut.

"What can you do? Tell 'em to stop? Of course, it's repellent. We've always said that,"

says Jones philosophically. But after all, it's better than that very real cut-throat violence that the band were having to face up to at virtually every gig on the last tour.

WHEN our own Chris Salewicz ran into the band on that particular trek (in Glasgow) earlier this year the report he filed was a vivid, frightening documentary of a band totally out of control of its audience and becoming prey to all manner of random violence.

It turns out that Salewicz wasn't over-estimating anything either, as both Jones and Strummer reminisce over the daily trials and tribulations of that last escapade.

Jones, for example, recalls "breaking down in tears all the time" at what was going on around him — events which included a near-fatality (a personal roadie almost "offed" by Strummer in a car accident) and a cocaine bust for the guitarist himself.

"Two years ago we did the band's first interview," recalls Jones to the latter charge. "On Fleet Street-Porter's London Weekend Programme, it was, and me being all young and naive, I blamed bands taking too many drugs for the great riot. No dough in rock, I recall saying it really well. And a year or so later, I found myself doing just as many drugs as them!"

"Vivise, taking drugs as a way of life, to feel good in the morning, to get through the day. And it's still something I'm getting over right now!"

Now, however, instead of cocaine, or more pertinent to this band, amphetamines ("I was an addict," states Jones, "I mean I don't even recall making the first album"), The Clash appear to be adhering strictly to a steady dosage of vitamins for maintaining energy.

Jones himself pinpoints the making of the second album as an important point of departure here: "It was really a question of me saying to myself, 'Well, do you really want to make a great album or what?' In which case, I knew that I had to be straight at least part of the time. Which I was."

The making of "Give 'Em Enough Rope" appears, from the outside anyway, to have been a period of much turmoil. Jones himself concurs by denoting just one of the pressures on the project from the internal hierarchy of CBS.

"It was at a point right in the middle of the mixing and Sandy Pearlman was getting this incredible rush of insecurity and sheer panic because CBS were calling him up and saying that the first mixes were of absolutely no substance. And me 'an Joe were having to do this whole snotbox on our side, telling him that this effort represented absolutely his last shot at any kind of aesthetic success."

"Meanwhile, unbeknown to us, two goons from CBS — Muff Winwood and Jeremy Emsell

Continues over page



THE CLASH

new 45 r.p.m. single

TOMMYGUN

B/W 1-2 CRUSH ON YOU
(previously unavailable)



PEACE

ويزيد النقص العزالي

مطلوب بديل لمنظمة إذا فشلت في زيادة الأسعار

الكل يريد أن يرى التغيير في أسعار السلع والخدمات في الأسواق المحلية والعالمية. وفي ظل ارتفاع أسعار المواد الخام والعمالة، فإن منظمات المستهلكين والمهنيين تبحث عن حلول بديلة لضمان استقرار الأسعار.

سركيس يفتتح اجتماعات مؤتمربيروت التي ستقرر مصير قوات الردع العربية

في بيروت، انطلقت سلسلة من الاجتماعات التي يترأسها سركيس، بهدف مناقشة المصير المحتمل لقوات الردع العربية في المنطقة. وتعد هذه الاجتماعات خطوة مهمة في عملية التفاوض والتوصل إلى حلول سلمية.



تاجيل قمة بغداد

تقرر تأجيل قمة بغداد التي كان من المقرر عقدها في وقت سابق، وذلك بسبب الظروف الراهنة في المنطقة. وسيتم إعادة النظر في التاريخ المناسب لإجراء هذه القمة الهامة.

جمعون في نهاية أكتوبر

تتجه مجموعة من المهنيين والباحثين للتجمع في نهاية شهر أكتوبر لمناقشة القضايا المتعلقة بالبيئة والتنمية المستدامة. ويعد هذا التجمع فرصة قيمة لتبادل الخبرات والتعاون في مواجهة التحديات العالمية.



THE CLASH

'SORT IT OUT' TOUR CONTINUES

December 2 Polytechnic, Newcastle
12 Pavilion, Bath

THE ROY HILL SAGA

From previous page

Definition? "Sympathetic dynamite." And what do you want to be?

"A combination of Bruce Springsteen, Ray Davies, Randy Newman and Elvis Presley... I'm not saying I can do that," he adds quickly. "But I'm gonna try."

Hill is in his mid-thirties. His undiluted contempt for the corporate showbiz empire who bring us our rebel music courtesy of a kind of rock 'n' roll IMF dates from his days hustling his demo-round Artie and Repertoire execs' front offices. He can name all the people who told him to go back to his day job and recite word for word the extent of their verbal abuse.

The rockbiz obsession also relates to just about everything else that has happened to him in the nearly three years that he has been signed to Arista.

For the first two years he was kept on a retainer before the first 45 rpm product got released — during which time, of course, the lads from the Eagen's Den of Sex had changed the face of popular culture by making it *de rigueur* for every high street kid in the country to throw away his flapping Oxford bags and get a sensible pair of strids that were the same shape as his legs.

Roy Hill, no BA in chaos to call his own, was suffocating under the weight of record company pressure to hit upon the correct formula and clean up.

The disappointing end result of all this equivocating was his debut album release last spring. Produced by Gus Dudgeon, the album had a lush sound so appallingly sweet that it could rot your eye-teeth after just one side.

"Well, all I can say is that I was overwaded by the whole occasion. There was Gus Dudgeon, all the top session men in London... I was the only person I hadn't heard of. "I got shit for letting Gus Dudgeon do it his way — Arista suggested I do it with him — and I got slagged off. So now I do it all my way so that if I get slagged off it's on my own terms..."

SEEMS LIKE Arista snapped up Hill the second he bit, and immediately found themselves at a loss as to what to do with him — whether to go for coffee-table credibility like Elton and Bernie, to abduct the heart strings of the tired and emotional teenagers, to make with the punk, baby boy.

Hill appeared at a time when new acts into sensitive folk like Ray Davies, Tom Waits, Randy Newman and even Bruce on the backlash weren't exactly being hailed as vital, relevant artists.

At least we had the poxy Roxy. All Hill got was dunked in hip Hampstead syrup and a lot of stick.

"And these are lights are picking out bruses/Little man you are a colourful sight/And you're going nowhere after tonight."

"After punk happened everyone expected just one pitch, one level of performance — didn't matter if it was Elvis Costello or Peters and Lee, they just wanted the one line. I'm not that one-dimensional. I like to be that line. I've got junk songs, joke songs and... serious songs. I don't want a balance set."

Only a handful of songs or

that album weren't taken into account. The "Thunder Road" was the track on *Arise* a while in *East Of Eden*. "Baby Tonight" the album musician-in-house got beaten to pulp for the of the various riffs, thrills seekers eating bacon and writing to "Focadilly Light" already met, which the "Tracks Of My Home" "Marion" another song about exploitation, among many other "time" wonderful business.

OF COURSE have in it "I don't want to be, though, I'm wanting to be in and now I just... I think most people their way round those dates who wanted us has up."

Hill's wife of hospital was a boy called Jas Christie who years after his of art school couldn't draw uh, Making he whips knocks out "One Time less nation Science" "Me", bask wild-eyed scores, as strait-jack Or Love) Talk About to a cons up family with the both Ch members team, w like Roy way it Better finish

"If young appeared lined smile exec with Tap blu of pu sig ye th at

سركيس وكينديا سعيد الحروب

في بيروت، انطلقت سلسلة من الاجتماعات التي يترأسها سركيس، بهدف مناقشة المصير المحتمل لقوات الردع العربية في المنطقة. وتعد هذه الاجتماعات خطوة مهمة في عملية التفاوض والتوصل إلى حلول سلمية.



وجه الى مناطق يا بحثاً عن جنود الخميس الماضي

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