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## Trouble flared when iconic punk band The Clash played in Newcastle 45 years ago :: Reader View

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It's four and a half decades since punk rock arrived kicking and screaming.

The new genre's aggressive brand of back-to-basics rock, snarling attitudes, and radical fashions shook up a complacent music scene and outraged Britain's popular press and its readers at the same time. One of punk's prime exponents were The Clash, a band whose range of musical styles - ska, rockabilly and dub, as well as punk - and topically politicised lyrics would separate them from their contemporaries.

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In December 1976, they were on the line-up for a [Newcastle](#) show that would have been particularly memorable but in the event ended up being scrubbed. Along with fellow punk icons The Sex Pistols and The Damned, The Clash were due to perform at the City Hall on the Anarchy In The UK tour, but most of the shows - including Newcastle - were cancelled due to the controversy that followed the Pistols' infamous TV clash with Bill Grundy.

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Undeterred, five months later, The Clash - Joe Strummer, Mick Jones, Paul Simonon and Topper Headon - rolled into town for a show at [Newcastle University's](#) students' union bar on their White Riot tour. The gig, which took place 45 years ago on May 20, 1977, was somewhat chaotic, but the band managed to power through an explosive set that included London's Burning, Police and Thieves, and their first single White Riot.

Strummer and his bandmates were left drenched thanks to a trademark punk audience spitting frenzy, while punks outside fought running battles with doormen as they tried to get into the ticket-only student event.

