



## DIY style, for the kids! The Clash, '79



stealingalltransmissions  
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Clash, Mick Jones, new book Clash, Paul Simonon, popular music history, stealing all transmissions

Bill Graham, Fillmore, Howie Klein, Johnny Cash, rock'n'roll public library, San Francisco, Susan Blond, Tim Armstrong

So contemporary Clash news is difficult to come by these days. It seems if you want to curb e-buzz about a "heritage act," release the definitive box set. But lo! Mr. Mick Jones is bringing his [rock'n'roll public library](#) to the Venice Biennale — nice!

Once again I'm mining chapters from my book to shine a bit more light on certain events given, well, if not short shrift, not all of the attention they deserve. ([Stealing](#), too, got a nice bit of attention, taking home a [silver IPPY Award](#) this year, I'm happy to report.)

In terms of the library, I wonder if Mr. Jones' impressive collection includes this homely beauty, from February 1979, when The Clash dared to take on counter-cultural oligopolist Bill Graham in San Francisco. Graham was on the scene in SF with the SF Mime Troupe in the mid-1960s, and established himself as the promoter through the 80s, when anytime I bought a concert ticket "Bill Graham Presents" was getting a cut—but not every time, in 1979.

When The Clash made their American debut, at the Berkeley Community Theater on February 7, Graham got his cut.

The next night, though, at Theater 1839 — just a couple doos down from the Graham-controlled Fillmore — The Clash, Negative Trend, and The Zeros played a benefit show for New Youth Productions, who had a vision of an all-ages scene for the growing interest in punk. (The lettering for "Minors Welcome!" certainly heralded a typeface that rose to prominence in the US hardcore scene.)

I especially dig the fact that the promoters forgot (?) to identify The Clash by name, and made amends by inking the letters, Johnny Cash style, in black-on-black across their to-rsos. DIY indeed.

If you have any more information on this night, do be in touch. I figure [Howie Klein](#) (who introduced Paul Simonon and Epic's Susan Blond in 1979) and his comrades have some fun memories of the event, or their role in helping pick the pocket of Bill Graham.

And... here's a fun [ska documentary](#) narrated by the Bay Area's own Tim Armstrong. Nice work, team.

Cheers!

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Author: [stealingalltransmissions](#)

CA ex-pat living life in Northeast Ohio. Like most of you, I write stuff.

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