



Culture > Music > Features

London Calling at 40: How The Clash shattered punk orthodoxy and created a masterpiece

As The Clash's seminal third album is celebrated in a new exhibition, **Chris Harvey** reflects on its anger, humour and swaggering grandeur

Wednesday 13 November 2019 19:59 [Comments](#)



(Ian Dickson/Shutterstock)

Sign up to Roisin O'Connor's free weekly newsletter
 Now Hear This for the inside track on all things music

Email

I would like to be emailed about offers, events and updates from The Independent. Read our [privacy notice](#)

[SIGN UP](#)

Martin Scorsese once described "Janie Jones" by **The Clash** as the greatest British rock'n'roll song. One of the many wonderful things about that statement, not lost on Clash fans, is that however charged-up-and-ready-to-blow the opening track of the band's eponymous 1977 debut album is, it's not even the greatest Clash song: hell, it's not even the greatest opening track on a Clash album. *There's serious competition for that*

Register for free to continue reading

Registration is a free and easy way to support our truly independent journalism

By registering, you will also enjoy limited access to Premium articles, exclusive newsletters, commenting, and virtual events with our leading journalists

Email

Enter your email

Password

Enter your password

Must be at least 6 characters, include an upper and lower case character and a number

First name

Enter your first name

Last name

Enter your last name

Year of birth

Select your year of birth

You must be over 18 years old to register

I would like to be emailed about offers, events and updates from The Independent. Read our [Privacy notice](#)

Opt-out-policy

[REGISTER](#) [FILL TRY LATER](#)

[Already have an account? sign in](#)

By clicking "Register" you confirm that your data has been entered correctly and you have read and agree to our [Terms of use](#), [Cookie policy](#) and [Privacy notice](#).

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the [Google Privacy policy](#) and [Terms of service](#) apply.

More about: [The Clash](#) [Joe Strummer](#) [Margaret Thatcher](#) [Mick Jones](#) [The Beatles](#)

Join our new commenting forum

Join thought-provoking conversations, follow other Independent readers and see their replies

Comments

Promoted stories [Taboola Feed](#)

Man Who Made \$95 million in 2008 Reveals New Prediction

VISIONARYPROFIT | Sponsored

The Best Walking Shoes for Men to Wear All Day Without Discomfort.

WMSHOE.NET | Sponsored

[Shop Now](#)

British Energy Companies Fear This £69 Space Heating

KEELINI | Sponsored

[Read More](#)

INDEPENDENT

The best sport coverage from breaking news to in-depth features

[Read More](#)

- Most popular**
- [University condemns professor's posts wishing Queen excruciating death](#)
 - [What next for Harry and Meghan after the death of the Queen?](#)
 - [Jeff Bezos under fire after tweet about Queen's death: 'Stay quiet'](#)
 - [The common vegetable that can lower high blood sugar levels by half](#)

Popular videos

- [Queen Elizabeth II's most playful moments, from jokes about her age to parachuting with James Bond](#)
 - [How will Queen Elizabeth II's death be felt across the world?](#)
 - [Queen Elizabeth II's key moments throughout her 70-year reign](#)
- indy100**
- [Queen 'screaked with laughter' at Viagra joke she overheard at palace](#)
 - [Why will Camilla be known as the 'Queen Consort'?](#)
 - [UK's oldest lido restored to former glory after 18-year conservation campaign](#)
 - ['Spellbinding' coins will celebrate Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone](#)
 - [What will happen to coins now the Queen has died?](#)

Promoted stories [Sponsored Links](#)

The Cost Of Dental Implants in Turkey Might Surprise You!

Ornair | Popular in Search Ads

Unsold Cyprus & Greek Island Vacation Packages Are Cheaper Than You Think

Stavros | Cyprus Holidays

Unsold European River Cruise Cabins

River Cruises | Search Ads

New Retirement Villages Near Accrington (Take a Look at the Prices)

Retirement Villages | Search Ads

Majorca Holiday Packages Are Almost Being Given Away

Spain Beach Holidays | Search Ads

Unsold Mediterranean Cruise Cabins Are Almost Being Given Away

Cruise Deals | Search Ads

by Taboola

Sponsored Features

- [Seasalt Cornwall is the brand to know for stylish sailor stripes](#)
- [Square is taking the pain out of payments for small businesses](#)
- [Porta's limited-time offer on revolutionary keeping-in-touch tech](#)
- [eBay Essentials: The homeware range you need to make hosting easy](#)
- [Embrace the ecosystem with Samsung's latest range of Galaxy devices](#)

VOUCHER CODES

- VERY DISCOUNT CODE**
Up to 30% off electricals in the Very sale
- BOOKING.COM DISCOUNTS**
Getaway Deals up to 15% off with Booking.com in September
- ALIEXPRESS PROMO CODE**
Receive \$5 off a \$20+ order with this AliExpress discount code
- EBAY DISCOUNT CODE**
Save 15% on smart tech using this eBay voucher code
- MARKS AND SPENCER DISCOUNT CODE**
Extra 10% off selected lines when you join Marks & Spencer Sparks

INDY COMPARE

- [COMPARE UK BROADBAND DEALS](#)
Compare broadband packages side by side to find the best deal for you
- [CHEAP BROADBAND DEALS IN 2022](#)
Compare cheap broadband deals from providers with fastest speed in your area
- [FIBRE BROADBAND DEALS SEPTEMBER 2022](#)
All you need to know about fibre broadband
- [BEST APPLE PHONE DEALS IN THE UK SEPTEMBER 2022](#)
Compare iPhone contract deals and get the best offer this September
- [COMPARE MOBILE PHONE DEALS](#)
Compare the best mobile phone deals from the top networks and brands