

THE CLASH

How did the U.S. tour go?

JOE: It was alright, doesn't seem to have had any effect. In records, they've hated everything we've done up to now, so maybe they could sell a few copies of the new one. I don't know, I couldn't give a toss.

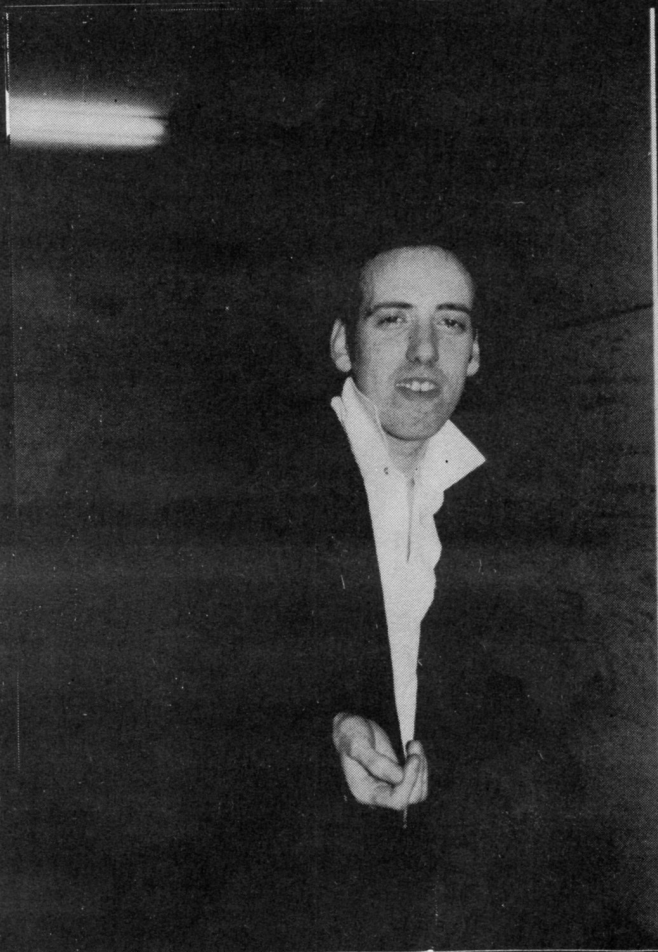
PAUL: Yeah, good tour. We enjoy playing any place, whether it's Scarborough, or anywhere else...

MICK: We did pretty good. Massive place, much massiver than we could imagine, much bigger. Most of us think that the end of our world is the end of the street. It's true. Massive world, even if they all hate us through the whole of the land, which I don't believe they do really. America—massive place. Dying for the sort of music we play, dying for it, going berserk, right, it's only because they so rarely see it. Alright, they get Blondie every week, and they get the Police and all the rest of that stink, but regardless of that, right, when they get us over, they get an event, they get something which is out of the norm. Know what I mean, the normal being really dullsville man, dullsville americana.

Did you sell a few more records?

P: Yeah, another 3 LPs and one single.

M: Yeah, we sold out, definitely, what a drag I tell you something, we sold more records this time than the last time, but I don't think that's important. It'd be a drag though if we couldn't fuckin' manage to keep ourselves up with the rest of the rubbish. And in fact, we're probably one of the last hopes you've got, really. But I'm telling the truth, I might as well say it. The whole music business is geared towards the money. Now we've tried specifically over these Christmas dates not to do that, except tomorrow, where it's £5 but it's for a good cause, other kids starving. And with the record we've also tried to do it, right. So we're not just concerned with selling more records, but I think we should, we deserve to sell more records than those fuckin' cunts who just take you for a ride. You get two records, and even if you don't like the lot of it, I reckon our 20 greatest hits including Armageddon Time match up to Lena Martells and Perry Comos 20 greatest hits, and that's what we're after, and that's why we brought it out at Xmas, even though it didn't go in at no. 1 and if we're selling more records, well—fuckin' great, they're getting a better record than they would get.





Are you satisfied with 'London Calling'?
J: Yeah, I like it better than anything else we've done.
P: Yeah, definitely, you know, there's plenty there for a small price. We tried to get the cost of living ep. down really cheap, right, and we got it a little bit cheaper, not much, but we had so much bother with CBS, because we didn't have a proper manager then and we had to do everything ourselves and we couldn't concentrate on the music or whatever.

How long did the album take to make?
M: Around a month, minus trips to Finland.
Why did you go to Finland?
M: Er, because we ain't been there before.
I heard that on the last lp. it took 3 days just to get the drum sound, so how did you get this one done so quick?

P: Well last time we didn't have much of an idea of how to get a good drum sound so we certainly learnt after spending 3 bloody days on it which is a real bore. And when we did this album, it didn't take as long, because we knew more about it, so it probably took 10 days, or 2 or 1 or whatever, can't remember.

So do you think you have done this one relatively quickly?
P: Yeah, yeah I think we did, we had all the songs ready, it was just a matter of getting it down. We just worked hard, fuckin' bashed it out.

Is there any way you can sum the lp. up?
P: Yeah, it's fuckin' great.
(Micky Gallagher & Topper walk in)

M: Micky Gallagher, who was once in the Animals, but he don't want to talk about it but he was, right and that's fuckin' too much for me. He's a real pal.

Do you want to say anything?
TOPPER: Merry Christmas, Happy New Year.
M: Oi, Topper— Micky Gallagher, you've got them, answer the questions of the bloke here, intelligently and scientifically. My grandmother will be watching out for it. Hurry up, you'll never make NME like this.

T: Hello gran.
M: Hello gran to everybody.

Are you lot happy with 'London Calling'?
MICKY.G: Goes on a bit, a lot of songs.
M: What do you mean goes on a bit, Wooah! what a fuckin' turncoat, Anthony Blunt.

MG: They're definitely trying to say something.
CHORUS: JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS.





Did you think it was better tonight?

M: Altogether it was nothing to moan about really.

You played a bit better tonight.

M: Of course, we'll be better tomorrow night as well.

How much control do you have with CBS now?

M: There's getting more all the time. Nowadays at great personal expense to ourselves I might add, regardless of that, we have more. Since we've had this bloke (Kosmo) we've had even more of a foot in the door, the foot gets bigger, the size of the boot is larger these days in the door of CBS records, but they're not our only concern, they're just like a small piece of piss on the map, as far as we're concerned.

Do they know that?

M: Yeah, they do, that's why they never sent us nothing for xmas. I really missed the white grand piano which you gave to David Essex oh my god. One year they gave us a xmas present, it was building bricks, they haven't given us anything since. But what do you expect from a company whose xmas card shows the managing director standing with his dogs. What do they think of this group, obviously they think that their artistes are dogs. We are not one of those dogs. And, er were alright, we're still there and I'm drinking brandy, and it's xmas and why fuckin shouldn't I. That's Mick's xmas message.

Do you think that your music is moving away from the 'Westway sound'?

P: Yeah, it's diverted, it's the MI sound innit. We've just got a bit cleverer with the sound. I think we're pretty much the same, it's just that we can play a bit better now, we're not a typical punk group, we just don't like being just classed into one type of music.

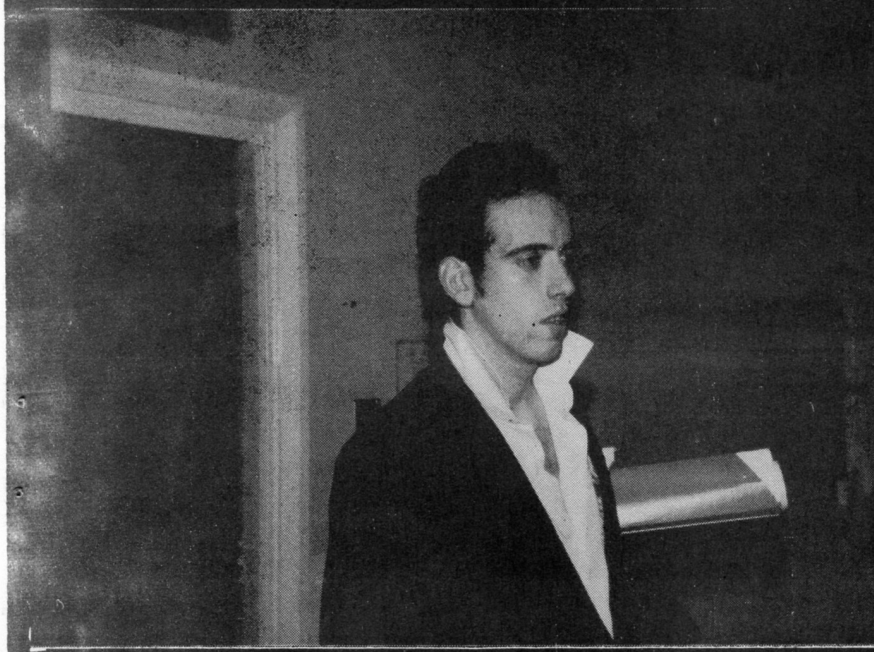
Have your values/ideals changed?

P: We're just a bit cleverer now, a bit wiser.

J: No, not really, but we've had to compromise, just like all idealists have to compromise. You win battles, you lose battles to win more. Like when they brought out Remote Control, we were pissed off, we just said, well we've lost a battle, but maybe we'll win the war.

Do you think you've achieved anything since you started?

P: Yeah, loads of debts.



Do you object to being bootlegged?

M:No,not at all.Im very keen on my own records,but I cant seem to manage to play them all the time.I wasn't so into it last night as I was tonight,as you can tell by the other 500 quids worth of damage I did to my guitar,tonight. It was nothing,I just had to show them I meant business.

Did you enjoy tonight then?

Did I enjoy it,Im too effete to enjoy things!

J:I dont mind being bootlegged.No,I like it.But I think its a game,like stealing from woolworths,but if we see them we always have the cassette.Like,in America theyre really hot on bootlegging.It turns into a mammoth game to spot them.

Who was 'Stay Free'written about?

M:Er,specifically a geezer called Crocker.

Robin Crocker?

M:Yeah,he was in the south london press for running a protection racket,seriously.Robin Crocker,also known as Robin Banks,my god,what a confession,but he was the ringleader,he was the one who did it all.A necrophiliac if ever I met one.No,no I dont mean that,what I really meant was...

KOSMO:Nymphomaniac,Kleptomaniac.

M:Thats the one,a kleptomaniac if I ever met one.

Do you think that reggae is influencing your music more now?

J:Yeah,more and more.I tell you something,all the white youths in america,they love it.They grab you on the shoulders and go'Aaww,play some more reggae man,we just love it'.

There was a lot of BM complaining about it tonight.

J:I know,they hate it,but bollocks to them It should'nt really change your opinions of other people.There we are playing a reggae song,and theres some cunt down the front,pulling my leg,going Nnoo!

What can you say when youre asked a dumb question like'Are you a political band'?

P:Fuck Off! I dunno,what were dealing with is personal politics.



M:No,its none of their business is it.Ive got nothing against anybody,but I think nazi and right wing people are really silly,and dont know what they're doing,and often spoil things for everybody else.If only every day could be like xmas day. Peace and goodwill to all men,thats thats what I mean,and thats the heaviest politics you can ever follow.

The hippy revival is back!

Its back,the nobel peace prize for Robin Cambodia.Im a beatnik,its true,I am,honest

M:I personally asked Gary Numan,who must be quite a simple chap really,to explain what the fuck hes on about.Because we can stick two roadies in fuckin silly pyramids and make them dance round the stage,and we can get a load of fuckin big lights at the back to make us look better.But to be quite frank,we could not possibly be better than David Bowie,and he will never be. Explain what youre on about,my man.Its your time to do it.I mean it right,and not only him,explain,be plain,the kids cant understand you.They only buy your records because our ones aint out,but when ours are out,you can go to fuckin hell,and we may well see you there.Thats my message, and I mean it.

