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the clash ★

1977 and the Clash are touring Britain in the back of a small van, turning up at venues, uninvited and humbly asking to play. Eight years on, 1985 and the Clash are touring Britain in the back of a small van, turning up at venues, albeit busking in Princes Street, uninvited and asking to play!

The Clash have along the way become one of the most successful and long lasting rock bands to emerge from that over publicised era named Punk. "We're doing this tour for ourselves. We enjoy it more this way. We wanted to get out onto the streets, back to our roots and find what direction we want to take." Commented Mr Joe Strummer, that leather clad macho man of rock and to the obvious question added: "No, we haven't found it yet".

The reasons for their longevity as a band can be in no small part due to their strong socialist principles - they always did have more holding them together than a few safety pins! They filled the largest and the most renowned concert halls, enlightening America and the rest of the World with their loudly sung socio/political messages. Joe added: "As a group with flash appeal, we can use our privilege to get the message over." With more vehemence: "Tell the people to rise up".

Today the Clash could pack any venue to bursting, following the dubious example of the Stones and charge £10 a ticket. However, they choose to 'get back to their roots' and literally get onto the streets with a spot of impromptu busking on Princes Street, visit the Gateway Exchange and play to small, unpublicised (packed nevertheless) gigs - admission, non gratis (FREE). 'La Sorbonne' and 'Coasters' on the 13th and 14th May respectively.

Perhaps now more than ever, considering the 'powers that be' the message emanating from the Clash needs to be sung even louder and perhaps now there are more people in empathy: "You saw the spirit of the crowd tonight, they made the night. They have the potential and energy to change the system". Joe growled.

"We want Thatcher and Reagan out, a change in the system. We don't have the answer, not at all. That's why we're doing this tour, to talk to people and maybe find the way to create change".

The energy of the audience was certainly unquestionable. Largely comprising of young and unemployed and the common chord was their grievance against 'the system' that ultimately deprives them of work, accommodation and self respect. A night of light entertainment was not on the menu. For a time they all were inspired by the call to do something about their situation.

Always evident in the fiery lyrics of Clash songs is

their sympathy with the underprivileged and their communities. During their limited visit to Edinburgh the band spent time at Jimmy Boyle's Gateway Exchange. They talked about Wester Hailes: "We have the highest regard for the Gateway and communities like Wester Hailes. We've met some people from there and heard of the great things happening. People feeling a part of something by being involved. That by pulling together they can achieve change - improve their situation."

So what's left for the Clash? "We'll probably be busking outside a Bruce Springsteen concert." Well, lads that's undoubtedly a hopeless case to champion!

It seems that people in the rock business do have the potential for political muscle one only has to refer to the 'saintly' example of Sir Bob Geldof! Perhaps the Clash aren't as naive as they can appear, after all it's easy to be a socialist when you've got millions to play with. Re Paul Weller, self confessed Tory turned socialist. But if the young can relate to bands then that's maybe the vehicle for change?

By Mandy Rhodes and Ronnie Simpson

Family Income Supplement

living

The less you earn the more you get!
Families that are living on low incomes may qualify for FIS, that is Family Income Supplement.

Interested? You must be working for a minimum of 30 hours a week or in the case of a single parent 24 hours a week. As a rough guide to your eligibility add up the total income, before tax coming into the household, add any other money coming in for instance maintenance payments or other benefits but do not include; child benefit, one-parent benefit, children's income or any additional help you receive for rents and rates. If your total income is less than the following amounts you may be entitled to FIS and should make a claim. You can only gain.

Family with one child£90 a week
Family with 2 children £100 per week
For each additional child add £10 per week.

FIS is tax free and can vary from anything as low as 20p to £23 per week. The less you earn the more you are entitled to. Once FIS is worked out it remains at that level even if wages are increased.

Other benefits of FIS you would also qualify for; free school meals, milk and vitamins (pregnant women and under 5's), prescriptions, hospital travel, dental and optical treatment.

Get along to the Post Office or Social Security and fill in a form

"kick over the wall, cause governments to fall
how can you refuse it?"

let fury have the hour, anger can be power
d'you know that you can use it" — CLASH 1979



Wester Hailes at the Edinburgh Fringe

This year four groups from Wester Hailes will be featured in the Fringe. The performances will take place during the last week of the Festival at St Martin's Church, Dalry Road. The groups taking part will be ACORN, Moving Parts, UZZ and the Wester Hailes Festival Association's own Bits & Pieces Theatre Company who will be performing their new production entitled "Coming Together". Tickets will be £1.50 with £1.00 concess-

ions which will cover two performances each evening beginning at 7.30. The dates are 28th August ACORN and UZZ, 29th August Moving Parts and Bits & Pieces, 30th August Moying Parts and UZZ, 31st August ACORN and Bits & Pieces.

The BRAND NEW BITS N PIECES meet every TUESDAY NIGHT at 6.30pm in WHEC. All welcome. Your chance to star in the Festival Fringe. For further info. contact W.H.F.A. at 442 3063 or call in at 17 Hailesland Place.

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