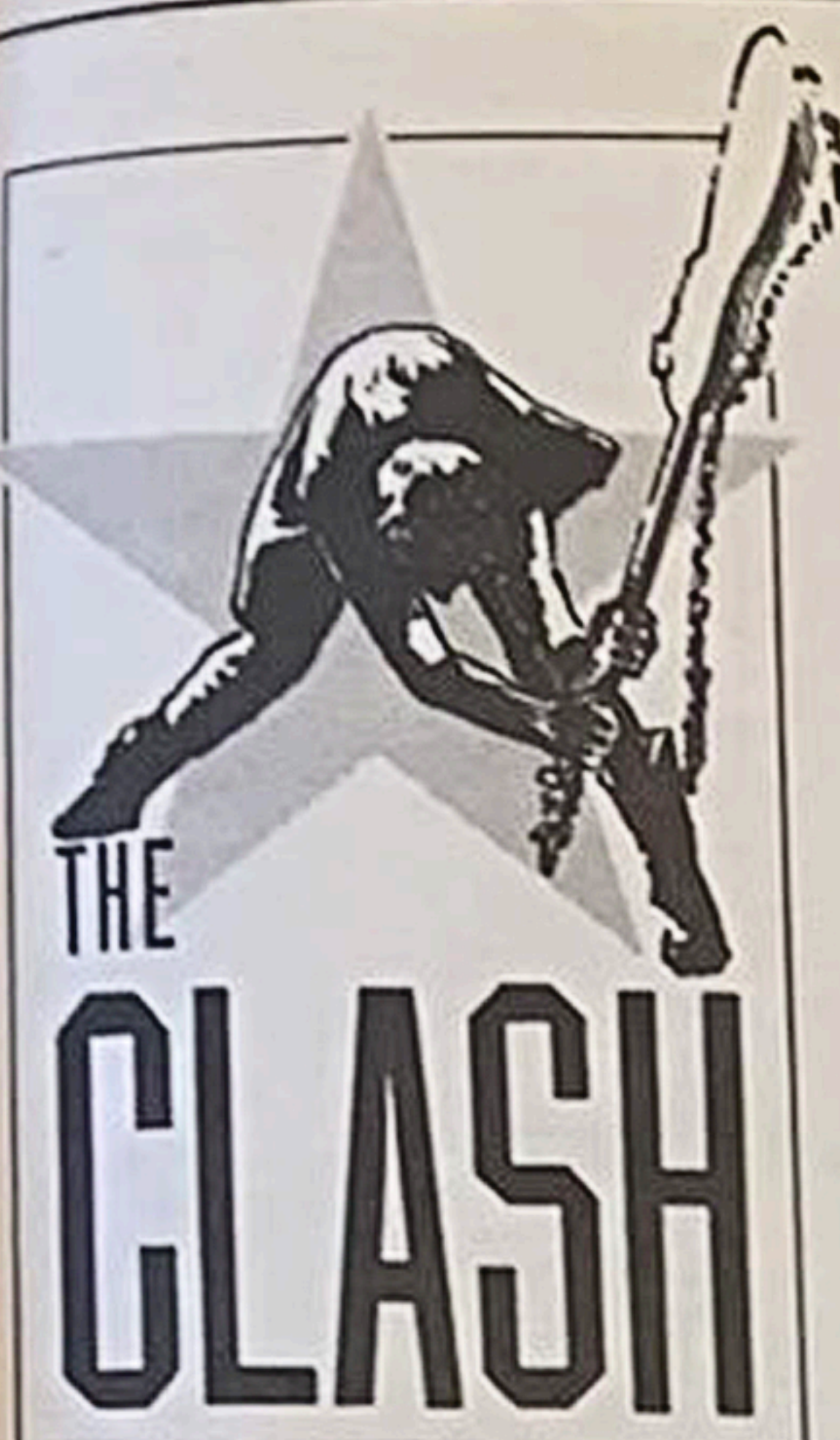


THE UNCUT CRAP

OVER 56 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE CLASH



● Joe Strummer was born in Ankara, Turkey. His dad was a civil servant.

● The Clash temporarily became The Lash when they became studio players for vice queen Janie Jones. They appear on her single, 'House Of The Ju Ju Queen'.

● The Clash weren't always into combat fatigues. When Mick Jones and Paul first got involved with the punk experience, they used to customise ladies car coats.

● Bernie Rhodes, The Clash's notorious manager, was a long-time sidekick of Malcolm McLaren. Bernie says he invented punk rock. Nobody believes him.

● Most of the debut LP 'The Clash' was written on the 18th floor of a council high rise on London's Harrow Rd. The flat was owned by Mick's grandmother, who regularly turned up at Clash gigs.

● During a tricky period in the late '70s, Manager Bernie Rhodes tried to replace Mick Jones with Steve Jones from The Sex Pistols.



PICTURE: STEVE PYKE

● Joe Strummer played a bearded dishwasher in the mercenary army who gets thrown into a river in Alex Cox's *Walker*. No-one has ever seen said film (except David Quantick).

● In the early days the Clash often went hungry. Once, after a long night spent putting up posters, Paul Simonon heated up the remainder of the flour and water paste on a rusty blade and ate it.

● During a drunken scene from Alex Cox's *Straight To Hell*, you can see Joe Strummer kicking a tin can and calling out the names of football players such as David Speedie, Pat Nevin and Kerry Dixon. Joe is a big Chelsea fan...

● Joe once sent the fanzine *Alternative Ustera* a thank-you present—a consignment of lawnmower parts!

● Joe Strummer toured America as an honorary Pogues in Winter '87, replacing Phil Chevron who was ill with a stomach ulcer. The Pogues took advantage of this situation by playing faithful versions of 'I Fought The Law' and 'London Calling'.

● When The Clash played the 'Night Of Treason' at the Royal College Of Art in '77, the DJ and poster designer was NME's very own Savage Pencil.

● Shane McGowan was victim of a famous ear-biting attack at an early Clash gig.

● The Spanish lines in 'Should I Stay Or Should I Go' and 'Spanish Bombs' are not grammatically correct.

● On the TV show *Something Else*, Joe Strummer once suggested that band managers should be put in concentration camps.

● *Pride Of The Cross*, a band featuring ex-Pogues bassist Caitlin O'Riordain (and her replacement Darryl), once performed The Clash's 'Complete Control' as a protest against Pogues Mahone changing their name to The Pogues.

● The Clash were the first (and last?) white band to have their likeness painted onto the wall of Lee Perry's famous Black Ark recording studios in Jamaica.

● Joe Strummer once said his favourite record was Van Morrison's 'Gloria'.

● When The Clash first met up with beat poet Allen Ginsberg in '81, Joe asked, "Well Ginsberg, when you gonna run for president?" The response was, "Never, or I'll wind up in Diamond Hell," a weird Buddhist allusion.

● Joe Strummer promised the town of Corby, Northamptonshire, a pink Cadillac. It was delivered but did not go.

● Joe Strummer's real name is Joseph Mellor. Mick Jones' real name is Mick Jones.

● The so-called Clash MKII—of 'Cut The Crap' fame—featured two men called Vince. One used to be in Bristol's Cortinas, the other one was really called Greg and studied Physics and Astronomy at University College London.

● Strummer disliked the punk practice of gobbing. Especially after someone landed a greenie in his open mouth and he got hepatitis.

● Sandy Pearlman, producer of 'Give 'Em Enough Rope', so disliked Joe Strummer's voice that he mixed it more quietly than the drums throughout the album.

● There were 204 drummers auditioned before The Clash settled for Nicky 'Topper' Headon.

● Joe was formerly in dodgy pub rock bands The 101ers and The Vultures.

● Strummer realises the evils of drugs. He once told NME, "I've smoked so much pot, I'm surprised I haven't turned into a bush".

● The first Clash gig in Belfast was stopped by the authorities. Undeterred, the band went sight-seeing around the various trouble spots, getting their pictures taken besides security gates and confused-looking squaddies.

● The Clash II went on a busking tour to promote the 'Cut The Crap' LP. They weren't any good.

● Paul Simonon was once voted the world's hunkiest man in *Playgirl* magazine.

● After leaving The Clash (and being namechecked as "Tory Crimes" on the sleeve of 'The Clash'), original drummer Terry Chimes joined Bowie clones Cowboys International, who were one of the least successful bands of the late 1970s. He also drummed with Black Sabbath and Samantha Fox.

● The song 'Capital Radio' claims that "There's a tower in the heart of London/With a radio station right at the top". In fact, Capital Radio is only half way up the tower.

● The cover of 'London Calling' is a rip-off of Elvis' 'Rock And Roll' LP from '56 and was taken by our own Pennie Smith.

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PICTURE: PENNIE SMITH

● Joe Strummer—now yawnsomely familiar as an actor/soundtrack producer—once directed his own movie *Cops & Robbers*, starring Mick, Paul and Clash photographer Pennie Smith.



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