DAY BY DAY

The God Save The Sex Pistols' exclusive guide

Compiled by Herve Labyre

Artwork by Alex Poray

1976 - part two

September 1: The Pistols are filmed performing Anarchy In The UK by Granada TV for the So It Goes programme. They also perform Problems as a warm up, but this is not filmed.

September 2: Nags Head, High Wycombe.

September 3: Le Châlet du Lac, Paris.
Entrance is free. The concert is promoted by Pierre Benain. Members of the Bromley Contingent have travelled from London to see the band play. Most of the audience don't know either the Sex Pistols or what is called PUNK; they are here to spend time drinking and dancing and they don't like the music of the band and the way the Bromley Contingent are dressed. French journalist Patrick Eudeline remembers Siouxsie narrowly escaping a fight with someone in the club because of her swastika armband.
According to Pierre Benain, the band arrived late, the equipment having being lost somewhere at Heathrow airport. There was no soundcheck, and the Sex Pistols started their set early in the morning of Saturday 4th. The sound was awful, and the owner of the club wanted to stop the show after only 4 songs, which did not happen.
A second concert took place on Sunday 5th. Rumours claim the show was recorded. During a French radio show on July 19 1985, Pascal and Julien Regoli are interviewed. They have a tape of the concert, and play Submission.

September 4: So it Goes is shown on British TV and the nation witnesses Anarchy In The UK. This can be seen in "The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle", the "Number One" film, "The Filth & The Fury" bootleg video and the Granada documentary "I Swear I Was There". The first full colour presentation of the performance of Anarchy since the original broadcast came courtesy of the video "Rock Revolution" in 1984.

September 5: Le Châlet du Lac, Paris.
The concert takes place in the afternoon. Both concerts in this club are later reviewed by Brenda Jackson in the French magazine Best.

September 11: Royal Ballroom, Whitby.

September 12: Fforde Grene Hotel, Harehills, Leeds. The Pistols were billed to appear the week before but didn't show. A local prog-rock band 'Captain Cook's Dog' played instead.

September 13: Quaintways, Chester.

September 17: Maximum Security Prison, Chelmsford (recorded). Set List (possible order): Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / New York / No Lip / Stepping Stone / Satellite / Submission / Liar / Substitute / Pretty Vacant / Problems / Did You No Wrong / No Fun.
The show is recorded by producer Dave Goodman and is available on the "Live at Chelmsford Prison" CD (Dojo Rec. DOJO CD 66). A Japanese version with false chat added in between songs is also available (Vap Rec. VPCK-85080). The order of the songs has been changed on both releases.

September 20: The band sign their management contract with McLaren / Glitterbest.

Punk Festival, 100 Club, London (recorded + filmed) Set List: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / New York / No Lip / Stepping Stone / Satellite / Submission / Liar / No Feelings / Substitute / Pretty Vacant / Problems / No Fun / Anarchy In The UK.
According to the set-lists of the gigs of August and September, it is obvious Stepping Stone is played but the song does not appear on the recording.
Support bands: The Clash, Siouxsie & the Banshees (with Sid Vicious on drums) and Subway Sect.
Brief parts of the gig can be seen in "The Filth & The Fury" movie.

September 21: Top Rank, Cardiff.

September 22: Stowaway Club, Newport.

September 23: Circles Club, Swansea.

September 24: 76 Club, Burton Upon Trent (recorded). Set List: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / New York / No Lip / Stepping Stone / Satellite / Submission / Liar / Substitute / No Feelings / No Fun / Pretty Vacant / Problems.
The show is recorded by Dave Goodman and later appears incomplete on the bootleg LP called "Indecent Exposure" before being officially released under many titles in the 80's and 90's. In 1999, the complete set is released on the CD called "The 76 Club" (Almafame records), but even this has small edits between tracks. The complete unedited version is available on a Japanese bootleg CD called "Truly Indecent Exposure" (Colosseum 98-C-004).

September 27: Outlook Club, Doncaster.

September 28: The Place, Guilford.

September 29: Strikes Club, Stroke.

September 30: Cleopatras, Derby.

October 1: Didsbury College, Manchester.

October 2: Johnny Rotten is on the front page of the NME which includes a 2 pages article on the band.

October 6-10: Photographer Bob Gruen takes pictures of the Sex Pistols in various places including the Wessex studios, EMI offices, Club Louise and the Denmark Street rehearsal room.

October 8: Sex Pistols sign a recording contract with EMI records.

October 9: Article in Sounds about the Sex Pistols and punk bands The Clash, the Damned, and Siouxsie & the Banshees.

October 10: The band records some tracks at Lansdown and Wessex studios with producer Dave Goodman. Tracks: Anarchy In The UK / Substitute / No Lip / Stepping Stone / Johnny B Goode-Roadrunner / Watcha Gonna Do About It? / No Fun / Through My Eyes.
The demo of Anarchy In The UK featuring on the "Complete Italian Job" bootleg CDR comes from this session. This is the only studio version of Through My Eyes available to this day. It is available on the official 3 CD box set.

October 12: Technical College, Dundee.

October 13: Lafayette Club, Wolverhampton

October 14: Mr Digby's, Birkenhead. The band are interviewed by Mary Harron for the US magazine PUNK. Photographs are taken by Bob Gruen.

October 15: Eric's, Liverpool.

October 17: Wessex Sound Studios, London. The band records Anarchy In The UK at Wessex Studios with producer Chris Thomas. The version of the song will be used for the EMI single.

October 20: Bogarts, Birmingham (recorded). Set List: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / Satellite / Substitute / Liar / No Feelings / No Fun / Pretty Vacant.

October 21: Queensway Hall, Dunstable.

October (exact date unknown): One of the band's concerts during the month is filmed and appears in "The Filth & The Fury" movie. The set includes Anarchy In The UK and Substitute. Parts of this concert also appear in the 1992 Anarchy In The UK video.

Best magazine reviews the concerts at Le Châlet du Lac from September 3rd & 5th.

In late October / early November, the band is photographed by Barry Plummer. Some pictures appear on various cd covers such as "Early Daze", "The 76 Club" back cover, etc.

November 6: Melody Maker has a front page feature on the Sex Pistols and the forthcoming Anarchy Tour, "Punks On The Road."

November 11: Nationwide TV show recorded.

November 12: Nationwide TV show broadcast. Recorded in the BBC studios, London, it includes the band performing Anarchy In The UK, and Johnny Rotten and Malcolm McLaren being interviewed by a TV presenter and Giovanni Dadamo from Sounds magazine. Sid Vicious, Catwoman and Siouxsie are present. It can be seen in the "The Filth & The Fury" movie and the "Number One" film.

November 15: Notre Dame's Hall, London (recorded + filmed for the London Weekend Show) Set list: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / Pretty Vacant / No Feelings / No Lip / Whatcha Gonna Do About It?/ Did You No Wrong / Seventeen / Stepping Stone / Satellite / Problems / New York + No Fun / Submission.
The songs filmed are Anarchy In The UK, Pretty Vacant, No Fun, Submission and Whatcha Gonna Do About It? The first four songs are later used in the London Weekend Show along with an interview with the band conducted by Janet Street Porter in their Denmark Street flat. No Fun and Submission are only available on the video, the other songs are audio versions used in the documentary. The crowd footage including Sid Vicious and Siouxsie is in "The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle". Whatcha Gonna Do About It? features in "The Filth & The Fury" movie and live shots of the band are in the "Number One" film.

November 19: Hendon Polytechnic, London.

November 26: The single Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me (EMI 2566) is released in the UK. The b-side is the demo recorded in July by Dave Goodman.

November 27: The single is reviewed by Carolin Coon in the Melody Maker. The NME advertises the single and the Anarchy In The UK Tour.

November 29: Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry.

November (exact date unknown): Sex Pistols mime to Anarchy In The UK for the EMI promo video directed by Mike Mansfield. This video is now officially available on John Lydon's DVD "Best of British One Pound Notes". A bootleg version also exists, which consists of the same video dubbed with the rejected studio version with the extra solo (available on SEXBOX 1).

December 1: Bill Grundy interviews the Sex Pistols on the Today programme, Thames TV. The bad language used by the band shocks TV viewers. This interview features in the "The Filth & The Fury" movie and the "Number One" film.

December 2: Most of the British newspapers report on the Bill Grundy interview.

December 6: Leeds Polytechnic, Leeds (recorded + filmed) Set list: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / Stepping Stone / God Save the Queen / Substitute / No Feelings / Liar / Pretty Vacant / Problems. Press reviews report that the band also played two encores: Whatcha Gonna Do About It? and No Fun (probably not recorded).
This is the first concert of the Anarchy In The UK Tour which includes The Clash, Johnny Thunders & the Heartbreakers and the Damned, replaced by the Buzzcocks after tonight's show. Malcolm McLaren is interviewed before the show, this features in "The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle". A very brief part of the concert features in the "Number One" film. The audio recording is available on the "Anarchy in Leeds 1976" bootleg LP (ANIL76) and 2CD bootleg set "Never Mind The Bans."

December 9 : Electric Circus, Manchester (full gig recorded). Set List: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seventeen / Stepping Stone / Satellite / Submission / Substitute / No Feelings / Liar / Pretty Vacant / God Save The Queen / Problems.
Appears on the bootleg LP called "Anarchy Tour '76" (incomplete) and 2CD bootleg set "Never Mind The Bans."

December 11: Manchester Square Studios, London: God Save The Queen / Liar / Problems / No Feelings (instrumental). Produced by Mike Thorne. All the tracks are available on the 3 CD box set SEXBOX1.
NME reviews the Leeds Polytechnic concert and the Bill Grundy interview. The Record Mirror issue includes an article on the Sex Pistols and an interview with Johnny Rotten.

December 14: Castle Cinema, Caerphilly (filmed). Outside the cinema some people from Caerphilly show their discontent at the Sex Pistols coming to play in their town. The band are interviewed before the gig by a local TV crew which also films the demo outside. This can be seen in "The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle" and the "Number One" film. A short part of the concert features in the "Punk And The Pistols" TV documentary and "The Filth & The Fury" movie.

December 17: Capitol Radio's Roger Scott claims that the Sex Pistols have had trouble recording Anarchy In The UK for EMI, so the song was recorded by studio musicians, not by the Sex Pistols themselves. Malcolm McLaren phones Capitol Radio to say it is not true at all, but this started the rumour that the band don't play on their records and will keep on being repeated for many years…

December 19 (filmed): Electric Circus, Manchester. Some parts of the show feature in "The Great Rock 'N' Roll Swindle" and "The Filth & The Fury" movies and the 1992 "Anarchy In The UK" promo video.

December 20 : Winter Gardens, Cleethorpes (recorded) Set List: Anarchy In The UK / I Wanna Be Me / Seveteen / Stepping Stone / Satellite / God Save The Queen / Substitute / Liar / No Feelings / Pretty Vacant.

December 21: Woods Centre, Plymouth.

December 22: Woods Centre, Plymouth. The performance is great but the sound is bad. Dave Goodman has some problems mixing the sound.

December 25: Article in Rock Star magazine about the Anarchy Tour.

December 27: Wessex Studios, London : Pretty Vacant (instrumental) /Anarchy In The UK (instrumental) / God Save The Queen (instrumental). Produced by Mike Thorne. Available on the 3 CD box set SEXBOX1.

December (exact date unknown): Radio Luxembourg broadcasts an interview with Johnny Rotten and Malcolm McLaren.

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Compiler's Note: This is a Sex Pistols day by day diary. For details on events listed here, please visit the sections on this website.

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Edited by Phil Singleton

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