

please kill me the uncensored oral history of punk

please kill me the uncensored oral history of punk is a groundbreaking book that chronicles the raw and rebellious origins of the punk rock movement. Through firsthand interviews and candid stories, it offers an unfiltered glimpse into the lives of punk's pioneers, capturing the spirit and chaos that defined the era. This oral history documents the underground music scene in the 1970s, revealing the cultural, social, and musical forces that fueled punk's rise. Readers gain insight into the influential bands, iconic venues, and key figures who shaped the punk ethos. The narrative preserves the authenticity of punk's attitude and sound, making it an essential resource for enthusiasts and scholars alike. This article explores the background, impact, and legacy of "please kill me the uncensored oral history of punk," offering a comprehensive overview of its significance within music history. Below is a table of contents to guide the exploration of this seminal work.

- The Origins of Punk: Setting the Stage
- Key Figures and Bands Featured
- Impact of the Oral History Format
- The Role of Iconic Venues in Punk Culture
- Cultural and Social Influences on Punk
- Legacy and Influence of the Book

The Origins of Punk: Setting the Stage

The emergence of punk rock in the mid-1970s marked a significant shift in the music landscape, characterized by a DIY ethos, aggressive sound, and anti-establishment attitudes. "please kill me the uncensored oral history of punk" delves into this transformative period, tracing punk's roots back to the gritty streets and underground clubs of New York City. The book captures the frustration and disillusionment of youth during a time of economic decline and social unrest, factors that fueled the raw energy of punk. It highlights how punk emerged as a reaction against the perceived excesses of mainstream rock and the commercialization of music.

Early Influences and Precursors

Before punk coalesced into a distinct movement, a variety of musical styles and cultural elements influenced its development. Proto-punk bands like The Stooges and The Velvet Underground laid the groundwork with their stripped-down sound and confrontational performances. The oral history explores these precursors, emphasizing their role in shaping punk's aggressive and minimalist aesthetic.

New York City's Underground Scene

New York City was the epicenter of early punk activity, with venues like CBGB providing a platform for emerging bands. The book details how these venues fostered a community of artists, musicians, and fans who challenged conventional norms. This vibrant scene became the crucible in which

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk' about?

It is an oral history book that chronicles the punk rock movement through firsthand accounts from musicians, producers, and other key figures, providing an unfiltered look at the birth and evolution of punk.

Who authored 'Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk'?

The book was written by Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain.

When was 'Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk' first published?

It was first published in 1996.

Why is 'Please Kill Me' considered an important book in punk history?

Because it compiles candid interviews and stories directly from punk pioneers, offering an authentic and raw perspective on the punk scene that had never been documented so openly before.

Does 'Please Kill Me' cover punk scenes outside of New York?

While it primarily focuses on the New York punk scene, it also touches on other influential punk movements and figures from different locations.

How is the narrative style of 'Please Kill Me' unique?

The book is presented as an oral history, using only quotes from interviews without traditional narration, allowing voices of the punk community to tell their own story.

Has 'Please Kill Me' been adapted into other media?

Yes, it has inspired a documentary film adaptation that further explores punk history using the book's interviews and archival footage.

What impact did 'Please Kill Me' have on punk culture?

It helped legitimize punk as an important cultural movement and preserved its history by documenting the experiences of its key participants honestly and vividly.

Are there any notable punk figures featured in 'Please Kill Me'?

Yes, the book features interviews with iconic figures such as Iggy Pop, Joey Ramone, Patti Smith, Johnny Rotten, and many others.

Is 'Please Kill Me' suitable for readers new to punk music?

Yes, it provides an in-depth and engaging introduction to the punk movement, though its candid language and mature themes reflect the raw nature of the punk scene.

Additional Resources

1. Our Band Could Be Your Life: Scenes from the American Indie Underground 1981-1991

This book by Michael Azerrad explores the rise of American underground rock bands in the 1980s. Through detailed profiles of influential groups like Black Flag, Sonic Youth, and Fugazi, it captures the DIY spirit and cultural impact of the indie music scene. It offers a comprehensive look at the

alternative landscape that followed the punk movement.

2. *England's Dreaming: Anarchy, Sex Pistols, Punk Rock, and Beyond*

Jon Savage's definitive history of the Sex Pistols and the punk movement in the UK chronicles the chaotic and rebellious origins of punk rock. Combining interviews, archival research, and cultural analysis, it provides an in-depth portrait of punk's impact on music and society. The book reveals how the Sex Pistols challenged the establishment and inspired a generation.

3. *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk*

By Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain, this seminal oral history compiles firsthand accounts from punk pioneers, musicians, and insiders. The book offers an unfiltered, gritty look at the birth and evolution of punk rock in New York City during the 1970s. Its raw narratives reveal the chaos, creativity, and countercultural spirit of the era.

4. *American Hardcore: A Tribal History*

Steven Blush's comprehensive chronicle of the hardcore punk scene in the United States during the early 1980s highlights the aggressive music and intense subculture that followed the initial punk wave. The book features interviews and stories from seminal bands like Minor Threat and Black Flag, exploring themes of rebellion and community. It provides insight into how hardcore punk influenced later music genres.

5. *Rip It Up and Start Again: Postpunk 1978-1984*

Simon Reynolds documents the post-punk movement that emerged after punk's initial explosion, focusing on innovation and experimentation in music. The book covers influential bands such as Joy Division, Talking Heads, and Gang of Four, emphasizing their artistic evolution and cultural significance. It's an essential read for understanding punk's legacy and transformation.

6. *Gimme Danger: The Story of Iggy Pop*

This biography by Paul Trynka delves into the life and career of Iggy Pop, often called the "Godfather of Punk." Tracing his journey from the proto-punk band The Stooges to his solo work, the book highlights his influence on punk's sound and attitude. It offers a personal and musical portrait of one of punk's most iconic figures.

7. *The Death and Life of Punk, the Last Subculture*

By Ian Glasper, this book examines the punk scene from its heyday through its decline and resurgence. Combining historical narrative with interviews, it explores punk's enduring cultural impact and how it has evolved over decades. The book provides a broader context for punk as both a music genre and social movement.

8. *Dance of Days: Two Decades of Punk in the Nation's Capital*

Mark Andersen and Mark Jenkins chronicle the vibrant punk scene in Washington, D.C., highlighting its unique political and social dimensions. The book focuses on influential bands like Bad Brains and Fugazi, showcasing the city's role in shaping punk's hardcore and DIY ethos. It's a detailed exploration of a pivotal regional punk community.

9. *England's Dreaming: Punk Rock and the Making of a Subculture*

This book by Jon Savage explores the broader cultural and social context of punk in the UK, beyond just the music. It delves into punk's roots in 1970s Britain, including fashion, art, and politics, revealing how the movement challenged societal norms. The work is a comprehensive study of punk as a defining youth subculture.

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