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CBGB & OMFUG: Thirty Years From The Home Of Underground Rock



Synopsis

Hilly Kristal originally intended his club to showcase the type of music his venue's notorious letters stand for: Country, Bluegrass, Blues. Little did he know his club on the Bowery would be the birthplace of a new era of music in New York City: Punk. While CBGB ultimately didn't describe the music the club was known for, OMFUG (Other Music for Uplifting Gormandizers) still represents what the club provides for all voracious "eaters" of music. CBGB & OMFUG is a musical and cultural landmark, recognized worldwide and visited by countless tourists and music lovers each year. In these luminous pages, CBGB's influence and legacy is honored with 200 photos of some of the most celebrated artists in music history. With an introduction by Hilly Kristal, an afterword by David Byrne, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and cofounder of Talking Heads, and additional commentary by numerous performers and patrons, CBGB & OMFUG features unforgettable images by the many photographers who documented an American institution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Forget the current controversy surrounding CBGBs, this book isn't about that. This book uses pictures to describe the life and times of this Bowery landmark from its early days in 1973 to the present. The first picture (not counting the inside cover shot of their famous toilets) is of The Ramones, and the last shot is of Handsome Dick of The Dictators. In between lies b&w photo after b&w photo of punk and New Wave in its infancy. If you were there this book will remind you of how it was. If you weren't this book will graphically tell you the story of NYC area kids tired of corporate

rock who just wanted to play a few chords as loud as they could so they could feel the rush.

The days of punk are long gone in a haze of AquaNet, black eyeliner and black leather. But thankfully, a handful of artists had the foresight to immortalize the scene in glorious black & white. The photographs are arranged in chronological order and include a who's-who of the punk scene. Some of the in-your-face images bring you to front center stage where you're right there with the usual suspects--Ramones, Television, Blondie. There are lots of surprises too including a great shot of Stiv Bators with Divine, and a shot of Klaus Nomi, Christopher Parker & Jim Jarmusch taken outside at the front of CBGB's. If you ever wanted to know what the punk scene was like in its early days, or if you were there and need a bit of a jolt to jog your memory, you've got to get this book.

A beautifully produced book of mostly band photos. I'd hoped for more photos of the crowd and the venue itself. I wanted more history and a better sense of the place. But again, a very nice coffee table book.

Not much text, but some great photos of some great bands. It contains a who's who of music in its chronological images. I was surprised that I didn't see a shot of The Sugarcubes from when I saw them there in 88.

This book is an absolute necessity For anyone remotely interested in The New York punk scene. You Will see incredible pictures of Blondie, The Ramones and More. Unlike most books about a venue this one does never get bogged down in its local aspects. This is due to The fact that The CBGB was so central to a major change in music. It gives a wonderful idea of The gigs For people like me WHO were stupid enough to Walk past it in 1990 and think "oh, CBGB" and never Walk in.

The history captured in the pictures is great. It was bought as a gift for a music fan. After spending a lot of time looking for a DVD history of the CBGB, I "settled" for this book. While there isn't much narrative on the history of the place, the pictures tell a great story on their own. The baby faced pictures of artists we grew up with makes it a great purchase for music fans.

My punk-rock fiancée with abnormally discerning tastes enjoys it - so it must be good. Great for the history & the photos.

nice photo history of cbgb's would have been better with at least little storyline

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