

THE BUSINESS BOOKS

LIFE AFTER LLOYD – A ROCK 'N' ROLL TALE

MICK GEGGUS
(Cadiz)

9/10

Not so much a companion piece to brother Jeff Turner's book 'Cockney Reject' as much as a powerful and personal story, Geggus has written a heart-warming, deeply funny and at times painfully tragic account of the travails of the band he's led since his teen years and the loss of his lifelong friend and band mate Tony Van Frater who died suddenly in 2015. Tracking through the band's later development and virtual re-birth, this account of the tours, tears and tantrums as well as the almost Spinal Tap lunacy of a band on the road is crucial rock reading. The Rejects are a very misunderstood beast and hopefully this articulate and smartly-woven tale will redress that. Van Frater (the titular 'Lloyd' – you'll need to read it for the explanation of that one!) was a diamond of a man and his love of the band and his gigantic personality are beautifully illustrated throughout. Geggus has taken a tale interspersed with tragedy and created something that is in turns moving, intriguing and joyful.

Joe Whyte

I JUST CAN'T STOP IT: RANKING ROGER: MY LIFE IN THE BEAT

DANIEL RACHEL

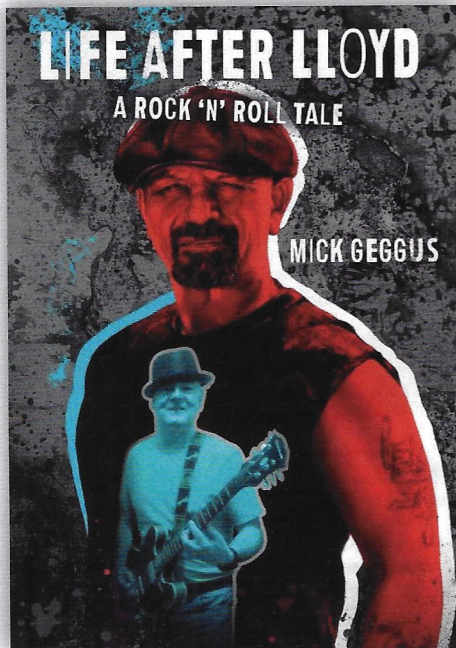
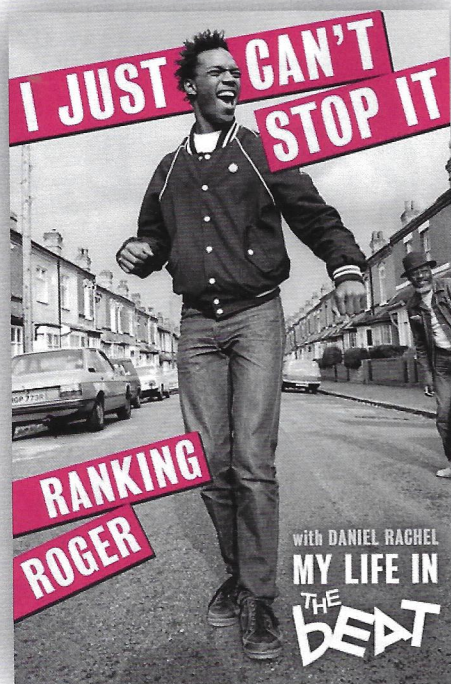
(Omnibus Press)

9/10

This book delves into the explosion of Two Tone that happened when the influences of punk and reggae collided in the collective consciousness of a new generation in the UK and beyond. Ranking Roger recalls hearing John Lydon speak of the similarities between the punk and the reggae message, "Reggae was saying 'Chant down Babylon' and punk was saying 'Anarchy in the UK.'" This is the story of one of the UK's biggest 2-Tone bands, The Beat, who at the height of their fame in the early '80s, had three top-selling UK albums and

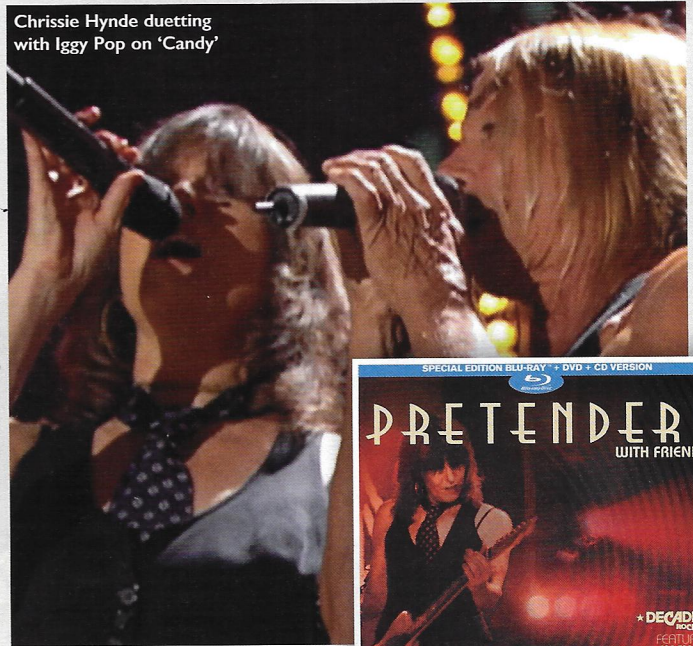
like the Specials, epitomized the 2-tone multi-racial approach to music and life in urban Britain. It begins when Roger is a 16 year-old Birmingham school boy in 1979 and a fan of punk. This strikingly presented book has a fantastic photo collection which shows Roger's love of music and fashion throughout the years. The cover photo shows Roger at his best, dancing down the street with a big smile on his face. His vigour for life shines through from a picture of him being squeezed by Joe Strummer to him buried up to his neck in sand on the beach, laughing with friends. 'I Just Can't Stop It' is a beautiful tribute to an amazing man. I just can't put it down.

Paula Frost



DVDs

Chrissie Hynde duetting with Iggy Pop on 'Candy'



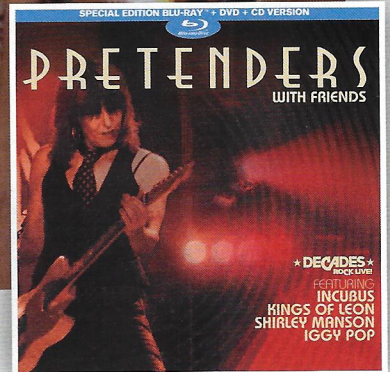
PRETENDERS WITH FRIENDS

(Cleopatra)

7/10

Chrissie Hynde is on top form in this beautifully shot live concert film. She sings great, looks well and gives an electric performance in this 75-minute gig. The band open with 'The Wait' and descend into the ballad 'The Losing' whilst the crowd screams every time Chrissie gets close. Recorded at the Decades Rock Arena in Atlantic City, NJ on August 11, 2006, the performance is a celebration of the group, entitled 'Decades Rock Live Honors The Pretenders'. The Grammy Award-winning, multi-platinum selling band bring on special guests Iggy Pop, Shirley Manson of Garbage, Kings of Leon and Incubus. The release includes a 16 track live album CD, special edition blu-ray and full DVD. Guests join The Pretenders onstage playing two songs each kicking off with Shirley Mason singing a powerful version of 'Talk Of The Town'. King of Leon play their hit 'The Bucket' and cover Pretenders 'Up The Neck'. Incubus play 'Drive' and 'Message of Love' and Iggy Pop plays 'Fools Must Die' and 'Candy'. All bands come back on stage to perform the closing song 'Middle Of The Road'. As live DVDs go, and we've all seen a few, this is a really high quality job. The venue, the sound, the different camera angles and the band are all on form.

Paula Frost



WE ARE THE LEAGUE

(Cleopatra)

8/10

Though intrinsically part of the UK82 punk boom, Anti-Nowhere League were always an odd fit – as guitarist Magoo says here, "None of us were punks, we jumped on the punk bandwagon because we couldn't play very well."

As this very well made film reveals, the band emerged from what on the surface might look like an unlikely starting point for a full-on bunch of rock 'n' roll crazies – 'Royal' Tunbridge Wells, but one serious element to the film that all are agreed on is that the idea that the band's home town was all posh and middle class was a myth and beneath the façade there was a depressing amount of poverty.

In fact the band members were comprised of bikers and skinheads, which gave them their own creed and identity, but the rebel stance suited the early '80s punk scene just fine; as Rat Scabies says "There's not a band around today that has got the balls to even stand up and say 'You know what? I think you're all cunts and I'm going to take the piss out of you.' There's no one, it's dead, and we need that attitude."

Shane Baldwin

