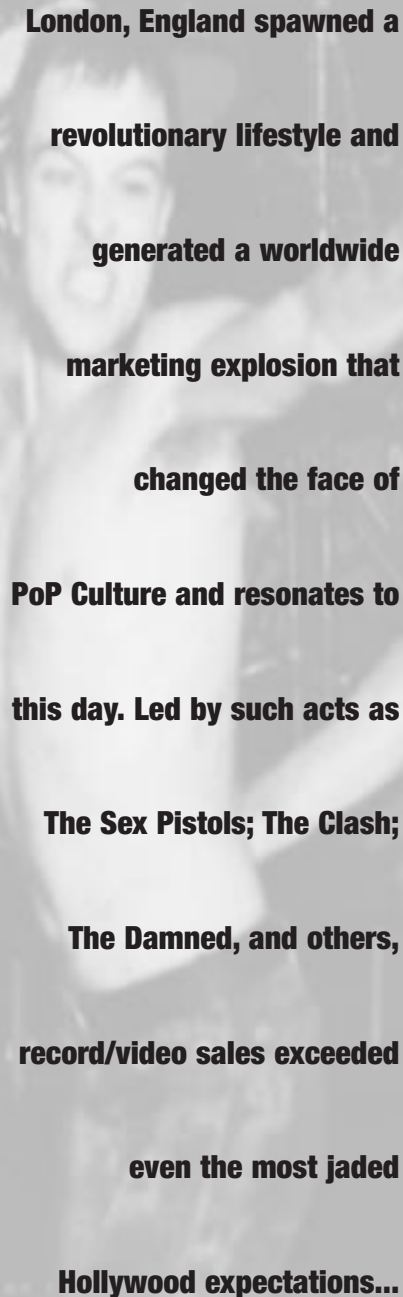


# RAGE

20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK  
WESTCOAST STYLE

Listen to the movie and watch the soundtrack

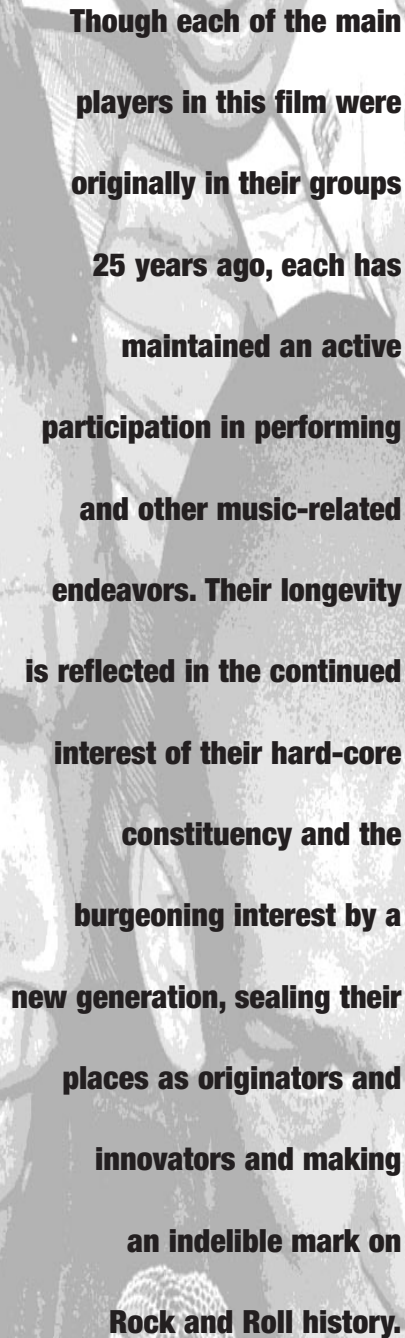


**London, England spawned a revolutionary lifestyle and generated a worldwide marketing explosion that changed the face of PoP Culture and resonates to this day. Led by such acts as The Sex Pistols; The Clash; The Damned, and others, record/video sales exceeded even the most jaded Hollywood expectations...**

Late in 1977, the US answered with a vengeance through music, graphics, design, commercial art and fashion. The US, from New York to LA to San Francisco responded with such talent as The Screamers; The Germs; The Weirdos; Dead Kennedys; TSOL; X; Circle Jerks; Black Flag; Fear; The Ramones; Dead Boys and many others.

This Documentary depicts the struggle and views of six seminal Punk Rockers who survived and transcended the corporate machinery that would try to suppress their unique vision of society and attempts at voicing it. It evokes the passion and vision that fueled the much over-looked movement now known as PUNK. The film translates, through their eyes, how the Punk Scene originated in the US and specifically, the West Coast, why they chose this route, their influences, and how Punk evolved into the major cultural influence it is today.

Through in-depth interviews, archival footage and stills—much of it never before seen, and contemporary motion graphics/animation, the viewer is taken on an informational ride that is nothing less than an epiphany. A fascinating journey that in turn is shocking, humorous and informative, RAGE is definitely a hybrid documentary not to miss.



**Though each of the main players in this film were originally in their groups 25 years ago, each has maintained an active participation in performing and other music-related endeavors. Their longevity is reflected in the continued interest of their hard-core constituency and the burgeoning interest by a new generation, sealing their places as originators and innovators and making an indelible mark on Rock and Roll history.**

Jack Grisham is a prolific songwriter with over 16 records to his credit as TSOL, Cathedral of Tears, Tender Fury and Joy Killer. He has since reformed the original members of TSOL, secured a recording contract and are touring domestically, soon internationally. Jack penned an original song specifically for the soundtrack of this film.

Keith Morris, the first lead singer of Black Flag, then founding member of the Circle Jerks, is writing a book with Masque founder Brendan Mullen. Keith still performs spoken word concerts, performs and collaborates with various veterans of the Punk Scene.

Gitane Demone of Christian Death, has continued to write and record new material in Europe and the US. She has consistently performed around the globe and domestically with different back-up such as Paul Morden, Bryna of Babylonian Tiles, Ivan X of Tongue and Jewel Audra.

Don Bolles of The Germs and 45 Grave, DJ's around So. California as "Venomous Invisible Amanda", mixing a fascinating hybrid of everything that remains outside the mainstream. Don releases various audio oddities on his own indie label Transparency Records.

Jello Biafra of Dead Kennedys fame still releases various cutting edge artists on his Alternative Tentacles label. Jello has been performing spoken-word concerts in venues and colleges across the US.

Duane Peters, 5 time skateboard champion, and the US Bombs are the archetypal DIY punk group. Releasing a number of self-produced CDs, Duane Peters is the Tom Waits of Punk. With his new band, The Hunns, Duane continues to release new material and tour.

20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK

# RAGE

WEST COAST STYLE



R A D I U S A R T S

## S Y N O P S I S

RAGE depicts the hope, anger and aggression of the early west coast punk rock scene. Punk was in it's infancy in the late 1970's. It was shapeless, gritty, honest and dishonest. It could be morphed into anything the imagination could conceive. The film relates how the punk scene originated through the eyes of Jack Grisham (TSOL), Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys), Keith Morris (Circle Jerks), Gitane Demone (Christian Death), Duane Peters (US Bombs), and Don Bolles (The Germs). With stylish motion graphics as a content partner, the film is also visually jarring and an experience to watch.

"It's not as formulaic and slick as Behind the Music, and that's why we love it."

Rich Kane, OC Weekly

"One of the few authentic documentaries on the subject."

Aaron Pastula, Transworld Stance

"RAGE maintains the true spirit of punk

for the world's collective memory."

Gina McIntyre, Hollywood Reporter

# RAGE

## 20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK WEST COAST STYLE

FEATURING **JACK GRISHAM, TSOL; JELLO BIAFRA, DEAD KENNEDYS; DUANE PETERS & US BOMBS; KEITH MORRIS, CIRCLE JERKS; GITANE DEMONE, CHRISTIAN DEATH; DON BOLLES, GERMS, AND MANY MORE**

CLASSIFIED FILMS PRESENTS A CLASSIFIED FILMS PRODUCTION: **RAGE: 20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK WEST COAST STYLE** A FILM BY **MICHAEL BISHOP & SCOTT JACOBY**

PRODUCED BY: **MICHAEL BISHOP, HAROLD BISHOP & SCOTT JACOBY** CO-PRODUCED BY: **DWAYNE LYON** MUSIC SUPERVISION: **MICHAEL BISHOP**

PRODUCTION DESIGN/ART DIRECTION: **HAROLD BISHOP** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **JOHN VARGAS** STILL PHOTOGRAPHY: **EDWARD COLVER**

Classified

DIRECTED BY: **MICHAEL BISHOP & SCOTT JACOBY**

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**MICHAEL BISHOP****Producer/Director/Composer**

As a student of piano since the age of 5 Michael began and association with his older brother Harold, also an artist, by the age of 10. At 15 through our collaboration we had won a battle of the bands titled The Pepsi Boss Battle for KHJ Radio/TV LA subsequently signing recording contracts with Mike Curb's Sidewalk Productions and management contracts with Robert Fitzpatrick of Stigwood/Fitzpatrick (BeeGees; Cream; etc) in 1966.

Michael's first movie experience came in 1967 arranging & performing Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil's songs for the cult classic "Wild in the Streets". After a 7 year contract, numerous TV shows, tours, recordings and side tracks, (including a brief stint with Apple Records/London), Michael and his brother signed to 20th Century Fox as artists & writers. From there they went to Motown/Jobete Music (a particular victory since we were white and Michael a scant 22 years old). At the culmination of that experience, Michael and his brother parted ways for a time.

Michael then began writing and recording with artists Hunt and Tony Sales of Todd Rundgren, Iggy Pop and David Bowie groups; along with Blondie Chaplin and Ricky Fataar of the Beach Boys, The Rutelles, Bonnie Raitt and The Rolling Stones.

Michael began a small indy label called Radius Records in the mid-seventies. Radius released various singles & EP's through Tower Records, Music Plus and Licorice Pizza. He also produced an hour-long radio show, "Radius Records Hour" for KROQ & KNAC. An interview/live & recorded music format featured acts such as Talking Heads, The Damned, Ramones and many more. Through this venture Michael began an association with Warren Cann of the influential British group, UltraVox. Looking for new horizons they began scoring for the then emerging Home Video market. They composed & produced music for the first Playmate Home Videos and Michael composed the Playmate Calendar Theme still in use.

From that point Michael received his first composing effort for a feature film for Skip Steloff and Heritage Films.

As a feature film composer Michael produced a wide variety of music for Cannon Films, MGM/UA, Full Moon Entertainment, Ashok Ametraj and others, including titles such as "Bloodsport", "Deathwish IV", "Shy People", and "Prehysteria I, II, and III".

After producing the soundtrack release for "Made in USA", a Hemdale picture (music by Sonic Youth) for Harold Bronson and Rhino Entertainment, Michael started up Classified Films with his brother Harold and Scott Jacoby. As Classified, they have produced and directed their first feature documentary "RAGE: 20 Years of Punk Rock, West Coast Style", released on DVD/VHS worldwide through MVD in 2002.

In addition to the film, Michael has produced the soundtrack CD collection of music from and inspired by the film, as a complete package, released through Restless/Ryko Records in 2003.

He has recently completed composing and producing the soundtrack for contemporary film director Raider Rhotenacher's short film "Oscar", soon to be screened in upcoming film festivals, including Sundance.

**HAROLD BISHOP****Producer/Production Designer**

As a teenager, Harold Bishop and his brother Michael began rock music groups subsequently signing a production/management contract with Mike Curb's Sidewalk Productions recording extensive original material written by Harold and Michael, wrote and performed main songs in the cult movie "Wild in the Streets", and wrote and performed in a TV pilot PopMusic show called "Girl On The Go", never released. They went on to performance and publishing contracts with 20th Century Fox, then Motown/Jobete Music. During this time, Harold also attended the Art School at University of California, Irvine as a classmate of Performance/Conceptual Artist, Chris Burden, ( a proposed next documentary subject), where he executed a series of installation pieces, large format field paintings and video/concept pieces, ultimately leaving just before BFA graduation to pursue the music opportunities.

After recording for Motown, Harold left the partnership to pursue other options. This led to a stint as lead guitarist for Delany & Bonnie Bramlett's Mobius for a year+. After an extensive road trip, Harold left to pursue personal writing directions and began a group with sometime Beach Boy, and now Rolling Stones sideman Blondie Chaplin.

Subsequently, he left the music business to pursue opportunities in Advertising & Design industry. As part of his portfolio, he developed motion graphics for commercial use, which ultimately led to a repartnership with his brother, and Scott Jacoby in the production of the documentary film, "RAGE: 20 Years of Punk Rock, West Coast Style", in which Harold art directed and developed the signature graphic look of the film and its existing marketing materials. Since then, Michael and Harold developed a soundtrack CD that was released in late 2003. A retail package of the film DVD, audio CD and merchandising products created by Michael and Harold are now being facilitated.

Harold concurrently has a commercial design studio through which he services a number of commercial accounts with marketing strategy and design, web and flash design, advertising and print design, video and film design. He has embarked on new endeavors in digital music composition in the vein of contemporary electronic music.



R A D I U S A R T S

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**PRESS RELEASE: for immediate release:**

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**RAGE the Soundtrack**

by Carolyn Stuart, for Radius Music

*“It’s amazing how we function so effectively  
in this Fucked Up State  
And it’s amazing how we survive days in LA  
in this Fucked Up State...”*

With these enraged lyrics, the California punk rock band *Exit Highland* almost anticipated the recall election fiasco. “Fucked Up State” is just one of the many tracks on *RAGE the Soundtrack* that dares to say what is really going on and how people feel about it in California. The frustration and anger that characterized punk rock from its early days in the 1970s remains the underlying spirit in a tradition that many are not aware continues today. *RAGE the Soundtrack*, a compilation of punk rock music that follows the release of a DVD documentary produced and directed by the veteran SoCal rocker Michael Bishop, alternates tracks of music from “Then” (the 70s) and “Now” (2003).

The neighborhood riots, drugs, and broken homes in “Fucked Up State” ties the contemporary punk rock to its earlier roots. Also on the soundtrack is a 1977 recording by the band *Dils* which addresses the gap between the rich and poor, and cries for a class war. In the same spirit, but in slightly different vein, Gitane Demone, formerly of *Christian Death*, fights her own “Solitary War.” Demone’s heart is wrenched and sings that her trust and love is dead for a former lover who only told narcissistic lies. The melancholic “Solitary War” has a beautiful melody, just as does “Spit Up the Rage,” written and performed by Jack Grisham, formerly of TSOL. Jack Grisham, also featured in interviews on the DVD documentary *RAGE*, sings “California over all the wonder world of drunken punk plans.” Yet contrary to his stance of removal and disgust expressed by lyrics in “Spit Up the Rage,” Grisham is one of the 130 candidates running for California Governor, entering the fray of politics rather than lying “fucked up in the sand.”

Whether or not you are an avid punk rock fan, you are bound to enjoy listening to *RAGE the Soundtrack*, because not only are the issues it addresses pertinent now, but also because the music itself expands beyond a narrow conception of what punk rock music sounds like. The Soundtrack is the essential companion to the DVD documentary *RAGE*, which reviewers have called “hardcore 101 for the unschooled.” *RAGE the Soundtrack* tells the truth in a time of mixed signals from politicians, musicians, and record companies, and at the same time it is fun to listen to. If you want to get a pulse on California today, stop reading about Arnold Schwarzenegger in the media and tune into *RAGE the Soundtrack*.





**Rage the Soundtrack**  
**by Katherine Vic**  
**Big Cheese / UK**

***Proof that West Coast punk rock existed before NOFX!***

☆☆☆☆

If punk is really dead, then where on earth did this come from? The US West Coast apparently, where a documentary film "RAGE: 20 Years Of Punk Rock West Coast Style" has been created, spawning this CD of music from and inspired by the film.. Boy, does it make you want to go and check out the film! Punk rock old and new is sampled here, evoking a feeling for how it used to be before punk moved from the age of personal rebellion and into Vogue fashion spreads. So, here you get to sample TSOL, The Streetwalkin' Cheetahs, The Adolescents, Weirdos, Circle Jerks and Dils amongst others as well as a 5 minute movie sample from the film to whet your appetite. Go for it!



## Rage the Movie

by Victoria Jane Joyce

The movie has songs and the soundtrack has footage. Am I listening or watching?

Have you noticed music and movies are no longer done when they are released. "I knew I was going to make a DVD," says filmmaker Michael Bishop. "I was lucky enough to work with some true visionaries." Veteran musician, producer and director wanted to set the record straight.

The full name of this nifty documentary is 'Rage, 20 Years of Punk, West Coast Style.' Released last year with a limited theatrical run, now available on DVD and just released, a soundtrack on CD, both mediums have been enhanced with 'extras.'

Not for nostalgia, the film has been embraced by academics as a record of the music, where it came from, where it is today and why it still holds up. Put simply, Michael tells us, "The Sex Pistols called collect and the West Coast paid the bill." Cute.

On-screen interviews include key players with key bands. Dead Kennedy's Jello Biafra, the George Plimpton of Punk, gives some historical background and perspective. Jack Grisham of TSOL gives voice to his Bolshevik ideals and his List O' Party Tricks are priceless ("Yeah, butter on the floor in front of the fridge!"). Also featured; Duane Peters & US Bombs, Keith Morris of the Circle Jerks, Christian Deaths Gitane Demone. It's all wonderful stuff. Archival footage and stills. The graphics are edgy and scratchy. A lot of good information straight from the source. Our favorite, at the film's beginning is Harold Bronson of Rhino Entertainment relating his first brush with Stiff Records and bringing the same back from England.

Bishop spent a year on the compilation sound track. More great stuff. Starting with the artists from the film, adding and compounding it with new material and original. Artists include The Streetwalkin' Cheetahs, The Wierdos, Flipper and the very LA - Exit Highland. Listening to it and watching the extra goodies brings new perspective to the film. Which has blossomed beyond the big screen with director's comments and extra footage that didn't make it into the final film. Including a sweet talk with LA legend Rodney Bigenheimer. You get music with your movie and a movie with your music.

At a recent Tinsel Town event (The Hollywood Reporter's Next Generation) publisher, Bob Dowling congratulated young film and TV execs and directed them to "embrace the new technology" and "don't make the mistake of the music industry," now paying the price for resistance.

Re-mixing, re-cutting, re-packaging may initially be perceived as a way to make more money for corporations (and artists). In the bigger view, this flexibility lets music and film evolve, blend, change and grow. Interactive entertainment is not just video games. You heard about the new Beatles album? Let It Be? Without all that Phil Spector stuff? Guilty.

Punk rock was revolutionary when it hit and it hasn't lost its punch.

Listen to the movie and watch the soundtrack.

[www.ragethemovie.com](http://www.ragethemovie.com)

[www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com)



Gina McIntyre, The Hollywood Reporter

For an entire generation, punk rock was more than just music — it was a way of life. Punk was a force that compelled young idealists to seek truth, to redefine beauty according to their own standards. It exhorted millions across the globe to eschew conformity for radical individuality and to defy tradition for anarchy. And it moved to a powerful soundtrack of chaotic, three-chord rage.

Judging from their documentary *Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock*, filmmakers Michael Bishop and Scott Jacoby seem to understand that sense of disenfranchisement. Through a series of in-depth interviews with seminal artists in Southern California punk scene — Jack Grisham (TSOL), Duane Peters (U.S. Bombs), Gitane Demone (Christian Death), Keith Morris (Circle Jerks), Don Bolles (Germs) and Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys) — they paint a vivid portrait of what it was like to be on the front lines of West Coast punk. Indeed, the personal accounts from each performer offer unique insight into one of the most important revolutions in music and culture.

What is perhaps most remarkable about these artists — and by extension what becomes the most interesting component of Bishop and Jacoby's film — is their steadfast dedication to punk rock idealism. For two decades, they created music on their own terms without regard to fame, fortune or MTV airplay (Biafra's refusal to sell his band's "Holiday in Cambodia" for a commercial campaign only underscores that stance). "Rage" celebrates the tenacity intrinsic to punk's DIY aesthetic, however, the documentary never shies away from acknowledging the very real sacrifices the bands have made to pursue that philosophy.

Mainstream America might never really understand — or accept — the influence of the punk movement on popular culture at large, but that fact really only emphasizes the need for films like *Rage*. Without documenting the colorful figures of the underground, it is entirely possible that the true spirit of punk might fade from the collective memory of a world where fashion so often outweighs substance. Here's hoping those restless voices will never rest in peace. —



## RAGE!

20 Years Of Punk West Coast Style Movie Premier

June 7th at The Laemmle Sunset 5 Theatre, Hollywood CA

Review By: Scott Harding

Photos by: Scott Wulfesteig

These days, the punk scene is very different that it was before. Today the shows are not packed with people who eat sleep and live the punk life style. Instead there are likely to be a mixture of these people with the same people you might also find at a Blink 182 or another "radio friendly" show. That's because back in the late 70's and early 80's punk was new and it had not yet branched out to the very different styles of punk and not so punk that are available today. Because of this branching out, some of the meaning of punk and what it takes to be considered punk has been lost. I can't begin to tell you how many arguments I have heard in my life on what and what not punk is. Is it a fashion? Is it a statement? Is it a way of life? Everyone seems to have an explanation of what they think it is. Well to get the straight answers you can do one of two things. You can either invent a time machine and race back to when punk was first be available to the listening ear and cruise down to Los Angeles and Orange County to see the scene your self.

Or you can go see "Rage 20 Years Of Punk West Coast Style" and hear it straight from the pioneers of punk themselves! Knowing that "Rage" documentary that explored the punk scene through the eyes if people that started it and it included interviews with Keith Morris, Jack Grisham, Jello Biafra, Duane Peters, Gitane Demone, and Don Bolles, the choice for me simple. I wanted to see the flick!

The date was June 7th and the location was Laemmle's Sunset 5 Theatre and I found myself outside the theatre chatting with Michael Bishop and Scott Jacoby, the creators of "Rage". They were telling me how excited they were because they have had a few screenings before this one and they did very well and the word was spreading all over about the movie. Not only that but tonight's show was to break a record. Apparently this was going to be the first screening of any movie in a theatre that was viewed by DVD technology. That's pretty damn cool because this could mean a new and cost effective trend in movie viewing in theatres across the world. It was still a bit early but there was already a line of people waiting to get in. Most of the people were all punked out but I also noticed a good amount of every day people. And as I looked around I saw that Keith Morris, Gitane Demone, and Don Bolles were also there chatting amongst fans



Keith Morris and the creators of RAGE



and friends. It was a great atmosphere of people! When the doors opened and we all charged in, I grabbed a popcorn and a soda and headed to the theatre. When I got in that's when I realized just how many people were there. The whole theatre was packed! In fact it was pretty much sold out! There must have been near 300 people! I finally found a seat in the first row. Not the best seat in the house but it did just fine. And then it started. With a great intro of flashing pictures, animations and gig footage accompanied by choice punk music with a mix of classical. And then it kicked in to high gear with interviews of some great punk legends! Here is just a sample of what some had to say:

Jack Grisham from TSOL was very entertaining during his interview. Talking about how back in the day being punk was more than just a weekend trip. It was all or nothing! He was very honest about how he lived then. Breaking shit, getting laid, steeling and playing loud punk was pretty much a given in a day in the life of Jack Grisham. Punk was definitely a life style for him. He also talked about every time he went out for a night on the town it was all about pushing the envelope of fun. If he didn't come home with a black eye then he knew he didn't push that envelope as far as he should.

Jello Biafra, sporting a "D.A.R.E. to keep children out of church" t-shirt" talked about how scene in San Francisco a relevant part in the early punk scene. He spoke about how he did his part to help cure society from the disease called censorship. He also went on about how he enjoys doing spoken word because he feels that the messages he wants to send can penetrate further in a person with spoken word than a minute and a half punk rock song.

Keith Morris gave his interview wearing a curly purple wig with a cowboy hat and some crazy looking glasses that made him look like Bruce Lee. Although very comical looking Keith brought up serious info about the people who attend punk shows and how the bands read them. And Duane Peters explained how punk made him want to get out and skate and referred to Gwen Stufanie and a "Pile of Shit", everyone in the audience showed their support for that comment with a loud cheer.

And this is only just a taste of what to expect when you see this documentary! Each person interviewed had nothing but informative and interesting things to say. And in-between the comments they shows some rare photos and live clips of shows that were taken during the birth



*Laemmle Sunset 5*



20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK

# RAGE

WEST COAST STYLE



R A D I U S A R T S



and creation of the punk scene. Throughout the whole viewing people reacted to it verbally and emotionally.

After the film ended instead of leaving and going home, most people hung out side the theatre and talked about what they just saw. It was great! How many times have you seen that happen after a movie. So in conclusion if you haven't gone out to see this movie yet do your self a favor and go now!

[CLICK HERE FOR RAGE'S WEBSITE TO SEE WHERE YOU CAN SEE IT!](#)

If you would like to purchase a copy of RAGE the click here to visit Music Video Distributors



DVD REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 2001

### **Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock, West Coast Style**

MVD: DVD/MHS

For Jello Biafra, once frontman of the seminal California punk outfit Dead Kennedys, alone this self-evidently titled documentary is worth the watch. Throw in the colorful Jack Grisham of T.S.O.L. or the still angry (and somewhat tragic) skater-turned-tattooed-man-turned-U.S. Bombs frontman Duane Peters and you've got a cringingly good time on your hands. Sure, Rage is a bit short on actual history, but it does tend to make up for it in good old ornery punk exposition. Watch as Peters makes fun of No Doubt and calls lead singer Gwen Stefani "the most annoying pile of shit I've ever fucking heard." Or, get tips from Grisham on how to get free band equipment from churches: "You go in there and tip over the holy water, piss on the fucking altar and grab the mics." Be mesmerized by Circle Jerks' Keith Morris and his goofy gray wig and Asian eyes' glasses. Or Biafra's highly literate views on the importance of naivety in punk rock: "It's important to do these things when you don't know enough not to." And of course, who could forget Don Bolles' relatively pat explanation on how he became drummer of the self-destructive punk band The Germs, or how Gitane Demone, once of Christian Death, still gets angry over the current state of punk cultural affairs? ("Cause what's going on is just a pretty picture," she muses in one scene.) It's all good stuff for you folks who know that today's so-called punk music just ain't all that punk. And, as a matter of fact, it should be required viewing for anybody who believes that Green Day is punk at all. DVD extras include further interview footage, director commentary and a new song by Grisham. (Aaron M. Fontana)



## **Rage: 20 Years Of Punk Rock, West Coast Style**

Purchase this DVD at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

\*\*\* (Audio: B+, Video: B, Features: B+)

Directed by Michael Bishop & Scott Jacoby. Produced by Michael Bishop, Scott Jacoby and Harold Bishop. Released by Music Video Distributors. 2000. Not rated. Bonus video, bonus audio, director's comments.

The legacy and history of west coast punk rock is the subject of this intriguing, professional and very thorough documentary which, nonetheless, probably won't have much appeal to any but those who were and are still close to the punk scene. Outsiders will get an educational and enlightening glimpse into what makes punkers tick and may get a great understanding for the movement, but they aren't likely to be swayed to any greater appreciation than they had before.

Bonus material on the disc includes about a half hour of extra 'man on the street' video interview footage, much of it serious, some of it anarchistically funny, as well as a half-hour of extra audio material (music and interviews). The film's directors, Michael Bishop and Scott Jacoby, also appear in a brief video interview where they explain their motives for wanting to make the film. It's not quite the same as a running commentary, but it does establish just how seriously they take their subject matter.

-By Wade Major

Collector Rating: STRICTLY FOR FANS





OCWEEKLY

MUSIC | REVIEW

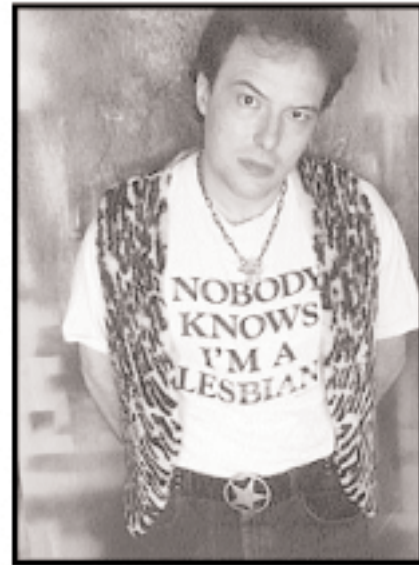
Vol. 6 No. 25 Feb. 23 - Mar. 1, 2001

## Stop Your Gobbin'

*Punk rock doc makes the music go bang*

by Rich Kane

Punk kids today got it easy. Never had to deal with getting beat up because of their funny-colored hair. Never had to put up with just-for-the-hell-of-it harassment from the cops—hey, a lot of cops today reason for screening Michael Bishop and Scott Jacoby's excellent documentary *Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock* as part of the winter season program of UC Irvine's Film and Video Center: a history lesson for people who think living a punk rock lifestyle means spending an arduous afternoon watching Blink-182 videos on MTV. Bands like Blink, Green Day and the Offspring only exist



*Jello Biafra*

and thrive these days thanks to the battles—literal blood-spewing battles—fought by the old, late 1970s/early '80s California punkers. *Rage* nicely documents this era via some vintage video footage, but it is centered mostly on latter-day interviews with such entertaining and articulate people as TSOL's Jack Grisham, who smartly pinpoints the relationship between the punk scene he was raised in and the gangsta rap that would a decade later (he also laughs about huffing on Pam as a troublemaking nine-year-old); Duane Peters, who neatly sums up the origins of OC skate-punk with one sentence: "Before I heard the Ramones, all I had was Alice Cooper, and you can only skate to Alice Cooper so many years" (Duane also calls Gwen Stefani "the most annoying pile of shit I ever fucking heard"); Circle Jerk Keith Morris, who tries playing eloquent to the camera while sporting goofy plastic glasses, a fright wig and a stupid-looking hat; onetime Germs drummer Don Bolles (suffering here from some sort of bizarre facial-hair disaster), who proclaims that Darby Crash "had more charisma than Jesus"; and the Dead Kennedys' Jello Biafra—modeling his "DARE to keep kids out of church" T-shirt—who waxes about the San Francisco scene. As well-done as *Rage* is, it looks to get even better: Bishop is currently working on a DVD of his film that will include extra footage, as well as a soundtrack on which he hopes to include new songs by some of the film's interview subjects, proving that the art they're making today is just as fresh and creative as it was then. Regardless of what version you wind up catching, though, *Rage* is an important flick that captures a history worthy of proper preservation—a time that will certainly never be repeated, no matter how hard some people keep trying. It's not as formulaic and slick as *Behind the Music*, and that's why we love it.



Stance

MAY 2001

## All The Rage

*A brand-new documentary about the history of West Coast Punk.*

by Aaron Pastula

Chances are, most of you reading this weren't born when punk rock began. And yet chances are even greater that, in some way, punk has inspired the clothing you wear, the advertisements you see, the magazine you're holding, and, of course, the music you listen to. Rock 'n' roll may have been the explosion that changed popular culture, but punk rock is the invisible shockwave that continues to disrupt and influence nearly everything in its path.

Michael and Harold Bishop were at ground zero when punk rock hit the West Coast, when bands like the Germs, the Weirdos, and the Screamers were building the foundation of the So Cal scene. But despite their indelible contribution to the punk lifestyle, many of these artists never got the recognition they ultimately deserved. Determined to set the record straight, the Bishop brothers with co-director Scott Jacoby have attempted to tell the real story of these innovators in *Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock - West Coast Style*. The punk documentary is currently blazing its way through the festival circuit and is on its way to national release.

Shot in true D.I.Y. style in and around Los Angeles, the film features lengthy interviews with TSOL's Jack Grisham, the Circle Jerks' Keith Morris, and The Dead Kennedys' Jello Biafra, among others. Along the way, Michael and Scott also contacted more notable figures like Henry Rollins and The Offspring band members, who still seemed to have the right attitude despite their financial success. What they discovered, however, was more than a little disheartening.

"There was a backlash," says Michael, "because some of the perennial people were the antithesis of what I was going for. They wanted money, they wanted me to talk to their managers."

Thankfully, uncooperative attitudes from certain artists didn't hurt the film; if anything, they allowed the directors to focus more on punk's purists. Says Harold, who also produced the film, "The people who ended up in the movie are the proponents of the real, true punk-rock spirit. They're all hardcore individualists."



*Steve DePace, Michael Bishop, Harold Bishop*



Stance

MAY 2001 / Continued

Hardcore indeed. The interviews that make up the majority of *Rage* are raw and uncut—probably just as their subjects would like them to be. Grisham reveals the lawlessness and devil-may-care attitude that fueled the majority of his music, which doesn't dilute the fact that he's an incredibly insightful and talented musician. Christian Death's Gitane Demone and US Bombs' Duane Peters prove that many of these veterans are still living a life of artistic freedom, which admittedly includes a degree of contempt for the bands they've influenced who have gone on to sell millions of records.

"There's a certain amount of bitterness from them (Demone and Peters), and deservedly so," says Michael. "Somebody who sells nine-million albums should be willing to help these people and give them new opportunities." *Rage* is an attempt to give voice to these musical progenitors in an age where punk's influences are stronger than ever. Acts like *Rage Against The Machine* and *Limp Bizkit* may be the current keepers of the flame, but today's rock stars aren't necessarily tomorrow's punk icons.

"The real punk rockers out there are guys in their garages, or in the clubs we've never heard of," says Steve DePace, former drummer of the seminal punk band *Flipper* and the film's music supervisor. "Guys who don't have a music degree, but who buy an electric guitar, turn it up, and make noise. We'll hear of them someday."

Until then, the filmmakers hope *Rage* will dispel some of the negative public opinions about punk rock and reinforce some facts. As DePace puts it, "These were truly talented people who used punk as an outlet when no one else would listen to them." In addition, they're looking forward to introducing punk's godfathers to a new generation of younger fans who might not be aware of the music's true roots.

"We hope it will educate them and make them aware that bands like *Green Day* aren't old school," says DePace. "Most kids today have no idea where the stuff comes from." As one of the few authentic documentaries on the subject, *Rage* stands poised to give punk rock the wider recognition it deserves, without sacrificing the energy and individualism it stands for.

**B E N Y A T E R / U C I / F V C**

At The Film and Video Center at UCI's March 1st, 2001 screening of *Rage: 20 Years of Punk Rock West Coast Style* was an enormously successful event. Attendance for the Thursday evening screening was a whopping 139 paid admissions (\$3 a ticket), one of the Film and Video center's highest ever figures in its four year existence. The crowd was largely made up of college students and local fans of punk music, many of whom made a special effort to attend this film and had never been to a Film and Video Center event before. The audience was courteous and enthusiastic, and judging by the laughter throughout the night, appeared to enjoy the film immensely. I enjoyed the film too, a sit left me with a renewed sense of vigor and life, the kind of positive energy that emanates from the spirit of youth and music - a celebration of which lies at this film's core. Michael and Harold Bishop spoke after the film and interacted greatly with the audience, keeping the energy fast-paced and graciously answering questions with a keen sense of humor. *Rage* was a hit for us, and for any independent theater or college film series, I would expect similar success.

-Ben Yater

Assistant Director UCI Film and Video Center

20 YEARS OF PUNK ROCK

# RAGE

WEST COAST STYLE



R A D I U S A R T S



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