

THE BUSINESS BOOKS, FILMS & DVDs

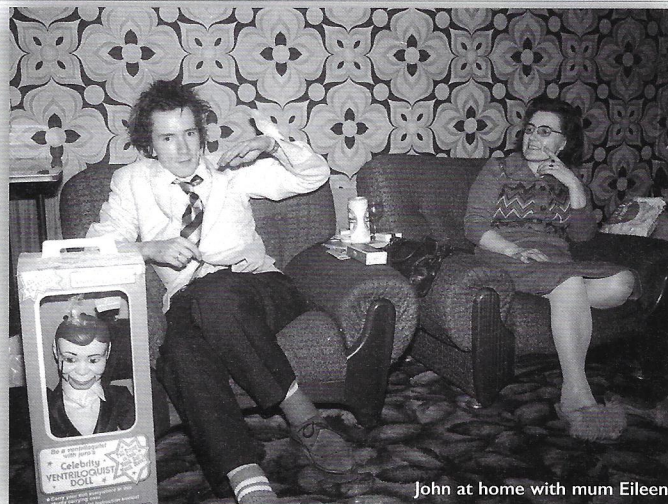
THE PUBLIC IMAGE IS ROTTEN

(Abramorama)

8/10

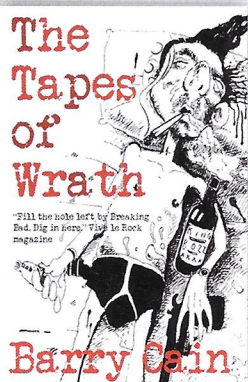
Just who is John Lydon? Sex Pistols punk revolutionary, Public Image dictator, rent-a-celebrity, sold out butter salesman, or working class hero from Finsbury Park who remains an ardent Arsenal fan? I was sceptical walking into this film, the story of his post-Pistols outfit Public Image Ltd, but it was refreshing to see a new side of the man who has said so much and confused so many. After leaving the Pistols and christening his new band Public Image and reverting to John Lydon because Malcolm McLaren owned the name Johnny Rotten (his old manager even went as far as getting a camera crew to follow him on holiday in Jamaica so he could use the footage in 'The Great Rock n Roll Swindle'). Against all odds PIL's first 7 albums were all groundbreaking and with a revolving door of legendary musicians Lydon tasted consistent commercial success. The maverick drummer Martin Atkins comes across best of the ex-members who regrets leaving in a haze of drink and drugs. Others were merely expendable right through to the Holiday Inn rope-in band for a Japanese tour, or the experiments with guitar god Steve Vai who had to be reined in by Lydon and the outrageously grumpy Cream legend Ginger Baker.

Loyalty does indeed seem to be high up on the list for Lydon with his devotion to wife Nora, and taking on



John at home with mum Eileen

Ari Up's kids at one point, as well as a lifelong friendship with his best mate, manager and bodyguard Rambo. And he shows his disgust at the disloyal Jah Wobble and Keith Levine who stole PIL master tapes to sell or release under their own names, writing the song 'Disappointed' about friends who have let him down. And while he seems to be at a bit of a crossroads in his career right now without a major record in years and tours and gig audiences diminishing, you'd be a fool to count him as finished yet. He's a working class battler who has fought for every penny, every word and every song he owns. Always unpredictable, John Lydon and his public image is still rotten. Eugene Butcher



THE TAPES OF WRATH

Barry Cain
(Hornet Books)

9/10

Layered in witty realism, clever characters and plot twists, The Tapes of Wrath reads like a punk rock Stephen King novel. Punk and new wave journalist Barry Cain has written a brilliantly weird crime thriller as his first fiction story. In the book, the much-admired author Adam Tate is murdered and police report to the scene where novice detective constable Tom Evans finds a USB in the pocket of the dead writer. Believing it to be his last novel, Tom can't resist to read it and takes it home. But he soon realises it is no make-believe tale. The disturbing story of love and immorality, narcotics and violence leads Tom to become convinced of

the lead character Kate's existence and seek her out.

This shocking and comical tale was written by the perfect author for such a punk rock story. Barry Cain started Flexipop! Magazine in the '80s and has toured with The Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Jam and The Damned. He helped kick start the punk movement working for Record Mirror and did PR for The Stranglers, Blondie, Buzzcocks and Generation X. A must read for any punk rock fan!

Paula Frost

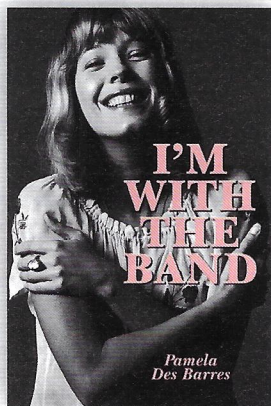
I'M WITH THE BAND

Pamela Des Barres
(Omnibus Press)

9/10

Conjured together from her past kept, detailed diaries of the 60s, Pamela reveals her wild and almost unbelievable experiences at the centre of a revolutionary time in rock 'n' roll. She gets personal and parties with some of the biggest rock stars of all time from Mick Jagger and Jimmy Page to Keith Moon and Jim Morrison, all of whom she has affairs with. As a huge music fan and intelligent kid seeking excitement, Pamela becomes a regular on Sunset Strip and starts knocking on artist dressing room doors. What she finds is an entirely new world of indulgence and over the next ten years, she becomes immersed in the drugs, delights and dangers of the 60's music business. Initially released in 1987, this new edition comes with foreword by music writer Roisin O'Connor. The book is brutally honest and gives a unique and up close female perspective on some of rock's most loved stars.

Tom Chance

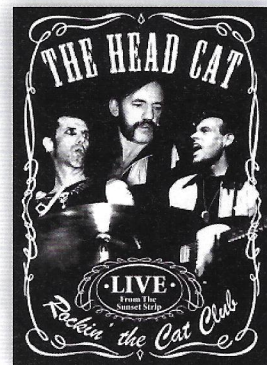


THE HEAD CAT LIVE FROM THE SUNSET STRIP ROCKIN' THE CAT CLUB

(Rock-a-billy Records)

7/10

Back in 2004 The Cat Club on Sunset Boulevard of west Hollywood braced itself for a night of rock 'n' roll, rockabilly and rebellion with Motorhead's Lemmy as the headliner. The 'Whacked Out Rockabilly' night was just \$10 on the door and saw Lemmy joined by Slim Jim Phantom from Stray Cats, Danny B. Harvey from Rockats and Jonny Bowler from Guana Bats in an exclusive all-star line-up for one night only. This 1-hour recording of the live concert captures the night's events and sees the rockers showcase 13 classic songs including 'Good Rockin' Tonight', 'Reelin' and Rockin'', 'Fool's Paradise' and 'Back in the USA' before a mighty encore of 'Blue Suede Shoes'. The four towering figures of the L.A. music scene are on top form, bringing jokes and rocking songs throughout. It also includes a bonus interview with Lemmy and Slim Jim and another interview with Danny B. Harvey plus a photo slideshow. Danny Taylor



ACT & PUNISHMENT: THE PUSSY RIOT TRIALS

(Cleopatra Entertainment)

8/10

The controversial Pussy Riot tell their story of act and punishment in this new documentary film. In luminous balaclavas and bright clothes, these female Russian activists work tirelessly to express their ideas of female independence, activism, feminism and punk rock music. In the film Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Ekaterina Samutsevich leave the well-known activist group Voyna and create the new group Pussy Riot. Their first stunt gains them public attention when they accuse authority of sexism and sing the song 'Putin Turned Chicken' in Red Square. This lands them in a police station but encourages the women to conduct a punk rock church service at Moscow Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Famously the band were arrested and sentenced to 2 years in prison. This film shows the government's attempt to silence their process only gained them masses of supporters including Red Hot Chili Peppers, Paul McCartney, Madonna and Franz Ferdinand. An amazing story and a must see.

Jen Ball

