

# THE BUSINESS BOOKS

## TEENAGE KICKS: MY LIFE AS AN UNDERTONE

Michael Bradley  
(Omnibus)

9/10

This book is a 222 page journey through the highs and lows of being in a band, told expertly from the point of view of Northern Irish punks the Undertones' bassist Michael Bradley. Joining his school friends' band in the summer of 1974, when they only had two guitars and no singer, the band would become one of the most underrated and important punk bands of the late '70s. The same humour that's found in hit songs such as John Peel's favourite song, 'Teenage Kicks', is found throughout the book, as Bradley honestly and amusingly chats about everything from the Derry kids' prefab hang out The Casbah ("one third smoke, one third sweat, one third essence of beer spilled on carpet") to posing for silly photos, not to mention having fun despite The Troubles all around them and the badly handled contractual legalities. With just one page dedicated to their lives after the split in 1983 (a time when Bradley "was embarking on a career as a bicycle courier in Soho"), this is a humorous and hypnotising read that shows just how the Undertones got their teenage kicks.

Ian Chaddock

## PUNK ROCK STORIES AND TABLOID TALES

Garry Johnson  
(Newhaven)

7/10

Garry Johnson has had a colourful life for sure. First finding notoriety as the 'Punk Poet' on the 'Strength Thru Oil', with tales of working class kids on poems like 'Dead End Yobs' and 'The New Face Of Rock N Roll', he has also been a singer, a tabloid journalist and professional scammer. He even found time to manage the Stone Roses. More recently he's been a songwriter for Swedish rocker Soren Sulo Karlsson from The Crunch. Oh and he's also "cheated death" and made it back from the other side, surviving no less than five heart attacks and a life-saving triple heart bypass operation. Still going strong and with a passion for life, 'Punk Rock Stories and Tabloid Tales' tells Johnson's incredible life story, from the streets of East London to West End night clubs and the Houses of Parliament. Narrating an era when Thatcher was slaughtering the country, Johnson inspired the youth to stand up and resist with his song lyrics and book of poems, 'Boys of the Empire'. A revelatory read, this is the true story of an irrepressible and outspoken punk, back from the brink. Fair do's.

John Truman

## FESTIVALIZED: MUSIC, POLITICS AND ALTERNATIVE CULTURE

Ian Abrahams & Bridget Wishart  
(Gonzo Multimedia)

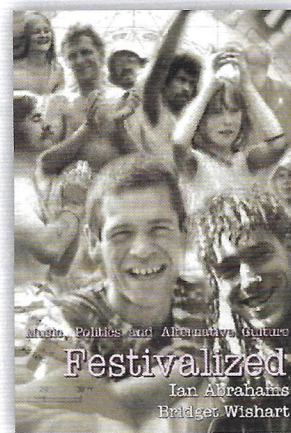
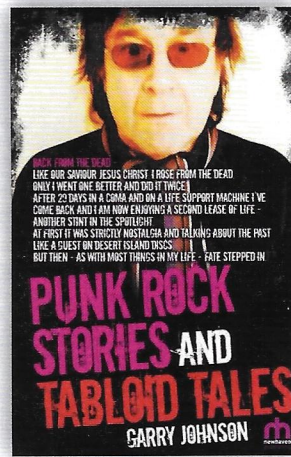
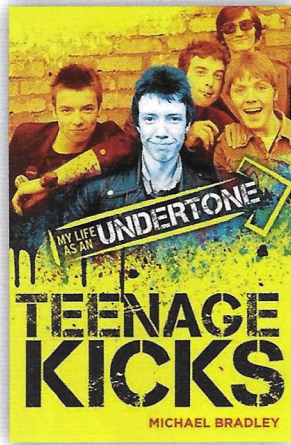
8/10

Using first-hand accounts and recollections of the people that were there, including musicians, travellers, organisers and landowners, 'Festivalized' traces the lineage of British free festivals since the early 1970s until the early '90s – when free festival and rave culture collided and reached an apogee at Castlemorton. Aided and abetted by contributions from members of bands like Hawkwind, Here & Now, Crass, Subhumans and The Levellers, various Stonehenge free festivals figure very highly – it's where hippy and punk culture really mutated into a "crusty" alliance. Festivalized also chronicles many other notable festivals too, such as Windsor, Trentishoe, Watchfield, Deeply Vale and Treworkey.

Like the title suggests though, it's not just about the music. The politics and lifestyle figure pretty highly too. Let's not forget that the Battle of the Beanfield represents one of the largest mass arrests of civilians in Britain since WWII, and Castlemorton was instrumental in provoking the then Conservative government's swingeing Criminal Justice Act in 1994.

'Festivalized' doesn't claim to be a definitive examination of the subject, but it comes pretty close. It's a highly enlightening read that evokes wistful memories of more carefree times. You can almost smell the wood smoke as the chillum's passed round the campfire!

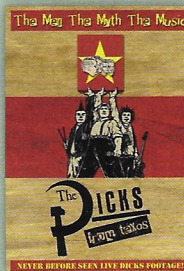
Rich Deakin



# FILMS & DVDs



The Dicks



## THE DICKS FROM TEXAS

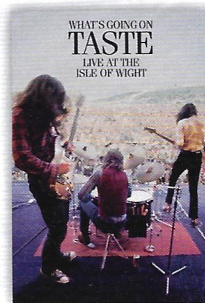
(MVD Visual)

7/10

The Dicks hailed from Austin, Texas and were an influential '80s hardcore punk band. Led by openly gay frontman Gary Floyd and started as a poster band in 1979 (meaning they posted fake posters around with wild imagery and made up gigs) before becoming one of the most uncompromising hardcore punk bands of the scene. Alongside fellow pioneering Texas hardcore bands The Big Boys, MDC and The Offenders, The Dicks refused to sell out and were a band until 1986, later reuniting in 2004 and continuing to play music together. Filmmaker

and long-time fan Cindy Marabito looks at the history of this fascinating band, with a 70 minute documentary and 30 minutes of live music. The interviews include the band members as well as scene stalwarts such as Henry Rollins, Ian Mackaye, David Yow, Mike Watt, Texas Terri and more and are the best part of this DVD. Sadly the live footage is pretty terrible quality, making it hard to sit through in places. Well worth a watch.

John Truman



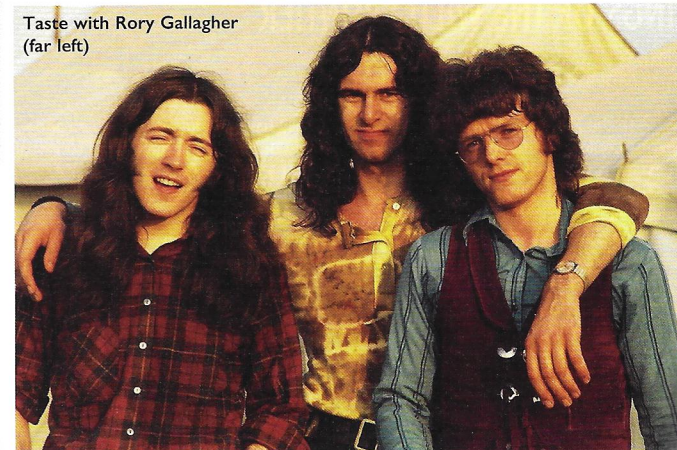
## TASTE: WHAT'S GOING ON - LIVE AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT

(Eagle Vision)

7/10

Guitar master Rory Gallagher was often referred to as the Irish Hendrix and this live DVD of his pre-solo material blues rock trio Taste in full flow backs up that title. Recorded (with great sound and multiple camera angles) at the Isle of Wight festival in 1970, when Taste played alongside the likes of Jimi Hendrix and The Who, this DVD shows the three-piece – completed by bassist Richard McCracken and drummer John Wilson, playing one of the highlights of the festival, with the likes of 'What's Going On', complete with face-melting guitar solo, 'Sugar Mama', 'Same Old Story' and 'Catfish Blues' all stunning with their delivery. There's also an introductory including rare archive material and personal accounts from Brian May, The Edge, Sir Bob Geldof and Larry Coryell about Gallagher and Taste. Bonus features include three songs from a performance on German TV show Beat Club and three music videos. Taste at their delicious best.

Karen Turner



Taste with Rory Gallagher (far left)

