



PUNK THE CAPITAL

A documentary tracing the
birth of punk rock in
Washington D.C. (1976-1983)

(documentary, 1h28 min.)





"...a love letter to the city's punk scene."

– The Washington Post

a film by James June Schneider, Paul Bishow, Sam Lavine

CONTACT

SOCIAL MEDIA *(follow us!)*

website www.punkthecapital.info

Instagram @punkthecapital

<https://www.instagram.com/punkthecapital/>

Facebook www.facebook.com/punkthecapitaldocumentary/

Youtube youtube www.youtube.com/channel/UCr5tEMFmlzarwzPF5Yk0eA

DISTRIBUTION (NORTH AMERICA)

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mouse-pointer **website**: www.jamesjune.info

SECONDARY CONTACT:

Lex Everheart *(producer, PTC International)*

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SYNOPSIS

LOGLINE

A monumental documentary about the rise of punk rock in the town that needed it most... Washington D.C.

SHORT

When punk rock exploded in Washington DC, it was a mighty convergence of powerful music, deep friendships, and clear minds. It was an unlikely place but the perfect time. Punk the Capital explores the inspiring story of how this singular punk subculture took root despite the odds.

LONG

When punk rock exploded in Washington DC, it was a mighty convergence of powerful music, foundational friendships, and clear minds. Punk the Capital explores the inspiring story of how this singular punk subculture took root in an unlikely place at the perfect time. The film dives deep into a movement that not only redefined a genre, but created a lasting model for DIY culture and political engagement. Situating DC punk within the larger narratives of rock 'n' roll, this film reveals why the sounds and ideas of this revolutionary music scene continue to influence and inspire people across the globe.

CAST

Features **bands** such as Bad Brains, Minor Threat, Slickee Boys, Void, Faith, Rites of Spring, Half Japanese, Black Market Baby, Tru Fax, SOA, The Enzymes, and the Insaniacs.

Features **personalities** such as Henry Rollins, Ian MacKaye, HR (Bad Brains) Jello Biafra, Cynthia Connolly, Joe Keithley, Howard Wuelfing, Don Zientara and many more.



TRAILERS

TRAILER (ONLINE VERSIONS)

Youtube Youtube <https://youtu.be/ooY0yt03bMo>

Vimeo Vimeo (*better quality*) <https://vimeo.com/358142812>

Youtube English captioned trailer <https://youtu.be/NVFkarBL6Mg>

Youtube French subtitled trailer <https://youtu.be/82nLb-gwDol>

TRAILER DOWNLOADABLE

Vimeo English Subtitled Version <https://vimeo.com/391879355/addcac4ed1>

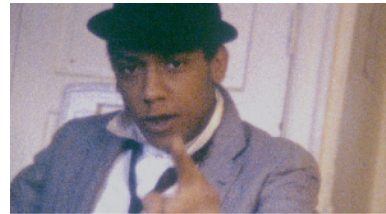
Vimeo No Subtitled version <https://vimeo.com/358142812>

Vimeo French Subtitled Version <https://vimeo.com/391880119/4d44cefa85>



IMAGE ASSETS DOWNLOAD

Download [Download Images](#), including:
poster (movie, scalable, instagram) & images from the film



PTC MAKER ' S BIOS

JAMES JUNE SCHNEIDER — CO-DIRECTOR, EDITOR, PRODUCER

James was born in Washington DC and was raised in the city's mid-eighties punk and skate scenes. He has been making films since 1992, and beginning in 2001, video performing and projecting on city walls and buildings. His award-winning work has been screened at film festivals, museums, and spaces of all kinds around the world. Schneider's filmography includes [Blue is Beautiful](#) with Dischord recording artists The Make-Up (1997) and the science-fiction feature The End of the Light Age (2007) starring Lou Castel. More recently, he directed [The Band that Met the Sound Beneath](#) (2012) with the Chilean punk band [Panico](#) and [Young Oceans of Cinema](#), a portrait of France's "ultimate outsider" filmmaker, Jean Epstein, which premiered at the 2012 edition of the Rotterdam International Film Festival. www.jamesjune.info

PAUL BISHOW — CO-DIRECTOR

Paul moved to Washington DC in the mid-70s. He has since made dozens of films, both feature length and short subject, mostly in Super-8 format. They range from the film essay Anarchy and Chaos Prelude, DC to Bad Brains(1979) to the feature fiction film It's a Wonderful Horrible Life (2001). Many DC punk bands have appeared in his films as well as their members, separately, who at times play roles in the more 'fictional' of his works. Footage from his films has appeared in many a documentary including Don Lett's Punk Attitude and Mandy Stein's [Bad Brains, Band in DC](#) (2012). Paul was also a founding member of the [I am Eye](#) Film Forum which graced DC with an underground film series from 1982-1997. (no website)

SAM LAVINE — ASSOCIATE PRODUCER, CO-EDITOR

Sam is from Washington, D.C. In the early 2000's he joined the tYPE1 circle, a collective that performed in different configurations, including the Cornel West theory. In addition to playing drums, he soon after began making music videos for the group as well, which solidified an interest in documenting the music around him. Sam joined the Punk the Capital team in 2013, initially as co-editor and then as associate producer as the project progressed. Sam currently plays drums in Light Beams and works at Dischord Records. samlavine.tumblr.com

OTHER PTC TEAM MEMBERS

Florent Klockenbring	sound mix	correction	
JB Delorme	motion graphics	Rob Myers	animation
Zack "Detox" Judson	animation	Delphine Dalquie	legal
Gadiel Bendelec (Rose Pourpre).....	color	Peter Jaszi	legal

PTC SCREENINGS & EVENTS

WORLD PREMIERE DATE – JUNE 28, 2019

Punk the Capital has been on the road since its World Premiere weekend in Washington D.C. held simultaneously at the **American Film Institute** and the **Hirshhorn Museum** (Sound Scene festival).

The makers toured the film as would a band, around the USA and Europe to festivals, cinemathèques, cinemas, galleries and community spaces. It has been selected for festivals including **In-Edit** (Barcelona and Brazil) **BAFICI**, **Leeds International Film Festival**, and **Sound Unseen**.

Each screening has been an event, with at least one of the filmmakers present and for the majority of dates, there has been a special guest (Henry Rollins, Ian MacKaye, Cynthia Connolly, HR of Bad Brains and many others.) The goal of the team was to reach 100 consecutive in-person events. They made it to 50 before the pandemic began.



COMMUNITY

Punk the Capital was funded in part by a successful [Kickstarter crowdfunding campaign](#) (50k) and thanks to several grants to the makers from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

This film is closely linked with the cultural trajectory of Washington DC. The team worked closely to cofound the DC Punk Archive at the DC Public Library, now a catalyst for similar projects around the world (BBC piece [here](#)). The makers also put their platform to use to help the community in selling merch for charity such as our DC punk face masks. A portion of all of our DVD sales will also go to charity.



PTC PRESS

FILM THREAT

"Paul Bishow and James June Schneider's fascinating documentary Punk The Capital successfully captures the zeitgeist that changed the world. It gives us a strong overview of the biggest movers and shakers within this community and encourages us to seek out more where we can."

<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/punk-the-capital-building-a-sound-movement/>

EXCLAIM!

"Punk the Capital is thoroughly entertaining and compelling and one of the most refreshing takes on D.C. hardcore ever. That there are still so many new stories to tell and unheralded figures to discover, all these decades later, is a testament to how significant and multi-layered this community's story and cultural contribution really is."

https://exclaim.ca/music/article/punk_the_capital_building_a_sound_movement-directed_by_sam_lavine_paul_bishow_and_james_june_schneider

VANYALAND

"Punk the Capital takes a route straight to the well-preserved heart of Washington D.C.'s punk community from 1976 to 1983... It's a must-see for anyone ever moved by the genre's magnetic whiplash, regardless of age, region, or era."

<https://vanyaland.com/2021/05/13/punk-the-capital-thrashes-to-the-beat-of-d-c-s-early-punk-scene/>

SHEPHERD EXPRESS

"Punk the Capital is a good model for a genre that has already begun to proliferate—the punk rock scene history."

<https://shepherdexpress.com/film/reviews/punk-the-capital-recounts-dcs-punk-rock-scene/>

SELECTIVE MEMORY

"There is an amazing glimpse into the Madam's Organ scene, the blooming of record labels, the history of the 930 club, and the ignition of the hardcore scene, and finally the preservation. The documentary disbands the external influence of the city for pure musical history, the balance that attracted me the most. However, the fascination to watch this story unfold is unprecedented. The creators had over seven hours to work with, and they did a smashing job at condensing content into a poetic epic. A must watch!"

<http://www.selectivememorymag.com/2021/05/14/punk-the-capital/>

LIBERATION (FRANCE)

"The best feature film on the subject..."

"Une histoire que la plupart des amateurs de musique alternative pensent sans doute connaître sur le bout des doigts et que les réalisateurs James June Schneider, natif de Washington DC déjà auteur d'un documentaire sur Jean Epstein, et Paul Bishow, qui filme les soubresauts de la scène à la caméra Super-8 depuis les premiers jours, se font un malin plaisir de consteller de faits méconnus, d'anecdotes rares et de documents jamais vus. Punk the Capital est ainsi à voir absolument parce qu'il ne débute pas son histoire en 1979, date officielle de la fondation du punk made in DC par les incroyables Bad Brains, mais trois ans plus tôt...- <https://bit.ly/2zbO7Ta>

EL PERIODICO

"Con amplias dosis de sentido del humor y una factura notable, el filme captura la energía y las contradicciones de aquella escena surgida sin el apoyo de la industria o los medios generalistas. Por no haber, casi no había ni salas para tocar en una ciudad por entonces muy conservadora, definida en el documental como "un agujero vacío de miseria". Los conciertos en casas, centros sociales y antros de mala muerte sirvieron de plataforma para que el sonido despegara. "Washington era un lugar totalmente improbable para que surgiese una escena punk, pero una vez arraigó adoptó caminos que nadie podía imaginar", dice MacKaye en el documental"

<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/ocio-y-cultura/20190820/documental-punk-the-capital-origenes-hardcore-washington-bad-brains-minor-threat-black-flag-fugazi-7600009>

THE CULTURE VULTURE (UK)

"...a moving and affectionate corrective to punk's traditionally bleak self-accounting."

"Punk the Capital – Building a Sound Movement, a terrific new documentary which receives its UK premiere at Leeds International Film Festival next week. Charting the emergence between 1976 and 1983 of what became known as D.C. Hardcore, the film is augmented by some incredible Super-8 footage, shot first-hand by local scenester Paul Bishow, and hilariously candid interviews from the key protagonists. [...] It is deeply intelligent and satisfying, a moving and affectionate corrective to punk's traditionally bleak self-accounting. It is rich in cumulative detail..."

ACADEMIA

“The film puts to rest the silly notion that punk was nihilistic; here it feels like creative fun, with participants working with one another (it takes a village). Quite a feat.”

— Kevin Mattson, Connor Study Professor of Contemporary History, author of [We're Not Here to Entertain](#).

“...this documentary offers an audiovisual feast for fans and stalwart members of the Washington D.C. underground, past and present. At the same time, filmmakers James June Schneider, Paul Bishow, and Sam Lavine invite the uninitiated to learn about hardcore punk as an art form, an embodied experience, and a vibrant subculture.”

— Joshua Glick. Assistant Professor of English, Film & Media Studies
Hendrix College, Fellow at the Open Documentary Lab, MIT

More press available upon request