

## REVIEWS PUNK

This section covers non - Pistols products which I have enjoyed and may be of interest to Sex Pistols' fans.

**Thunders, Kane, & Nolan** (Wienerworld WNRD2344)  
**Johnny Thunders Live - In Cold Blood** (Wienerworld WNRD2151)

I'll put my cards on the table. I'm a huge Thunders fan. I have marvellous memories of seeing the great man in action in the 80s: Nottingham Rock City (The Heatbreakers!), Sheffield City Polytechnic, Manchester Hacienda (with Jerry Nolan on drums), and Manchester Academy 2. Following his death, I sent an obituary to Spiral Scratch Magazine, which they published. It's fair to say I have an emotional attachment to anything Thunders related.

If you enjoyed the New York Dolls movie **All Dolled Up**, Wienerworld have two other Johnny Thunders DVDs worthy of your attention. If, like me, you never got over the balls-up Jungle made with their Thunders video Dead Or Alive, you will naturally approach these with caution. The good news is these have not been overdubbed or cobbled together. These are genuine warts and all Johnny Thunders.

**Thunders, Kane, & Nolan** is billed as an unofficial New York Dolls reunion from January 1987, featuring the three, now deceased, Dolls. Although Thunders and Nolan played together regularly until Thunders' death in '91, this would be the last time Arthur "Killer" Kane would appear on stage with them. Barry Jones provides the rhythm guitar and Mrs."Babsie" Kane adds some backing vocals towards the end of the show.

Having called it a "Dolls reunion", the show, which took place at the Roxy in LA, is really a Thunders gig and the set list reflects this. It's filmed using just one camera, high up to the front left of the stage. The lone cameraman does a pretty decent job, following the action and giving us a few close-ups. The picture quality far exceeded my expectations and the sound is amazing. And boy, these guys can play.

The show opens and closes with Pipeline and many Thunders classics can be found in-between. Catch sensational versions of Born To Lose, Chinese Rocks, Personality Crisis, and Can't Keep My Eyes On You. Johnny throws in some solo acoustic songs in the middle of the set, which was a common occurrence, and allows for great versions of Can't Put Your Arms Around A Memory, Lonely Planet Boy and Eve of Destruction. Although Arthur Kane does, like he did at the Dolls shows in 2004, remain largely in the background, it's still a thrill to have him on stage with Johnny and Jerry. Jerry Nolan's drumming was always awesome and is so again during this show. Thunders throws himself about, while effortlessly sounding like...Johnny Thunders. No one can emulate that guitar sound. This is a dynamic performance.

The gig clocks in at a very impressive 1 hour 20 minutes. This DVD is without doubt a must, the closing Pipeline had my heart pounding. If you love Thunders, you need this.

**Johnny Thunders Live - In Cold Blood** was recorded in NYC in 1982, with two cameras capturing the action. Like *Thunders, Kane, & Nolan*, the picture quality is excellent and the sound recording superb. This time fellow Heartbreakers guitarist Walter Lure is in the lineup. Thunders himself looks totally wasted, he has trouble keeping his guitar strap on during In Cold Blood, and spends part of Sad Vacation on his back discovering the heel on his shoe is loose, yet he still carries on as only he can. It has to be said, Thunders is mesmerizing throughout and turns in a blinding performance. The recording seems to have been compiled for a half hour TV slot, so all we get is nine songs from what was clearly a full gig. Nevertheless, this is priceless footage and definitely worth seeking out if you are a Thunders fanatic.

Sink a beer, put on either of these DVDs and blast out Pipeline. Even a non-musician like me wants to strap on a guitar and strut around the room knocking out those licks. God bless Mr Johnny Thunders.

**Review by Phil Singleton** (July 2006)

## The Look - Adventures in Rock and Pop Fashion

**Paul Gorman**  
**Adelita £24.99**



Having been out of print for some time, *The Look - Adventures in Rock and Pop Fashion*, has been given a new look of its own and is back on the shelves. The 2006 edition includes a CD featuring music from eleven of the fashion trail blazers referenced in the book such as Elvis Presley, David Bowie, Boy George, and of course Malcolm McLaren. Of particular interest to visitors to God Save The Sex Pistols, the new edition has a striking 3 page spread of Seditionaries clothing with each item accompanied by informative text. Keanan Duffy's work with the Sex Pistols is also discussed.

Beginning with a forward by Malcolm McLaren, *The Look* takes us on a global journey charting the ever changing and constantly evolving links between pop culture and fashion. Author Paul Gorman has literally traversed the world, assembling a fascinating insight gained by tracking down the very people who helped shape fashion in their respective eras.

The book starts where else, but Memphis in the 1950s where none other than Elvis Presley's clothier Bernard Lansky, now in his seventies, recalls an unknown Elvis pressing his nose against his shop window staring at the clothes within. The story criss-crosses the Atlantic throwing up a few surprises along the way, such as the influence of American jazz musicians on late Fifties UK fashion. Equally fascinating are the memories of The Beatles' tailor Dougie Millings, who was at the centre of the early Sixties look, and included in his list of clientele, Adam Faith, Warren Beattie, Gerry Marsden, Cliff Richard, and The Small Faces. Famous primarily for the round-collared suits, such was his importance to The Beatles, he was often in their company in the recording studio and even ended up appearing in *A Hard Day's Night*. As the Beatles themselves moved into the more outlandish clothing designed by Tommy Nutter, so Pop found itself in the colourful early Seventies in which the seeds of punk fashion were sown. One fashion pioneer of this period, Tommy Roberts, would later become a victim of the thievery of future Sex Pistol Steve Jones and Wally Nightingale, an act Roberts has never forgiven.

McLaren recalls the influence of King's Road shop Mr Freedom on his growing interest in pop fashion and the King's Road itself. McLaren's talent for courting trouble was evident from the moment he first moved into 430 The King's Road, taking over a part of the store to sell refurbished radios, records and clothes. Having struck the deal in the absence of the shop's owner, he was to find his stock thrown out onto the pavement when the owner returned! Although the history of the McLaren and Westwood legacy has been covered elsewhere, here it's refreshingly stripped of the intrusive 'benefit of hindsight' pseudo political trappings, and concentrates on the evolution of the fashion itself. This allows many nuggets of information to surface such as the failure of the *Vive Le Rock* T-shirt (made in 1972) to sell, and subsequent conversion of the stock into pairs of knickers. This is made even more amusing by the knowledge that in 2001 a pair of these knickers sold at Sotheby's for £1,175!!!!

In addition to McLaren, the one person who in the best position to provide the inside view on both 430 The King's Road and the birth of the Sex Pistols, is Glen Matlock. Himself a former frequenter of Mr Freedom, Glen recalls the shop's evolution from teddy boy gear outlet into a fetish and bondage store. Matlock himself helped erect the giant Sex sign. The influence of The Faces on the formation of the Pistols is well-documented, but Matlock also reveals the Sensational Alex Harvey Band had served a purpose by not only highlighting McLaren's business paranoia, but forcing him to look beyond the clapped-out New York Dolls for something else...the Sex Pistols.

In many ways the only true competition for Sex was Acme Attractions. With its origins in the early