

Home

Savage Love

Features

News

Music ▶

Film

Books

Visual Art

Theater

Restaurants

Calendar

Columns

Classifieds

Personals

Stranger Presents

Forums

Slog

Line Out

Podcasts

Video

Slide Shows

COMMUNITY

Classifieds



RENTALS: 2bd/2ba Mid-Century View Condo

Lovelab



MUSIC

August 22, 2007

Live Fast, Die Onstage

G. G. Allin, One of Rock's Greatest Failures

by FRED BELDIN

I passed up the chance to see G. G. Allin in 1989, when he played a Detroit club called Blondies. My moron friends and I debated the ethics of supporting a performer who offended so many of our limply held "progressive" views, but ultimately my own reason for declining was simple: I wasn't ready to watch someone take a shit onstage.

Eyewitness reports from those brave enough indicate a show that barely relied on music at all. A local band pounded out a dirge riff while Allin took the stage wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a jockstrap. Obviously intoxicated and quivering with rage, Allin slurred insults into the microphone for a few minutes before suddenly squatting and letting loose with a torrent of excrement. He smeared himself with the waste, which was mixed with shards of glass from hurled bottles, and then launched himself into the audience, punching a girl and setting off a panic. While some scrambled for the exits, others focused their rage on the man they had paid to see. Skinheads dragged Allin into the parking lot to beat him silly. No songs were attempted. The whole show lasted 10 minutes.

That performance wasn't out of character for Allin, who built his name on extreme stagecraft over a career that spanned three decades. He routinely attacked the audience with his fists, viciously groped



The Murder Junkies
w/Hellbound for Glory, 12 Gauge Saint, screening of *Hated: G. G. Allin and the Murder Junkies*
Mon Aug 27, El Corazón, movie at 8 pm, show at 9 pm, \$7, 21+.

ARTICLE TOOLS

- EMAIL THIS
- PRINT
- SHARE

Mc
All
All
To
Mu:
spo

mascha
Women
Seeking Men

Lustlab



Yes, Please

Band of the Week



Katharine
Hepburn's
Voice

Yap with
other
Stranger
readers.

STRANGER
PRESENTS

any nearby females, openly excreting and masturbating onstage in a grotesque show of omnivorous sexuality.

Allin was vile, but sincere: He declared his crimes to be art, a revolt against a hypocritical society. By amplifying his every infantile impulse in a quest for "reality," Allin's bubblegum nihilism made him a hero of stunted intellectuals, attracting the suicidal and those who would take pleasure in the suicide of others.

Allin earned his place in the punk canon by recording the most aggressively offensive rock possible, over a hundred LP, cassette, and 7-inch-single releases during his lifetime alone. Songs like "Drink, Fight, and Fuck," "I Wanna Rape You," and "Assfuckin', Buttsuckin', Cuntlickin', Masturbation" were an active assault on the listener, and his best material rocks with a brutal, unhinged energy. His music remained stubbornly simplistic, and the records actually grew more primitive as the years went by, often sounding as if they were crafted by children, but crackling with malice.

Allin's antics ensured few sidemen could handle the gig for long. He fronted a number of ad hoc session groups and even toured solo with a backing tape as a sort of nightmarish karaoke act. Allin finally found traveling companions who could weather his fury in the last few years of his life when he formed the Murder Junkies with his brother Merle Allin on bass. The familial bond held strong through a lot of chaos, a period captured—rather amiably—by the 1994 documentary *Hated*.

More interesting than what Allin did is what he *didn't* do—his promise to commit murder-suicide onstage went unfulfilled, making Allin one of rock 'n' roll's most spectacular failures. When he announced in 1988 that he would bring a gun to his upcoming Halloween show and kill members of the audience before killing himself, plenty believed him and some scrambled to get tickets. An unrelated arrest scuttled the gig, so he made the same threat the following year but again ran afoul of the law, earning 15 months in prison after accusations of assault from a female admirer. Allin immediately resumed his music career upon release, and while he always maintained that he fully intended to off himself onstage in the name of rock 'n' roll, he never again named a specific date for his massacre.



TRINITY

FRI OCT 12th \$10 cover, FREE before 10pm
 main room: KISS 106.1 presents **CLUB HISS** with dj phare & host tyler
 blue room: **big d and brody k**
 card room: **kippy**

SAT OCT 13th \$10 cover, FREE before 10pm
 main room: **guy & wop**
 blue room: **jaron lemaitre and bryan j. furious**
 card room: **dj top/pin**

TUE OCT 16th no cover, drink specials, dj confidence

WED OCT 17th no cover
PROPER with karl komakahi and dj ic

THU OCT 18th no cover, \$2.50 wells / \$3.50 coffs
URBANDANCE CLASSICS with dj wop

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20th
MARK FARINA

WED OCT 31st
HALLOWEEN PARTY & COSTUME CONTEST
OVER \$1000 IN CASH AND PRIZES!
 including 1st Prize \$500 Cash & Trip to Mexico

HAPPY HOUR \$2.50 liquor, beer and wine
 tue / wed / thu / sat 6pm-9pm - friday 4pm-9pm

111 Third Ave., Downtown Seattle, 206-447-4142
 trinitynightclub.com

At the end, Allin died a quiet death. On June 28, 1993, a heroin overdose eventually snuffed him out without bothering a soul—he passed in the middle of a raging party and no one noticed he was dead until morning. The successful execution of his murder-suicide plan would have surely vaulted him to true national infamy alongside Charles Manson and the bomber. As it turned out, Allin's threat was a metaphor at best, and his anxiety revolves primarily in a cultural underground, far from the eyes of mainstream he tried so hard to shock.

Allin believed he was the only true rock 'n' roller in existence, but he operated with a very narrow definition of the term. Plenty of great rockers fed on aggression and hatred, but Allin channeled them strictly as a means to an end, generating hostility as if negative energy was the only fuel for the rock 'n' roll engine. His declaration of freedom was only for himself—there was nothing for the audience, and if true rock 'n' roll is anything, it's communal. He was utterly dedicated to being universally hated, but no matter how serious G. G. Allin was, it's hard to take him seriously. ★

[More articles in Music »](#)

[Top Defense Weapons](#)

Top Defense Weapons For Self Defense. Stun Guns Tasers Batons
www.ProtectYourHomeAndFamily.com

[Fear No Man](#)

You're Being Lied To About Martial Arts. Come Learn The Truth
www.TopSecretTraining.com

[Police Stun Gun \\$79.95](#)

775,000 Volts Takedown Power Lifetime Warranty - Free Holster
www.CrimeShieldUsA.com

Ads by Google

ALSO BY FRED BELDIN

[Nasty Old Soul](#)

The Bug Nasties' Rock 'n' Roll Dialogue

Posted May 2, 2007

[Sharing the Dream](#)