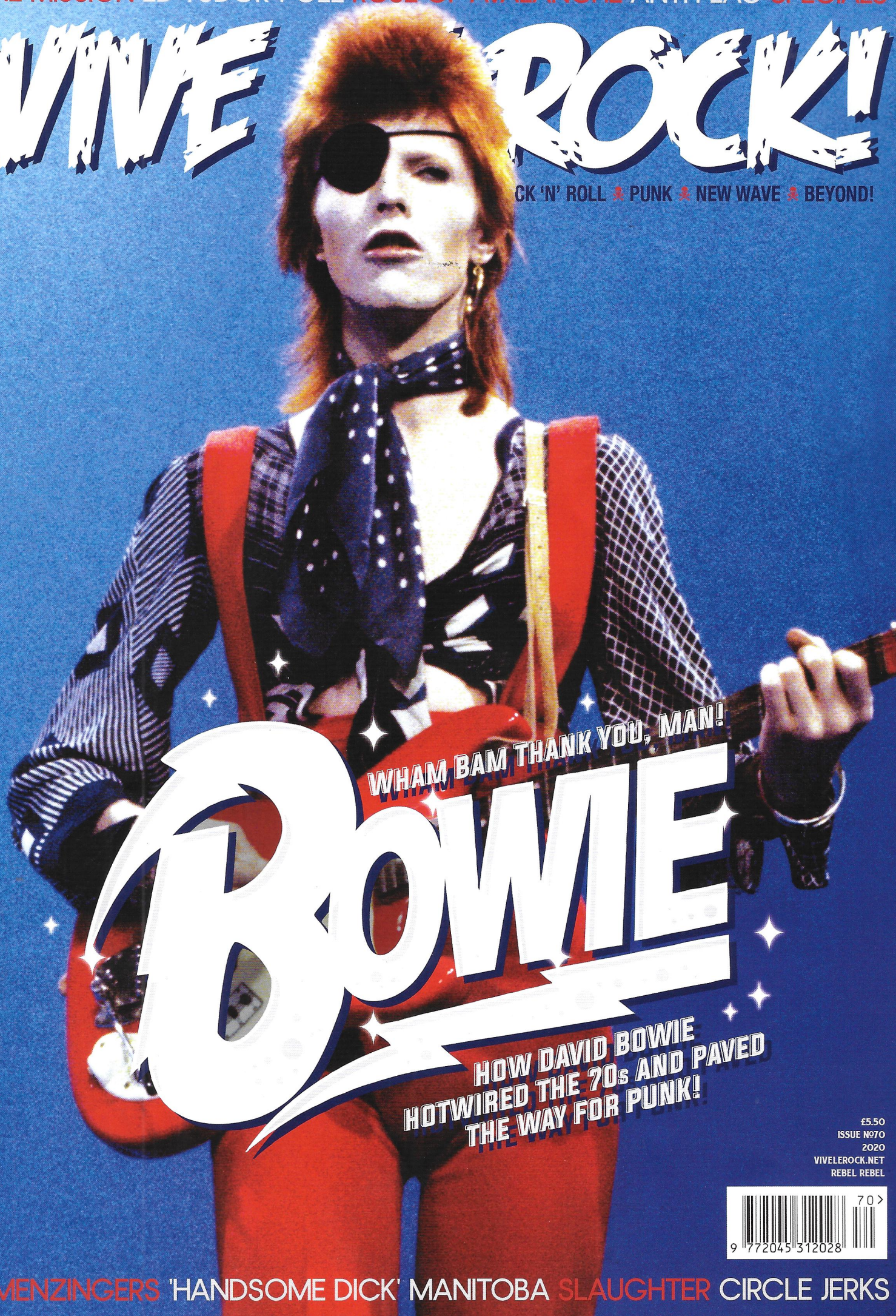


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MENZINGERS 'HANDSOME DICK' MANITOBA SLAUGHTER CIRCLE JERKS

WHO ARE YA? HANDSOME DICK MANITOBA

A legendary figure on the New York punk and rock 'n' roll scene, Richard 'Handsome Dick' Manitoba was born in the Bronx in 1954. After a short stint as a roadie for sonic punks The Dictators, he made his stage debut with the band in 1975, eventually taking over the main vocal spot. He has fronted the bands Wild Kingdom, Manitoba and for seven years a reformed version of the MC5. An actor, radio host and proprietor of his own bar, Manitoba's, up until its closure last year. He has just released his first solo album 'Born In The Bronx'.

A BRONX TALE

"In all my travels people seem to hear the Bronx and think the worst. They read headlines, they watch movies and there are parts of the Bronx that are and always have been horrendous but there are also parts of the Bronx that are real nice. I grew up in a lower middle-class working class city-run housing project called Gun Hill Projects - six buildings, grass in the middle and a variety of ethnicities. Everybody got along, we all had each other's back, everybody worked and we actually had a good time. I have very fond memories of growing up there. It was clean and it was safe and it was a decent neighbourhood so that blows away some of the evil reputation that the Bronx has."

BORN TO RULE

"The story has become sort of legendary I guess, in that the Dictators at the time were my best friends and they were forming a band and they had to give their best friend a job to do so I became a roadie. I didn't make a very good roadie: I lost equipment, the top of my truck caught onto an awning in a building and pulled the awning halfway out of the concrete so eventually the band thought it would be cool to have me sing 'Wild Thing' by the Troggs. After the concert was over there was a place called Popeye's Spinach Factory in New York. Chris Stein from Blondie was there Eric Emerson from the Magic Tramps was there and others. Judging by the audience's reaction the lead singer didn't exactly have them in the palm of his hand and it seems that every time I touched the microphone there was a great reaction from the audience. The more they handed me the microphone the better we did and eventually I became the lead singer. It was righteous - things turned out the way they should have."

ROYAL RUMBLE

"We all loved wrestling including our dear friends and great writers Richard Meltzer and the recently departed Nick Tosches. In wrestling parlance good guys are baby faces and bad guys are heels. We were always attracted to the heels in movies, books, wrestling, TV... It's what makes life interesting - a world full of baby faces would be terribly boring. What heels do is brag about themselves and how great they are - like me, the world's greatest entertainer, the handsomest man and rock 'n' roll. Now, 'Handsome Richard' didn't have a ring to it. 'Handsome Dick' had a nice ring to it. The problem is I've heard a few too many jokes over the years about Handsome Dick... Anyway, Manitoba just came to be - you know sometimes you go around a bunch of names and then boom, one hits? There was something to Handsome Dick Manitoba that was majestic and bad guy-ish and it just stuck."

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

"I think if you ask the Dictators to each name their top ten influences the number one band that would be closest to the top would be The Who. We were children of the British invasion. We loved the Kinks, The Beatles, The Stones... We loved Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys and Jen

and Dean and maybe it didn't sound like it but we loved the R&B and soul music. We loved the Stooges and the MC5. We loved the Flamin' Groovies and the Velvet Underground and another million bands."

SYSTEM SHOCK

"Speaking for myself, until we got over to England and saw and heard what was going on I didn't know that was going on. From what I read, the Ramones went over there and turned everything upside down. The British kids as usual had the style, the clothing, the hair, everything down.

The American kids weren't quite that exciting visually yet but the British kids with their power and anger and spit-in-your-face attitude were absolutely thrilling to us. It was the first time across the Atlantic for me and I had one of the best times of my life."

CHEERS!

"I ran a bar on New York's lower East Side for 20 years. We had people from every state in America come by and at least a dozen countries from the rest of the world. People would come in as though it was part of their overall rock 'n' roll pilgrimage. They'd stop by to see where CBGB's was then stop by to see Manitoba's with his hundred pictures nailed into the wall. There were a million little things that would happen. Fights, funny stories, there's just not one that sticks out after twenty years. It was basically a clubhouse for rock 'n' roll and so many people would come up to me and say 'This is so comfortable, this is like my hometown tavern'. People from England especially seem to like it and that's the truth Daddio."

"Rents were rising and we were in debt and it would be tough to build ourselves out of debt and as I'm getting older there are so many things I wanted to do. I just put out my first solo album and all of a sudden I'm a songwriter and I want to do more stuff. In order to get the bar out of hock I would have to spend all my time in the bar and forget everything else and I sadly closed the bar. I didn't want to. I miss going there and watching my Yankee games."

GOING SOLO

"I look at 'Born In The Bronx' as my version of 'Greetings From Asbury Park' by Bruce Springsteen. I didn't plan on the record being anything because I've never been a songwriter before. I would call my friend Jon Tiven who is an unbelievably talented musician/arranger/producer/songwriter. He and I would get together over the phone and I went out to his home studio in Nashville. He got some great musicians together and we made this record. I wrote all the lyrics and the lyrics have a great variety - they're basically me! It's not 1970's scream-your-guts-out punk rock. It is what it is. I hate trying to put adjectives on it."

LIFE LESSONS

"What's the best advice I've ever gotten? It's from Robert De Niro in 'Goodfellas': 'Never rat on your friends and always keep your mouth shut.' **VLR**

'Born In The Bronx' is out now on Liberation Hall

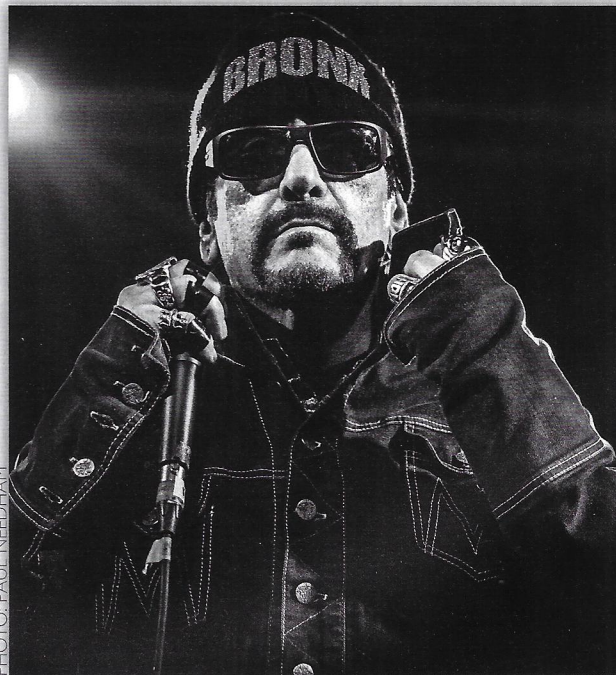


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