



**JOHN LYDON  
(aka JOHNNY  
ROTTEN)**

'This was post-Sex Pistols in 1980, and I shot him in his apartment in Chelsea. Johnny was not easy to photograph, but he was very provocative and never bland in front of the camera. He was a real character.'



**JORDAN**

'Jordan [above left] was amazing looking. Here she is with a friend inside the legendary SEX shop co-run by Vivienne Westwood on the King's Road, London. Any photographer would have rushed to get an image of her.'

# THE STORY OF PUNK

marie claire  
GALLERY

In the 70s, London was the epicentre of a movement that would radically change the cultural landscape. From fashion and music to a whole new attitude to life, photographer **Sheila Rock** was there to capture the birth of punk

**W**HEN I CAME TO London from New York in the 1970s, I was blown away by the creativity around me. Yes, there was poverty and high unemployment, but out of this impoverished Britain came a new rebellious movement – punk.

Young people were out of work, so they had time on their hands to try out creative new projects in music and fashion. They couldn't afford clothes, so they made or customised their own. There was an energy – people were kicking back against the norms, creating their own style: short hair, ripped paint-splattered clothes held together with safety pins, and extreme make-up.

I was lucky enough to be hanging out on the King's Road when SEX – an emporium for all things punk run by Malcolm McLaren and budding designer Vivienne Westwood – was at its peak. The girls who worked there were like walking pieces of art. Some went on to become legendary artists, like Chrissie Hynde.

As one of the few photographers on the punk scene, I was invited to intimate rehearsals and met incredible people at the forefront of the movement, such as The Clash and Siouxsie And The Banshees. Now I look back and realise that my photos captured the zeitgeist of the time. Punk changed the face of fashion and music, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it. *{continued}*

Punk+ by Sheila Rock (from £49, First Third Books) is out on 29 April. An exhibition of Rock's photographs and a book-signing session will be held at Browns, London W1, on 25 April from 6-8pm. For details, visit [firstthirdbooks.com](http://firstthirdbooks.com). 'Punk: Chaos to Couture', an exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, runs from 9 May to 14 August.



### THE CLASH

'[From left] Mick Jones, Paul Simonon and Joe Strummer from The Clash strike a pose. Paul experimented with the band's clothing, inspired by Jackson Pollock's techniques. These guys were a dream to photograph - so visually cool and good looking. You couldn't take a bad picture of them.'

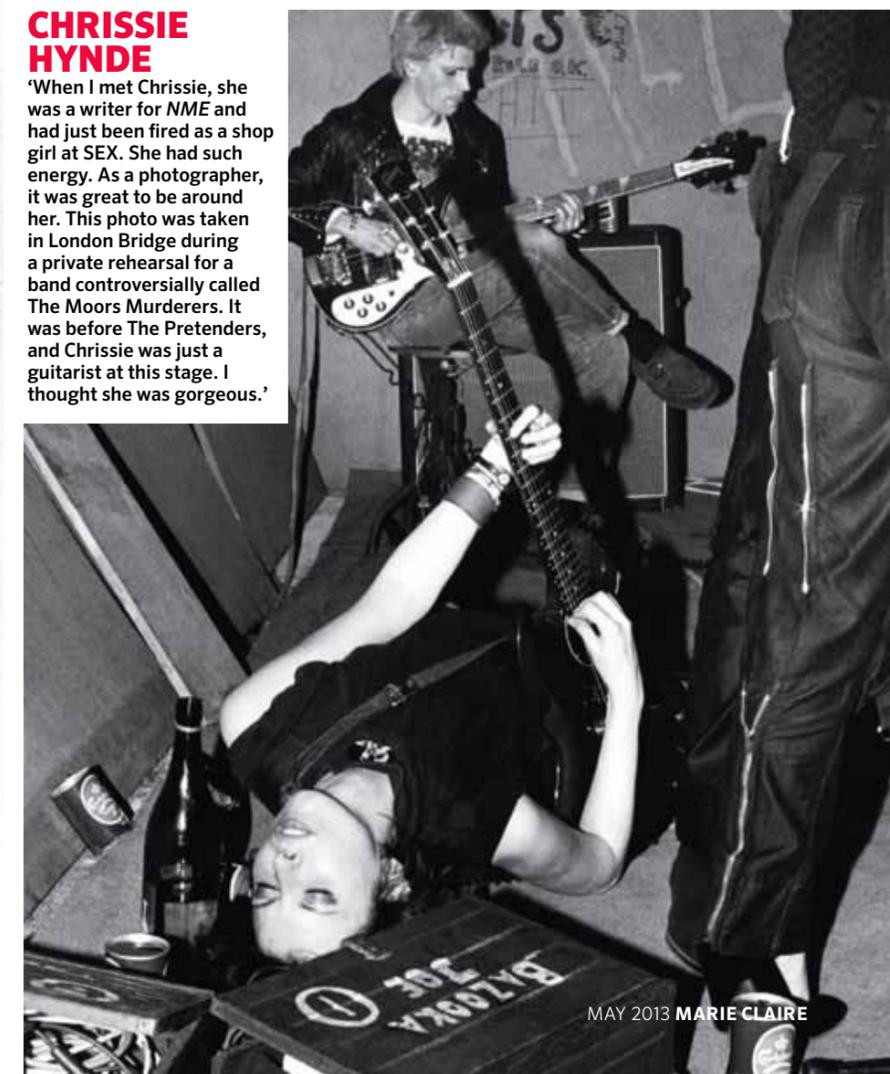


### SEX, KING'S ROAD SW3

'SEX wasn't just a shop; it was a destination in its own right. It was the place for punks to see and be seen in.'

### CHRISSIE HYNDE

'When I met Chrissie, she was a writer for *NME* and had just been fired as a shop girl at SEX. She had such energy. As a photographer, it was great to be around her. This photo was taken in London Bridge during a private rehearsal for a band controversially called The Moors Murderers. It was before The Pretenders, and Chrissie was just a guitarist at this stage. I thought she was gorgeous.'





## SIOUXSIE AND BILLY IDOL

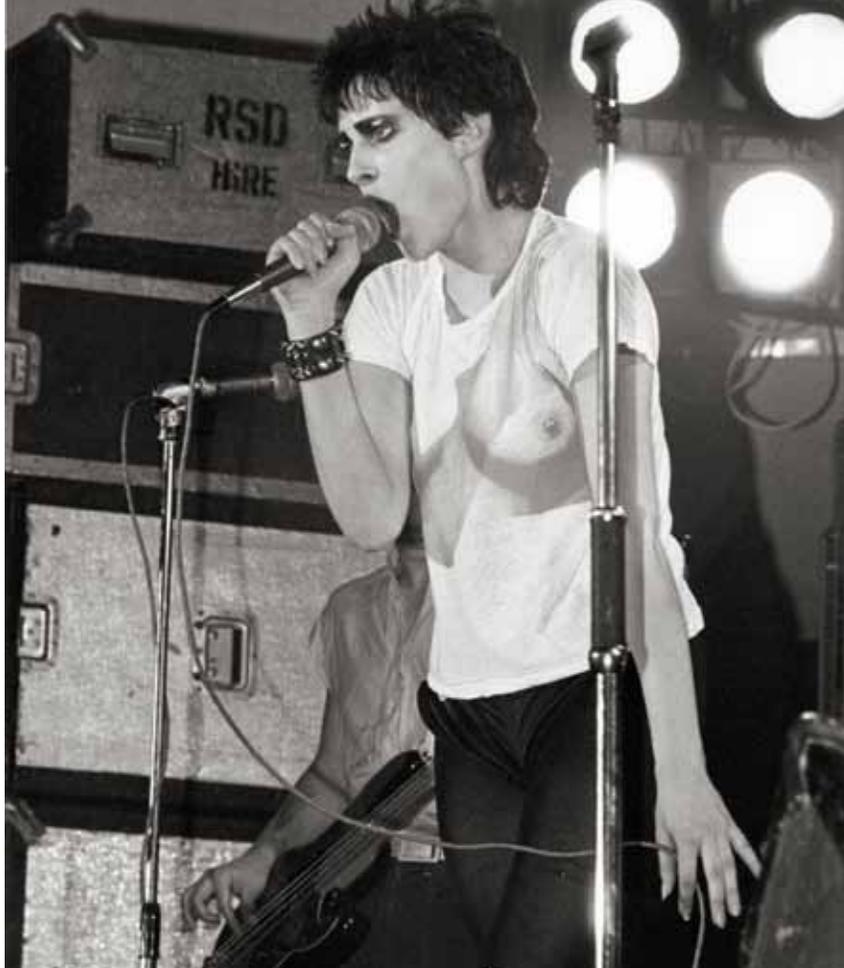
'Siouxsie Sioux [front left] and Billy Idol [back, centre] were part of a group of friends who called themselves The Bromley Contingent. This was taken in Acme Attractions, another haven for punks on the King's Road. It was covered in black dustbin liners, and was the centre of the universe for young creatives. This was before Billy or Siouxsie became famous in their own right.'

**SIUXSIE SIOUX**

'What I remember most about Siouxsie was how quiet and well-mannered she was. Her personality wasn't huge but, once she got on stage, she was this crazy dominatrix. I took this shot while she was rehearsing.'

**JORDAN**

'This photo was taken inside SEX when Jordan was working there. Her extreme make-up and PVC made her one of the main attractions for visitors.'



Interview by Andrea Thompson

