In Pictures: The 'Anarchy In The U.K. Tour' of 1976, the infamous tour that never really toured

Jack Whatley x March 14, 2019

'The Anarchy Tour' of 1976, one of the most famous tours in rock 'n' roll history, almost never happened. The historical tour in question featured some of punk's forefathers in fury, The Clash, Johnny Thunder and The Heartbreakers and The Damned, but there was one band on everyone's lips: the Sex Pistols.

Documented here in Ray Stevenson's candid images, the tour would go down in history, not for a run of pogoing good times but because it was overshadowed by a certain Bill Grundy show and a few four letter words.

In 1976 the band at the tip of everyone's tongue was the Sex Pistols, led by a snarling and confrontational Johnny Rotten the band had released their single 'Anarchy In The U.K.' to a hungry London crowd to critical acclaim. The single was proving popular when Malcolm McClaren, the band's manager and husband of fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, found a spot for them on TV show *Today* with the host Bill Grundy.

Steve Jones: "You dirty sod. You dirty old man."
Bill Grundy: "Well keep going, chief, keep going. Go on. You've got another five seconds. Say something outrageous."
Jones: "You dirty bastard."
Grundy: "Go on, again."
Jones: "You dirty fucker."
Grundy: "What a clever boy."
Jones: "What a fucking rotter"
– *Today* TV show, December 1 1976

The words would rock through Little England and shock a generation to its core, and in turn, introduce punk to the masses. Malcolm McClaren was quoted as responding simply "Fucking hell, the band have just sworn on live TV." With a tour on the way, I'm sure he saw headlines and dollar signs.

The band, and some of the founders of the London punk scene The Clash, The Damned and New York's Johnny Thunder and The Heartbreakers, would pile into

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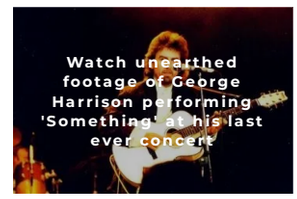
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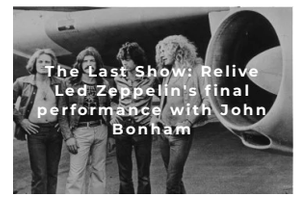
The Last Show: Relive Led Zeppelin's final performance with John Bonham their plush new bus and go on a filthy and furious tour across the UK. What transpired after that, however, was not all it cracked up to be, and the mega-tour on the road to 'Nowhere' turned into a series of cancellations and scared local councils.

Joe Strummer and Johnny Rotten, 1976

University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich saw the first show of the tour on 3rd December 1976. "A Punk-Rock Evening" on the bill, the tickets cost £1.25 in advance and £1.50 on the door. But like so many others, the gig would never start, as vice-chancellor Dr Frank Thistlethwaite would be the first of many to ban the concert "on the grounds of protecting the safety and security of persons and property."

In fact, only three of the scheduled gigs saw the bands hit the stage, with four of them later rescheduled with the tour finally beginning at Leeds Polytechnic on 6th December. Further dates at Manchester's Electric Circus (9th and 19th December), Caerphilly's Castle Cinema (14th December), Cleethorpes' Winter Gardens (20th December) and Plymouth's Woods Centre (21st and 22nd December) would make up the 'full-scale' tour.

The pulled shows would see the band spend more time waiting in hotels than playing their music. But still, the band's fight against censorship and the ironic fever it created by banning them sent waves among the youth of Britain and meant that it remained a seminal moment in musical history.

Anarchy Tour bus. Dec 1976, Malcolm McLaren and The Sex Pistols.

Paul Simonon, Goodman, Joe Strummer and Johnny Rotten. Anarchy

Tour. Dec 1976

"We were getting used to the idea of spending long periods in our rooms, drinking beer, watching TV and reading about ourselves in the papers… Everybody thinks the Anarchy Tour was Hey! Hey! Hey! but it wasn't. The main thing I remember is the boredom. We didn't know what the fuck was going on." -Glen Matlock

Ray Stevenson was there to catch all the moments of pent up energy and perfect posturing. His images show one of the most talked about bands in the country as they straddle the rocket of fame and fortune. Backed by some of punk's leading lights, the candid images show so much of the explosion of one of music's most important scenes.

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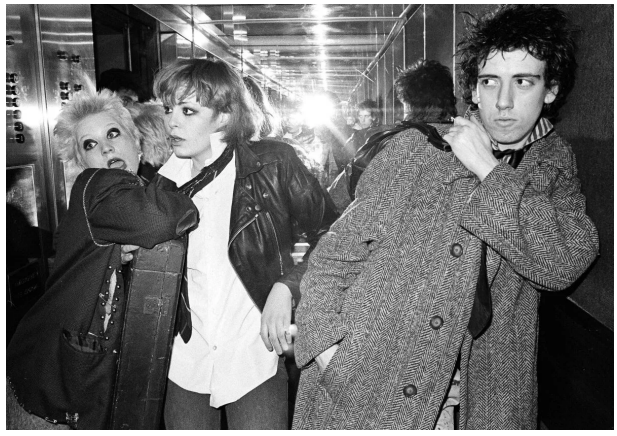
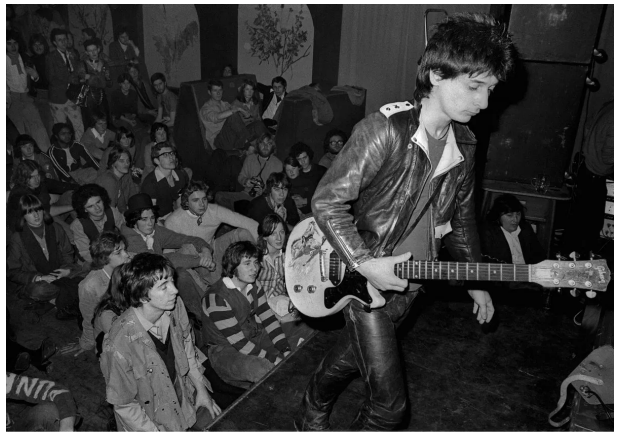
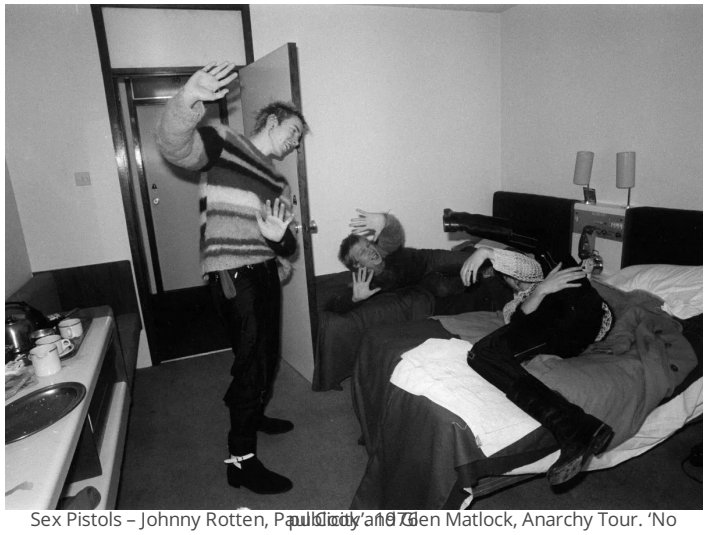
Johnny Rotten and Nils Stevenson, whose older brother Ray Stevenson took these photos. Nils would go on to managed Siouxsie and the Banshees.



Mick Jones with Debbie Juvenile and Tracey. Anarchy Tour, Britain – 1976

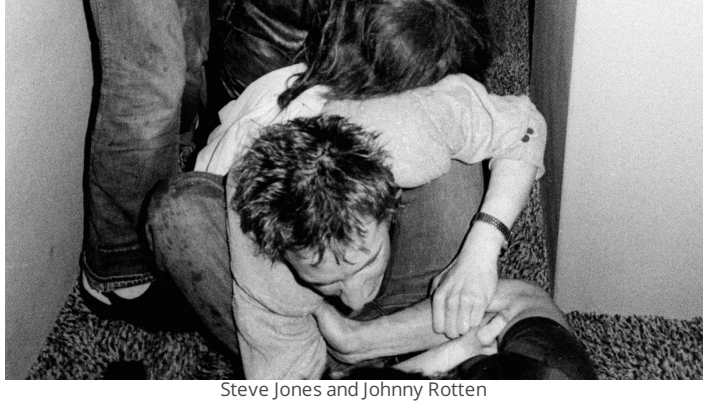


Johnny Thunders, 1976



Sex Pistols – Johnny Rotten, Paul Cook and Glen Matlock, Anarchy Tour. 'No publicity' 1976

Malcolm McClaren, 1976



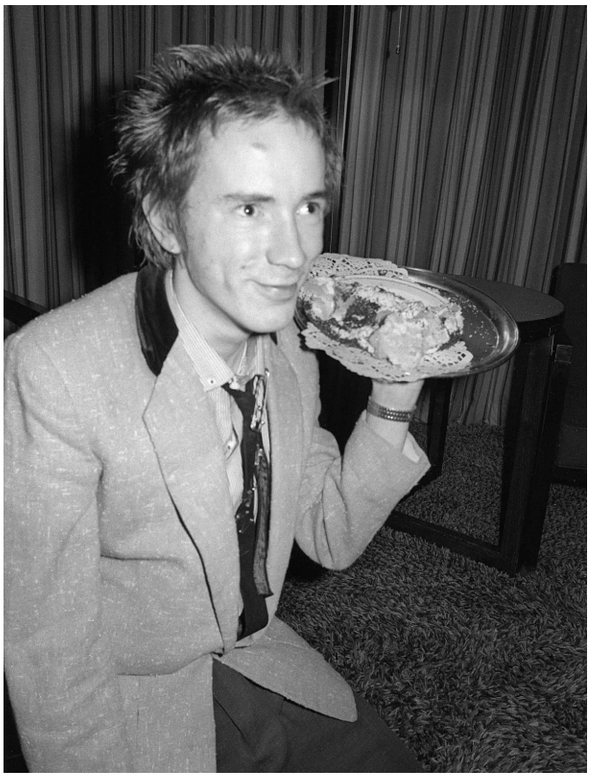
Steve Jones and Johnny Rotten

The Anarchy Tour

The Damned, 1976

Sex Pistols and The Clash – Johnny Rotten (left), Paul Simonon, Joe Strummer (right), Mick Jones (front) Anarchy Tour bus. Dec 1976

Anarchy Tour, L-R. Keith Paul, Jo Faul, Johnny Thunders, Ray Stevenson, Nils Stevenson, Walter Lure, Paul Cook, Leeds. Dec 1976



Johnny Rotten, 1976

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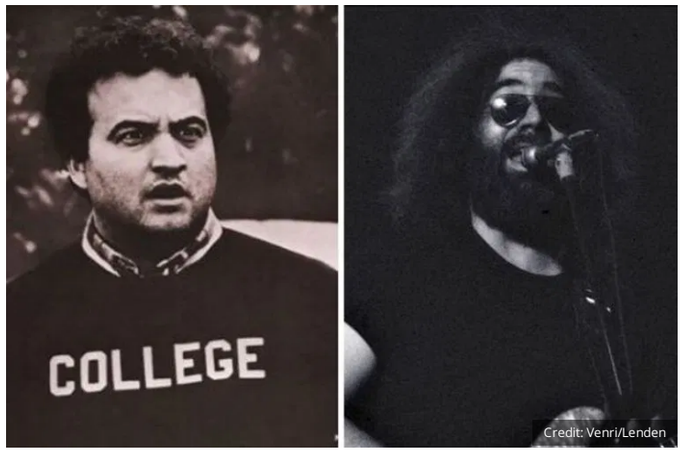

Credit: Venri/Lenden

Relive the moment John Belushi crashed The Grateful Dead's stage

Far Out Staff × January 25, 2020

Some rock stars are synonymous with outrageous behaviour and drug-fuelled antics and then there is comedian, and former SNL favourite, John Belushi. Two worlds collided when he and notorious stoners The Grateful Dead got together in 1980.

After Belushi was refused the chance to sit in and on one of the Dead's, the comedian decided that he'd crash the party anyway. He invaded the stage at the Capitol Theatre, New York to make for a legendary evening.

Anyone who is anyone in the party scene during the 70's would, at some point in time, rage with the Blues Brother, John Belushi. The comedian had made his name as the anarchic face of network television with his stints at SNL and had long aligned himself with the rock and roll world, as well as the lifestyle that went with it.

By 1980, The Grateful Dead had spent the best part of a decade stoned and tripping while still managing to make the most challenging and creative music the world has ever seen. As seasoned pros, the band often found themselves hanging around with the younger generation looking to catch a glimpse of the master partiers at work. Belushi and the band connected instantly.

The comedian was known for his musical performances and certainly had chops, proving in *Blues Brothers* his power on stage could outweigh any technical deficiencies. But that didn't convince Dead drummer Bill Kreutzmann that he

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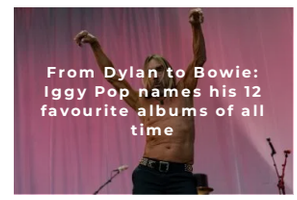
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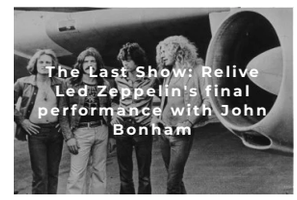
The Last Show: Relive Led Zeppelin's final performance with John Bonham was good enough to take the stage with the rest of the band for paying customers.

According to Kreutzmann's book *Deal: My Three Decades of Drumming, Dreaming, and Drugs with the Grateful Dead*, Belushi was undeterred by the rejection and instead performed a perfect "comedic ambush:"

"[Belushi] had on a [sports] coat with small American flags stuffed into both of his breast pockets, and he landed his last cartwheel just in time to grab a microphone and join in on the chorus. The audience and everyone in the band – except for Phil – ate it up. It couldn't have been rehearsed better. Belushi had impeccable comedic timing, musicality, balls, the works. And apparently, he didn't take no for an answer."

You can watch Kreutzmann remembering the moment John Belushi crashed The Grateful Dead's stage below.

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