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The Clash, Buzzcocks, The Slits, Subway Sect: **Live In 1977** By Mick Middles (Classic Rock) May 01, 2014

On May 1, 1977, The Clash started their first ever UK tour. On May 8, they played at the Electric Circus in Manchester. In 2003, Classic Rock reflected on that crazy night

It was the sound of splintering glass; of half-bricks crashing onto the pavement; of angry shouts and ferocious taunts.

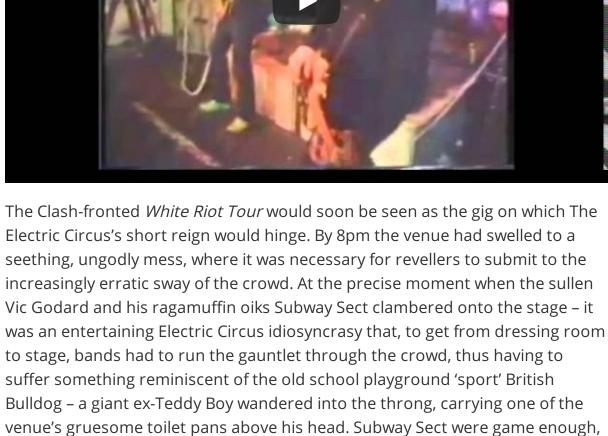
former picture house, latterly to gain infamy as The Electric Circus – a wholly inadequate, curiously vibrant downbeat rock house that was being etched into the heart of Manchester's growing punk legacy.

It was an average Sunday evening in Collyhurst, two miles north of Manchester

city centre. A bizarre and disorderly queue had formed outside a crumbling

If you prefer your punk memories to have been staged in post-apocalyptic surrealism, where garishly clad thrill-seekers risked serious bodily injury in the face of the absurd hostility of the local punk haters – be they neo Teds or merely sundry idiots - then The Electric Circus will remain forever part of that vision. It really was like that. Sunday evenings, in particular, had become unmissable, with a series of gigs

featuring The Ramones, Talking Heads, The Jam, The Stranglers, Buzzcocks [of course] and a parade of ragged local support acts who would, in due course, famously grasp the spotlight for their own musical adventures. Buzzcocks - What do I get? (Live 1977 @ The Share



though the loveable Goddard's wry, lyrical musings were lost somewhere amid

But it was left to The Slits to inject a musical frisson into the evening's edgy dynamic. This they achieved with an awesome, wholly effective blend of spectacularly musical ineptitude, empowering female belligerence and

considerable wit. They dismantled the reggae rhythms they so adored, and produced a glorious racket that was striking even in those circumstances. As The Slits' set disintegrated into inevitable cacophony, singer Ari Up, having

the crackle, hiss and rumble of the Electric's house PA.

almost forsaken her trousers – much to the delight of the laddish mob at the front of the stage – leapt into the crowd and screamed at the DJ to crank up the reggae. Her request brought forth a blast of Max Romeo's War In A Babylon the title of which certainly seemed apt for the moment.



stark realities of Collyhurst and move to a different world, where sweat, spit,

naïveté were all that mattered. It was the punk gig of dreams.

never be quite the same again. And we were right.

This was published in *Classic Rock* issue 55.

Sail single ▶

beer, sex, amphetamine rushes, fevered musical intensity and absurd polemical

As we filed out into the unfriendly night, we knew – we just knew – that it would

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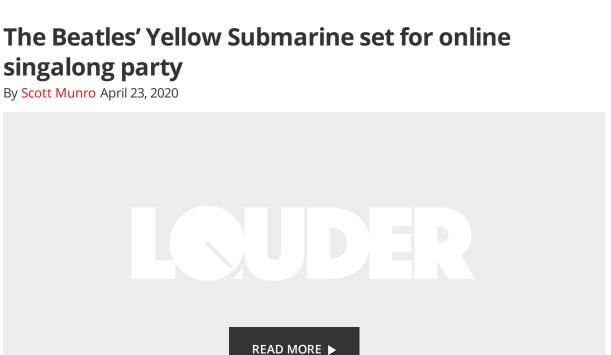
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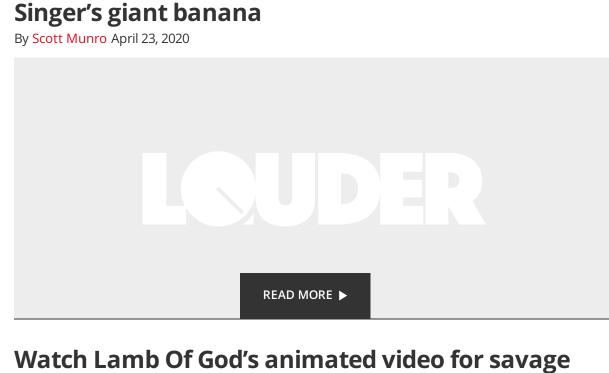
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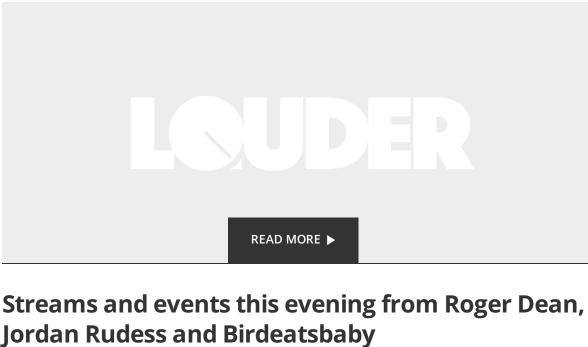
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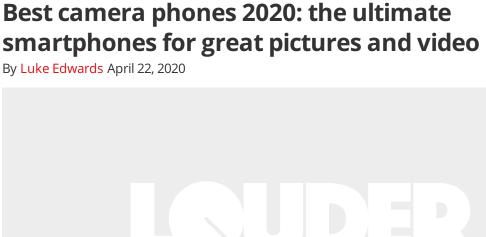
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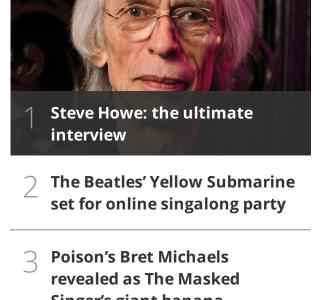
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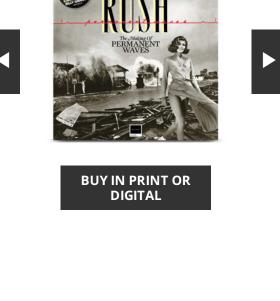
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