

STARTS THIS MONTH AND EVERY MONTH ONLY IN RECORD MIRROR!

- ★ The music of now is NOISE!
- ★ I like three or four loud, proud dudes erupting in three chord frenzies
- ★ I can't see how anyone made a penny out of **The Clash** tour
- ★ Loudness and energy is a great asset in the States
- ★ The time is now right for Iggy
- ★ Rock becomes like the Hollywood star system
- ★ Brand new bleached jeans ain't a new look

I LOVE the raw-edged energy and freshness new wave has brought to the British rock scene. The music of now is NOISE, be it beautiful, elaborate, complex, clean or bestial, primitive, political or raw. It's a wild mixture of the whole lot — such cute noise from those Gibson and Fender toys!

I can understand some people being uncertain as to its place in the history of rock, but when I think back to the R&B boom — The Stones, Kinks, Beatles, The Who and many other such groups, they seemed very savage at the time.

Then you had the heavy metal boom, with groups like Led Zepplin which appeared to be a whole new revolution in sound with skyscraping Marshall stacks.

Frenzies

And then there was glam rock. That was me, Bowie, Alice Cooper and a couple of other people. In fact, it's got very similar roots to punk rock, if you look back.

Firstly, let's kick out one thing — the word punk to me is a totally irrelevant name for a very important stance of freshness, image plus its rock roots. I like the idea of three or four proud, loud dudes erupting in three chord frenzies and the explorative trip from C to A minor.

Can you imagine what it does to young new wave heads when they find out that there



MARC BOLAN

are symphonies in rock 'n' roll too?

To me, it will always be the teenage dream personified. In this stale time for rock and roll maybe we'll get freedom through punk. Let's hope they try and do what I tried in the beginning and get the prices of

tickets and records down and all that.

This terrible thing exists about instant wealth. People think that just because you fill a couple of concerts and get an album in the charts, you're automatically rich. The implication is that if a group is successful they can no longer be punk. And if a group plays at the Rainbow like the Clash . . . they also had FIVE groups on the bill with them, so I can't see how anyone made a penny. Half the place was ripped to pieces and that has to be paid for.

Clash may have an album in the charts — fine — but even in my Tyrannosaurus Rex days when I had had four hit albums, by the end of that time I was super skint — and I'd made about 10 grand!

That sort of success didn't change my life. I still lived in Notting Hill Gate, and so will these guys. You don't instantly get showered in platinum albums and millions of Rolls Royces. That's a fantasy. You work twice as hard, do twice as many gigs, get twice as many roadies and end up with twice as many headaches. But hopefully, make music that's twice as good.

Beer belly

Sometimes you lose the music completely, because the only thing you get given you is lots of booze. It's automatically made available and you practically became an alcoholic. Take Rat Scabies . . . he was on my tour for three days and got a beer belly. And he worked it off!

The long-term effects of punk rock will be exactly the same as those of glam rock. Major figures will emerge and will last as long as this planet does, like the Stones — who seem to last for ever . . .

And, there are a lot of groups who will never make it. Recently I mentioned that I would like to produce a new wave band in an interview and

I got about a million tapes sent to me, most of which are rubbish. But I would still love to produce a good new wave band and give them freedom. If you can play three chords really fast doesn't make you good, but I think that's already been established.

It will probably take a year for the British new wave to be marketable in America simply because nearly all those groups are loud and have a lot of energy — that's a great asset in the States.

And there are others — take Iggy Pop for example. He's just broken big in America. His album went straight into the charts at Number 50. He is amazing!

The time is now right for Iggy. He's a very mature artist, great on stage and by far out Jagger's Jagger. He is a much bigger talent on stage and for once he has a record company behind him.

The Clash success has a lot to do with the CBS people, they did a very good job. The only reason that The Damned's album didn't go Top 10 was because it was the first.

So where does new wave leave me and my friends? It's not going to affect the sales of Led Zepplin's records, nor is it going to stop Abba selling. New wave is a whole different section of a new market.

Led Zepplin are currently doing a very successful tour of the States. They'll go on to become the musical equivalents of Paul Newman, Steve McQueen and Robert Redford — then you have Al Pacino and James Caan and under them you have the new stars like Richard Dreyfus. Rock becomes like the Hollywood star system.

Bleach

It follows the same pattern of maturity and success. It does change — Led Zepplin matured, T Rex are in the middle. Give me two more years and I'll be mature. I'm not a punk and I don't profess to be one. I'm not 18 and living on a council estate, I've done that, that's why I can understand it but I have no category because I'm a classless person.

The punk fashion scene is also interesting. I was the first person to have Levis and then, they were a very important thing to own. I used to put a brand new pair of jeans into a bowl of bleach to get all the holes in them, so that ain't a new look.

I wore leather jackets then. I always had a zip-up leather jacket. It was part of the look. But there was two looks — you had one for one day and the next you'd wear suits like The Jam. I just had to vary the styles a bit . . . I had imagination.

In the same way that I can now talk about the new sound I can go home and listen to 'My Baby Left Me' by Elvis Presley and get just as much satisfaction. In fact, I've got a song called 'Mona' from the new Beach Boys' album which I think is phenomenal. I played it 25 times this morning and they're supposed to be a dinosaur group!



Sex Pistols' God Save The Queen. It won't be on the new album and it may not be out at all for very long. So get it while you can. Sex Pistols' God Save The Queen. Available only as a single from Saturday May 28th at shops with the sign.