

# Play It Loud!!!! Rock'n'roll is made for the stage...

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January 02, 1998

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In these rich 80s, The Clash held the top of the pavement against all odds, because it evolved towards an absolute crossbreeding of its rock (reggae, gospel, rap...) and an astonishing avant-gardism, without losing momentum. The original energy of punk rock... A whole program... even if the last album, triple and complex, *Sandinista*, left us a little disconcerted and disappointed after the punk-rock perfection that the group had reached with "London Calling". We all tend to think that

there is in *Sandinista* a great potential single album, hidden behind long minutes of dub, even of anything (making children sing, well, it's funny for a minute...). But that's also why The Clash is an inimitable group, different from all the others, committed and enraged.

It's been four years, to within a few days, since I saw Strummer & Co for the first time on stage, during a concert at the Bataclan which was for me one of the founding moments of my passion for rock'n'roll, and punk in particular. Four years later, it is no longer a garage band, but a group at its artistic peak that Parisians will see, during a non-stop week at the Mogador Theater: a strange place for a rock concert all the same, Nope? It's because, purists as always, Strummer & Co prefer to offer their public the possibility of seeing them in a room on a human scale... The seven evenings are moreover sold out, and even probably more than that, given the unusual accumulation of spectators in a literally crowded theater!

After a most anecdotal first part ( *Wah* ...), then a second already more joyful first part with *The Beat*, we are entitled to an intermission with the graphic but sympathetic rantings of *Futura 2000* which tags at all costs on panels arranged for this purpose on the stage (He will continue to do so while The Clash are playing, and will also come and "toaster" on a track – painful – that we will leave to him!).



The Clash concert begins – finally! - with Strummer lying on his back, chanting the Scoresian decline of the aged *Broadway* boxer, no doubt to prove that his subject was EMOTION... The Harder They Fall! It's an amazing introduction, but after that, we're definitely going to get down to business. And even if Paul Simonon's bass is the king-instrument of the moment, we're going to have our fill of guitars too, since the set list isn't just made up of excerpts from *Sandinista*, but offers us some flashbacks on the previous three albums.

We'll also be able to get a taste of new songs, to appear on the band's next opus, apparently, which sound largely in line with *Sandinista*, with rapped lyrics, but more aggressive. Also note that Mick Jones, who is rumored to be no longer on very good terms with Joe Strummer, actually seemed particularly radiant and sharp tonight!

Note an audience that I found much less stupidly aggressive than before, no doubt less punk, who above all showed their fervor and their love for the group, which clearly contributed to the success of the evening.

Afterwards, by reading the chronicles of the other concerts of the week, I will discover that there will be ups and downs... but the Clash is a group ready to risk everything, and that's why we like all of them a little more than the other "big guys". Never the technique, never the professionalism, always the faith, the conviction in the first line. An exposed group.

## The Clash musicians:

*Joe Strummer (guitars and vocals)*

*Mick Jones (guitar and vocals)*

## PLAY IT LOUD!!!! ROCK'N'ROLL IS MADE FOR THE STAGE...

Since I was 15, which is a long time for us, I have been going to concert halls around the world, depending on where I live. It was time to capture somewhere all these big and small moments of emotion, rage, disappointment, pleasure...

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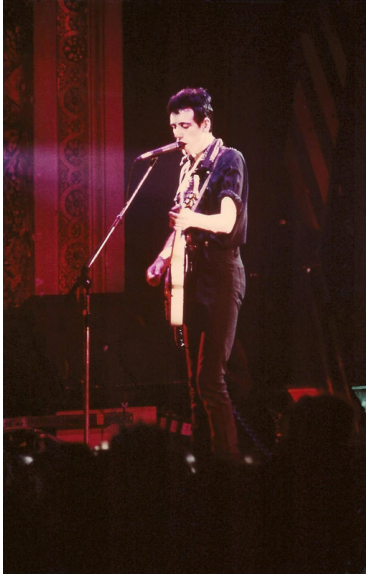
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Paul Simonon (bass and vocals)

Topper Headon (drums)

+ Futura 2000 (tags, voice)

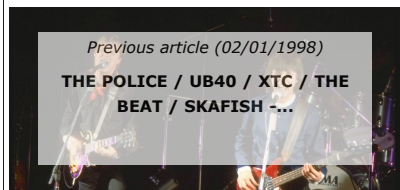
Note: The photos of the concert are from my friend Philippe M, whom I thank very much for allowing me to use them!

Posted by: Excessif at 02:40 - Season 1981 - 1982 - Comments [3] - Permalink [ # ]

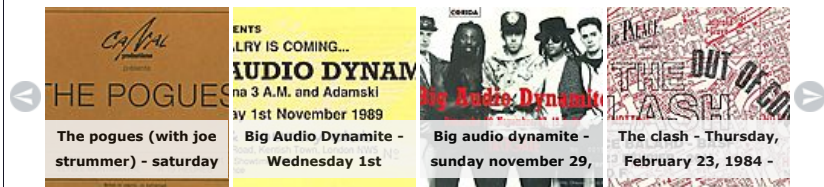
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Comments on The Clash - Friday, September 25, 1981 - Théâtre Mogador, Paris

Hey!! Thank you for this article

I (re)balance on my blog today even a concert of the clash at the hippodrome de puppet if you like to catch it

I remastered the sound a little we win quite a bit

A+

Bboy

Posted by Bazarboy on Friday August 20th, 2010 | Recommend | Answer

Thank you for these comments which remind me of a beautiful time. Did the photographer of the Clash concert in Mogador take pictures of the band in Part 1: The Beat?

With his authorization and mentioning it, I would be interested in broadcasting them on the BEAT website.

thanks in advance

Posted by Am'R, Sunday, March 21, 2021 | Recommend | Answer

very very good!

Posted by Jimmy Choo on Friday, May 13, 2022 | Recommend | Answer

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