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**The Clash breaking up, 1982**

In its official history, the story of The Clash ends with the firing of lead guitarist Mick Jones in 1983. Though frequent touring and the Paul Simonon subsequently laid a five-piece version of the band to rest, the Clash's influence has not been forgotten. In 2007, the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**The Clash**

The Clash's single page in the first half and a tenth of the band's career, and the 1985 album *Combat Rock* have been left off every Clash book to date. In the words of *Billboard*, "It doesn't seem like it's been given the attention it deserves." But as we know, they ended it at the 1982 U.K. festival. The Clash met the same fate as the new *Cold*.

While no one would dispute that it was a poor choice to fire Mick Jones, the Clash did well without him. They were a much more cohesive unit when he was gone, and they had very few wins without a touring keyboardist. The UK, in fact, did end up in the position of picking up the pieces, where the Americans reportedly came back to wash. Skreamer never sounded as refined in interviews as he did in 1984, and the Clash's last tour was their most energetic, most exhilarating, or more complete. Than as at a January 1984 show in California.



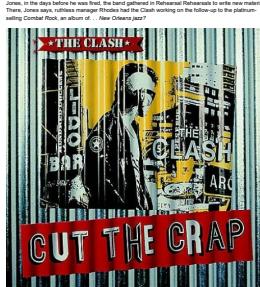
Danny Garcia's documentary *The Rise and Fall Of The Clash*, a whodunit about the breakup, is the first movie to shed light on this bizarre period. Based on interviews with original members Mick Jones and Terry Chimes, late-period members Pete Howard, Nick Sheppard, and Vince White, comrades Pearl Harbor, Viv Albertine, and Vic Godard, and others from the band's circle, the movie largely focuses on the



The rise and fall of the Clash trailer

Evaluations of Rhodes' actual contribution to the band vary widely, but most parties agree that Strummer treated the manager while Jones did not. The Clash fired Rhodes in 1978—they were managed by big-time Blackhill Enterprises during the recording of London Calling and Sandinista—but they hired Rhodes back in 1981. "I wanted Bernie back because there was no excitement in the situation with [Strummer] and I needed to have someone like Bernie around to give him confidence," Simonon says in the coffee-table book.

The documentary makes it clear that Rhodes' philandering (and his knowledge of Israeli



Rhodes' ascendancy culminated in the recording of *Cut the Crap*, an utterly strange hybrid of contemporary punk and hip-hop styles, co-written and co-produced by Shrimmer and Rhodes. Drum programming replaced Pete Howard's playing, and much of the material is covered with haphazard synth bleats that sound like a cat dancing on a Cassio. There is a (perhaps apocryphal) story that a contemporary British music magazine dispatched *Cut the Crap* with the shortest record review ever printed. "Cut the 'cat' the," Side Two, however, has its moments:



A screenshot of a video player interface. The video frame shows a black and white photograph of The Clash band members. The title "The Clash - Three Card Trick" is displayed above the video frame. Below the video frame, the text "Cut the Crap side two, track one: 'This is England'" is visible. At the bottom of the player, there are playback controls: a play button, volume and brightness sliders, and a progress bar.



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Posted by Oliver Hall | 09.10.2014 10:25 am

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