

100 nights of Punk at the Roxy nightclub in London

When punk kicked off in the late Seventies, almost every venue in the UK banned the sound from the stage. So when lifelong partners Andrew Czezowski and Susan Carrington wanted a venue to promote the punk band they managed, Generation-X, they had to actually own one. They took over a seedy underground club in Soho called Chaguaramas from its owner, a one-handed gay barrister, and re-named it The Roxy. Two weeks later, The Clash were booked for the club's launch, and everyone from Mark Bolan, "the godfather of punk", to Led Zeppelin flocked to the club. Virtually every single act who played at The Roxy walked away with a record deal. And yet, despite such success, The Roxy was a short lived affair. More specifically: 100 nights. Mick Jones from The Clash called this brief but glorious period: "The life span of punk." After that, Andrew and Susan were booted out, and the spirit of punk moved on. Now, the couple have released the world's first duography, *The Roxy Our Story: The Club That Forged Punk In 100 Nights Of Madness, Mayhem And Misfortune* (Carrceez, £20) which uses newspaper clippings, gig posters, old photographs and excerpts from the couple's respective diaries to chart the rise and fall of punk at The Roxy. Today, a plaque outside the former club (41-43 Neal Street, Sven Dials) will be formally unveiled by special guests, and tomorrow, a free punk exhibition, "Fear And Loathing At The Roxy", will run for two weeks from 26 April to 10 May at 10-35 Neal Street. When Punk kicked off in the late Seventies, almost every venue in the UK banned the sound from the stage, fearing its aggression and otherness. So when lifelong partners Andrew Czezowski and Susan Carrington wanted a venue to promote the punk band they managed, Generation-X, they had to actually own one. They took over a seedy underground club in Soho called Chaguaramas from its owner, a one-handed gay barrister, and re-named it The Roxy. Two weeks later, The Clash were booked for the club's launch, and everyone from Mark Bolan, "the godfather of punk", to Led Zeppelin flocked to the club. Virtually every single act who played at The Roxy walked away with a record deal. And yet, despite the

venue's success, it stayed open only 100 nights – a glorious period Mick Jones from The Clash called "The life span of punk." After that, Andrew and Susan were booted out, and the spirit of punk moved on. Now, the couple have released the world's first duography, *The Roxy Our Story: The Club That Forged Punk In 100 Nights Of Madness, Mayhem And Misfortune* (Carrceez, £20) which uses newspaper clippings, gig posters, old photographs and excerpts from the couple's respective diaries to chart the rise and fall of punk at The Roxy. Today, a plaque outside the former club (41-43 Neal Street, Sven Dials) will be formally unveiled by special guests, and tomorrow, a free punk exhibition, "Fear And Loathing At The Roxy", will run for two weeks from 26 April to 10 May at 10-35 Neal Street.

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