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THE CLASH FRONTMAN DIES

Joe Strummer, frontman of legendary British punk band The Clash, has died aged 50.

A spokesman for Strummer's family confirmed that he had died on Sunday at his home in Somerset.

"We do not yet know the cause of death but an autopsy will be forthcoming," the spokesman said.

The star was the band's guitarist, singer and songwriter alongside Mick Jones.

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He had been touring with his most recent band, The Mescaleros, until last month, rounding off a tour in Liverpool.

Best album

The Clash were known for injecting left-wing politics into punk and their album London Calling was named the best album of the Eighties by Rolling Stone magazine - despite being released in 1979.

Strummer - born John Graham Mellor in Ankara, Turkey - helped make aggressive punk music a worldwide phenomenon with hits like Should I Stay Or Should I Go? and the London Calling signature tune.

His official website, http://www.strummersite.com/, told fans of the death.

Strummer, married with children, enjoyed a successful solo career after the Clash broke up in 1989, dabbling in acting and writing music for films.

Film cameo

He had long resisted lucrative offers to reform The Clash and preferred to develop new music rather than dwell in the past.

It long irritated him that the spectre of the band cast its shadow over his solo work.

Strummer also made a number of film appearances, mainly for his film director friend Alex Cox.

His movies included Straight To Hell and Walker for the maverick film-maker.

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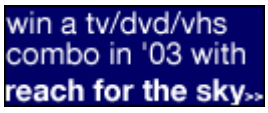

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He also put in a cameo in Martin Scorsese's The King Of Comedy.

Public school-educated Strummer was the son of a British diplomat.

Last Updated: 15:30 UK, Monday December 23, 2002

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