What Is Punk?

By Paul Hiebert | June 21, 2010

"When punk rock came along, the one thing you were not supposed to be was musical."
— **Nick Lowe** (songwriter, producer)

"The popularity of punk rock was, in effect, due to the fact that it made ugliness beautiful."
— **Malcolm McLaren**

"Punk is musical freedom. It's saying, doing and playing what you want. In Webster's terms, 'nirvana' means freedom from pain, suffering and the external world, and that's pretty close to my definition of Punk Rock."
— **Kurt Cobain**

"Punk rock is a word used by dilettantes and heartless manipulators about music that takes up the energies, and the bodies, and the hearts, and the souls, and the time, and the minds of young men who give what they have to it... I don't know Johnny Rotten, but I'm sure he puts as much blood and sweat into what he does as Sigmund Freud did. What sounds to you like a big load of trashy old noise is in fact the brilliant music of a genius — myself. And that music is so powerful that it's quite beyond my control, and when I'm in the grips of it I don't feel pleasure and I don't feel pain, either physically or emotionally."
— **Iggy Pop**

"[Punk] was something which brought people together, so they realized something was possible"
– **Pete Shelley** (Buzzcocks)

"Punk is: the personal expression of uniqueness that comes from the experiences of growing up in touch with our human ability to reason and ask questions; a movement that serves to refute social attitudes that have been perpetuated through willful ignorance of human nature; a belief that this world is what we make of it, truth comes from our understanding of the way things are, not from the blind adherence to prescriptions about the way things should be; the constant struggle against fear of social repercussions."
– **Greg Graffin** (Bad Religion)

"Punk rock, when I was a part of it, was called 'the underground.' There was something very attractive in all the hidden places, the hidden histories."
– **Mary Harron** (journalist, filmmaker)

"Undermine their pompous authority, reject their moral standards, make anarchy and disorder your trademarks. Cause as much chaos and disruption as possible but don't let them take you alive."
– **Sid Vicious**

"Punk rock is just another word for freedom."
– **Patti Smith**

25 definitions of Punk : http://flavorwire.com/99393/what-is-punk-25-definitions-from-people-who-should-know