

THE BEGINNINGS OF PUNK

Legs McNeil (born in 1956), journalist and rock historian, recalls his summer 1975 holidays, which he spent with two high school friends of his, John Holmstrom and Ged Dunn.

One day we were riding in the car, and John said, «I think we should start a magazine.»

All summer we had been listening to this album *Go Girl Crazy* by this unknown group called The Dictators, and it changed our lives.(...)

I hated most rock&roll, because it was about lame(1)hippie stuff, and there really wasn't anyone describing our lives-which was McDonald's,beer, and TV reruns(2).Then John found The Dictators, and we all got excited that something was happening.

Holmstrom wanted the magazine to be a combination of everything we were into-television reruns,(...)cheeseburgers,comics,grade-B movies(3), and this weird rock&roll that nobody but us seemed to like: The Velvet,The Stooges, The New York Dolls, and now The Dictators.(...). So I said, «Why don't we call it punk?»

The word 'punk' seemed to sum up the thread(4) that connected everything we liked - (...) obnoxious(5), smart but not pretentious, absurd, funny, ironic, and things that appealed to the darker side.

Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain, *Please Kill Me, the Uncensored Oral History of Punk*, 1996

1. *lame* = *boringly conventional*
2. *TV rerun* = *TV programme that is shown or put on again*
3. *grade-B movie*= *low-budget film*
4. *thread*: *fil*
5. *obnoxious*= *extremely unpleasant*

- *punk(n.)*
1. *a young inexperienced person*
 2. *a petty criminal*
 3. *an inferior, rotten or worthless person or thing*