



The Stranglers, 1978

Transcription of excerpts from interviews with
Ian Harding, Simon Murphy and Julie Kenwright (2018)

Ian: I remember we came over from Leominster. So we must have, I can't remember how, but we must have done a minibus or something from the sixth form. A whole gang of us came. And the bass player, I think was Jean-Jacques Burnel, he was really goading the audience, as a lot of the sort of punk era bands did, you know, to try and whip up an atmosphere. And it ended up with a, you know, lots of people invading the stage and getting thrown off by the security and the bouncers. And my mate Bosey was on the stage with his, you know, stripped to the waist, and pogoing around. It was quite anarchic really. But that was a really good gig, you know, that was probably one of the best actually.

Simon: One of the times I was watching The Stranglers I got lost from my mates. I think it was at the end, we were probably working our way out, and I sort of turned round and looked up and they were all on the stage, and they were all up with the band, you know. And the band were sort of still playing some music, and they didn't seem to worry about, you know, this bunch of school kids on the stage with them. So, of course, I sort of ploughed back through to try and get up on the stage as well, but by the time I got to the front they were all back off it again, so. But it was fairly chaotic, I remember, that one. That seemed to be, there seemed to be a bit of an edge in the room. It wasn't the sort of thing that you know, was really, really bad or wouldn't have put me off going again 'cause I clearly went afterwards, I'm sure, but I think there was an edge that night.

Julie: I do remember The Stranglers being a very legitimate punk concert because there was a lot of spitting in the mosh pit. I just remember a lot of spitting. I didn't do that. I was just the recipient of it, which was lovely... But I was right at the, I was two rows from the front. By this stage we knew where to stand, you could just get two rows from the front. I've never been to concerts since then that have been as exciting as these. So, no concerts in big arenas are like this, absolutely none. So The Stranglers was just, yeah, there was lots of pogoing. If you, well you basically had no choice, everybody was pogoing, so you had to just pogo with them. And you're just looking up at the stage and there they are. Yeah, it was just, just amazing.

*Transcript of full interviews are available from Rock Around the Hills
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