



## Generation X, 1979

Transcription of excerpts from interviews with  
Mary Simcox and Persefoni Salter (2018)

**Mary:** Generation X on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1979, 'cause it was my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday on the Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>. And I was so excited. I was just beside myself. And I walked in and I saw people that I'd never seen the like of in my life, like real full-on punks. They'd probably come down from Birmingham, or had just got dressed up. And I can remember my friend, I can't even remember who it was I went with now, saying, "Look, there's Billy Idol," and I went, [gasps]. And there was a guy standing there, blonde spikey hair, and I thought, "Is it him, is it him?" Because I didn't really know how it worked, I didn't realise that you wouldn't see the band till they came on stage or whatever. And just I remember the whole evening being so amazingly exciting. But it was the first time I'd experienced the music sounding different. It hadn't occurred to me that 'cause they were singing it live it wasn't going to sound like the record. But no it was great. A bit scary 'cause there was all the pogoing going on, and spitting. I actually learnt quite early on just if they pogoed into me, give them a really hard shove back or a kick in the shins and they generally left you alone after that!

**Persefoni:** I do remember seeing Generation X there, which was a brilliant gig. I was right at the front, we were very crushed, and there was a lot of spitting going on that night. So if you were at the front you were also in the fire for lots of spit coming your way. Lots of drinks flying around in the air. And I remember thinking how brilliant it was, and then seeing Billy Idol on *Tiswas* that Saturday, the following Saturday, saying how he thought it was a complete riot, the gig at the Malvern Winter Gardens. And I don't think he enjoyed it at all. So that was

like, obviously, the other side of the coin because from being in the audience it seemed like it was such a good gig.

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