

BARRED FOR LIFE

How Black Flag's Iconic Logo became Punk Rock's Secret Handshake

Stewart Dean Ebersole

Additional Photographs by Jared Castaldi

Barred for Life is a photo documentary cataloging the legacy of American Punk Rock pioneers Black Flag, through stories, interviews, and photographs of diehard fans who wear their iconic logo, The Bars, conspicuously tattooed upon their skin. Author Stewart Dean Ebersole provides a personal narrative describing what made the existence of Punk Rock such an important facet in his and many other people's lives, and the role that Black Flag's actions and music played in soundtracking the ups-and-downs of living as self-imposed cultural outsiders.

Ebersole and photographer Jared Castaldi's stark black-and-white portraits provide visual testimony to the thesis that Black Flag's factual Punk-pioneering role and their hyper-distilled mythology are now more prevalent worldwide than when the band was in service. An extensive tour of the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe in the Fall of 2009 found Ebersole and Castaldi documenting dedicated fans bearing Bars-in-skin, and other Black Flag iconography. Nearly 400 "barred" fans lined up, smiled/frowned for the camera, and issued their stories for the permanent record.

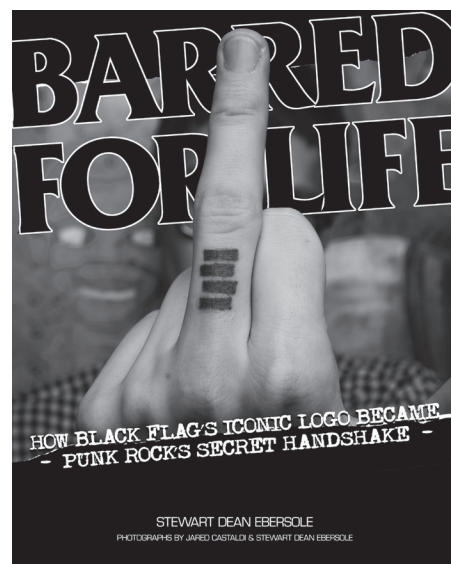
Barred for Life expands its own scope by presenting interviews with former Black Flag members and some of those close to the band across their ten-year existence. Interviews with alumni Dez Cadena, Ron Reyes, Kira Roessler, Keith Morris, and Chuck Dukowski, as well as photographers, Glen E. Friedman and Ed Colver, and the man responsible for tattooing the Bars on more than a few Black Flag players, Rick Spellman, round out and spotlight aspects of Black Flag's vicious live performances, forward thinking work ethic, and indisputable reputation for acting as both champions and iconoclastic destroyers of the Punk Rock culture they helped to create.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

Stewart Ebersole is a freelance designer and builder currently living and working in Philadelphia, PA. Ebersole dedicated much of his time and efforts to varied aspects of the Punk Rock culture between the years of 1982 and 2002, and *Barred for Life* is his first book on the topic. See more at www.barredforlife.net

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Jared Castaldi is a professional photographer living in Philadelphia, PA. When not shooting for his various clients, Jared can be found either aggressively playing his drums or aimlessly riding his vintage motorcycle. Jared's work can be seen at his website, www.jaredcastaldi.com



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