

Going Underground

American Punk 1979–1989, Second Edition

George Hurchalla

The product of decades of work and multiple self-published editions, *Going Underground*, written by 1980s scene veteran George Hurchalla, is the most comprehensive look yet at America's nationwide underground punk scene.

Despite the misguided mainstream press declarations that "punk died with Sid Vicious" or that "punk was reborn with Nirvana," author Hurchalla followed the DIY spirit of punk underground, where it not only survived, but thrived nationally as a self-sustaining grassroots movement rooted in seedy clubs, rented fire halls, xeroxed zines, and indie record shops.

Rather than dwell on well-documented suspects and trendsetters from LA, NYC, and DC, Hurchalla delves deep into the underground's underbelly to root out stories from Chicago, Philadelphia, Austin, Lawrence, Annapolis, Cincinnati, Florida, and elsewhere. Like most of the truly great books on punk that have emerged to date, Hurchalla mixes his personal experiences with the words of dozens of band members, promoters, artists, zinesters, and scenesters. Some of the countless bands covered include Articles of Faith, Big Boys, Necros, Hüsker Dü, Reagan Youth, Government Issue, and Minutemen, as well as many of the essential zines of the time such as *The Big Takeover*, *Maximum Rocknroll*, *Flipside*, and *Forced Exposure*.

Going Underground features over a hundred unique photos from Marie Kanger-Born of Chicago, Dixon Coulbourn of Austin, Brian Trudell of LA, Malcolm Riviera of DC, Justina Davies of New York, Ed Arnaud of Arizona, and many others, along with flyers from across the nation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Hurchalla spent most of the 1990s as an itinerant wanderer and snow/music/wilderness writer and photographer, editing *The Hell with Politics: The Life and Writings of Jane Wood Reno* in 1994. After years of poverty pursuing his dreams and contributing sporadically to *Heckler* magazine, he broke down and took a paying gig to write *Exploring Florida Beaches: The Atlantic Coast* and *Exploring Florida Beaches: The Gulf Coast* for Falcon guidebooks in 2002. In February of 2004 he launched the first imprint of his own press, Spot X Guides, and published the results of a decade-long involvement with the Tahoe wilderness, *Backcountry Snowboarding and Skiing in the Northern Sierra*. Currently residing in Huatulco, Mexico, Hurchalla continues to write when he is not out exploring senseless beauty.

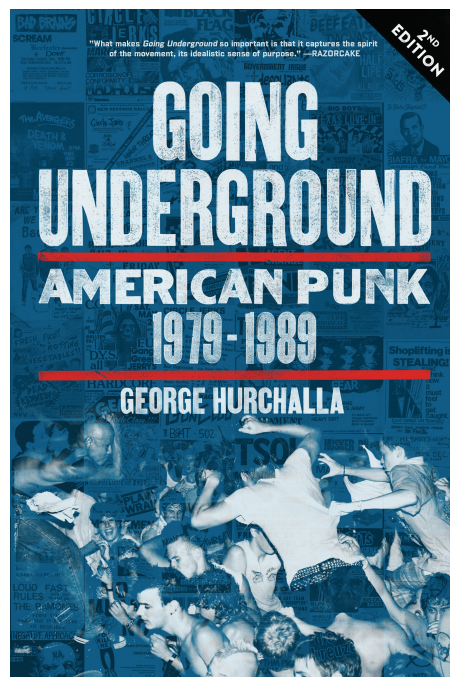
ACCOLADES

"Hurchalla's efforts are impressive, given the fragmented and regional nature of American hardcore in the Eighties, a time well before the Web made for a truly Punk Planet. Mimicking an Eighties-era tour, it meanders all over the place without ever fully wearing out its welcome."

—Marc Savlov, *Austin Chronicle*

"What makes Hurchalla's book so important is that it captures the spirit of the movement, its idealistic sense of purpose that, despite punk's many shortcomings, has managed to survive and continues to influence a wide swath of people.... *Going Underground* now stands as the definitive statement on the history of America's punk/hardcore scene. George, I tip my worn-out beret to you."

—Jimmy Alvarado, *Razorcake*



SUBJECT CATEGORY

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