

SPRAY PAINT THE WALLS

The Story of Black Flag

Stevie Chick

Black Flag were the pioneers of American Hardcore, and this is their blood-spattered story.

Formed in Hermosa Beach, California in 1978, for eight brutal years they made and played brilliant, ugly, no-holds-barred music on a self-appointed touring circuit of America's clubs, squats and community halls. They fought with everybody: the police, the record industry and even their own fans. They toured overseas on pennies a day and did it in beat-up trucks and vans.

Spray Paint The Walls tells Black Flag's story from the inside, drawing on exclusive interviews with the group's members, their contemporaries, and the bands they inspired. It's the story of Henry Rollins, and his journey from fan to iconic frontman. And it's the story of Greg Ginn, who turned his electronics company into one of the world's most influential independent record labels while leading Black Flag from punk's three-chord frenzy into heavy metal and free-jazz.

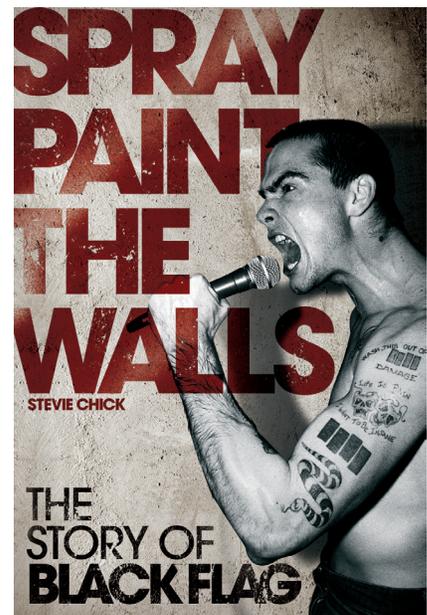
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stevie Chick has been writing about music for more than ten years, contributing to such titles as *MOJO*, *The Guardian*, *Kerrang!*, *NME*, *Melody Maker* and *Careless Talk Costs Lives* and editing underground rock magazine *Loose Lips Sink Ships* with photographer Steve Gullick. He is the author of *Psychic Confusion: The Sonic Youth Story*. He lives in South London.

ACCOLADES

"Neither Greg Ginn nor Henry Rollins sat for interviews but their voices are included from earlier interviews, and more importantly Chuck Dukowski spoke to Chick—a first I believe. The story, laid out from the band's earliest practices in 1976 to its end ten years later, makes a far more dramatic book than the usual shelf-fillers with their stretch to make the empty stories of various chart-toppers sound exciting and crucial and against the odds." —Joe Carducci, formerly of SST Records

"Here is an exhaustive prequel to, followed by a more balanced re-telling of, Rollin's *Get in the Van* journal, chronicling Flag's emergence in suburban Hermosa Beach, far from the trendy Hollywood scene (*Germ*s, *X*, etc.) and how their ultra-harsh, hi-speed riffage sparked moshpit violence—initially fun, but soon aggravated by jocks and riot police. Greg Ginn, their aloof guitarist/slave-driver/ideologue dominates in absentia. Gradually, he fires everyone but Rollins, yet, his pan-American shoestring SST empire is relentlessly inspirational. A gory, gobsmacking read." —Andrew Perry, *MOJO*



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