

SPYGLASS REFLECTIONS
#CARROLLS TOR or ALB
ALICE PUNK: VESTIGES, 1988

Sham 69 Is Innocent!

This is the truth! There was only one Sex Pistol! There is only one Ramones! Sometimes we go out to clubs that call themselves rock discos! We get pissed off! It costs money! We have to be among people! Several sexes in black leather jackets shove us! They are scum! What have we got! Fuckall! We don't even push back!

In England they do! That's why Sham 69's having trouble over there! Half their fans are punks and half are skinhead neo-Nazis! They shove each other! Then they punch each other's faces in! It's disgusting! It makes the dalies! The group broke up once because of it! Then they reformed! Their leader Jimmy Pursey had the nerve to bill himself Joe Public! Every soul! Fuck him! I like him! All his interviews in *New Musical Express* he comes across sincere! So what! Kiss was as good as this group! First Sham album on Sire sounded like Ramones outtakes with some pubkid football-chanting over 'em! It was great! I guess! Sorta! Better than nondescripts like the Members! At least Jimmy Pursey has a personality! He sings lead for the group! He takes off his shirt! When he jumps around the stage and screams there's a big vein or muscle that stands out on the left side of his neck! Wow! His eyes bulge! He's pissed off! So am I! Who isn't! But piss stinks different here! We've all got our causes! He's never been to 14th Street! He speaks! "Anyway who gives a damn? / I'm doin' the best I can!" So what! Lotsa bored Anglophiles in that audience! They got two encores anyway! Everybody gets two encores these days! Fuck all encores! Who pays for this shit! Who is Everymani! Me and You! Fuck all! Even Halston 'n' Andy are Everymani!

Recall summer of '77 NY media freaks tryin' to outdo each other blabbin' "Punk is dead," well ha ha ha IT'S THE HIPPEST HAPPENIN COIN YOU TRANKS! Course all the good bands died two years ago or are lonely struggling to break middle America inch by inch like Patti and the Ramones! Maybe they will! Everybody else is a big fish in a little pond! No guts! Fuck 'em! Jim Pursey's got a new song called "The Hostages Are Innocent"! What hostages! Tell us the clear truth! Tattoo on *Fantasy Island* looks like a hostage to me! Or maybe he means the Wilmington Ten! Who the fuck are they! Who gives a shit! George Davis is innocent! So was Slade! They never sussed that English football shouts wouldn't level American concert halls! This group is just that stupid! And even more arrogant! More blab from staged Jim Wednesday night! "It's about time that sixteen-year-olds had somebody sixteen years old to speak for them! You don't have somebody like that! That's why we're here! Bruce Springsteen is okay but he's thirty years old!" Yeah Jim he's lost his innocence! Not like you! He has no lyrics like "What's it all about? / Money, work it out!"

Right! That's why Alice Cooper was the father of seventies rock 'n' roll! He knew! That's also why Sham 69's new album *The Adventures of Hershman Boys* sounds like Alice circa "Under My Wheels"! Jimmy got scared of his own power! Just like Alice! What men they were! There were giants in those days! So now they've both ended up making overproduced the-boys-are-united albums that blare and blare! I'd buy this one like I bought *Killer*! Except it's not as good! But so what! It's nine years later and no one cares! Except Alice because he's washed up! Now! And Jimmy! Because just like Alice he's got scared of himself or his audience and settled for a cartoon instead! So this is hot wank! Better no doubt than the next Kiss album! But Kiss were a better group when they were smokin'! And they had nothin' to say! And these guys don't either! So don't let them kid you! Buy their album! It's exciting! Buy all albums by new angry British groups! They stink too! If you pay you won't care! If you care you'll defect from both the Sham and Kiss Armies! But you don't care! Neither do I! So let's buy!