



THE CLASH STROLLING ASBURY PARK'S BOARDWALK CIRCA 1982. PHOTO BY DAVID MCGOUGH.

# 30 YEARS AGO...

CLASH FEST CELEBRATES 1982 APPEARANCE OF THE CLASH AT CONVENTION HALL

BY JASON THOMSON

ASBURY PARK - My boss likes to talk a lot. Too much sometimes. And one story I've heard at least a hundred times is the night he saw The Clash at Convention Hall back in the summer of 1980. "Best concert I ever saw," he tells me. In fact, it's pretty annoying each and every time I have to endure this historic account of an 18 year old Dan Jacobson standing in the front row of a Clash show acting a fool. It's like listening to my grandfather tell the same story over and over again as if it's the first time I've ever heard it. I usually don't have the heart to tell him he's already told me this one and just grin and bear it. (Dan, can I still have my paycheck?).

But all joking aside, it's one of a thousand great moments in Asbury Park's loaded music history. The Clash at Convention Hall. They came back to Asbury in 1982, weeks before reaching legendary status as one of the world's most legendary and controversial punk rock bands.

I always love the story of the guy who threw a fire

cracker at Joe Strummer during the band's first encore. It exploded on his knee and Strummer had to be taken to Jersey Shore Medical Center where he was treated for minor burns and released. Only in Asbury as they say. Considering Strummer's reputation of being a real dick, I guess he got his so to speak.

On Friday, June 1st, The Press Room, 610 Bangs Ave. in Asbury Park, is celebrating the 30 Year Anniversary of that last legendary Clash show in Asbury with Clash Fest. The night will feature Asbury bands and musicians performing songs from that 1982 concert as well as the live performance of the Convention Hall show projected on the wall. And you can bet a surprise guest or two will be stopping by at some point during the evening. Use your imagination.

But perhaps the most iconic proof of The Clash's 1982 appearance at Convention Hall is a photo of the band strolling down the Asbury boardwalk with the Casino in all its glory in the background. The

shot was taken by famed rock photographer David McGough.

"I was down there at the concert. The record company had set up a photo shoot with the band," he tells triCity. "They were real assholes. Joe Strummer was yelling at me, 'who the f#%k is this guy? How many (photos) you gonna take?' I guess he was pissed about having to get up before noon. The other guys didn't say a word."

McGough, who is a huge fan of The Clash, just brushed it off. "I was surprised but I didn't care." It was years later looking back on that moment and on the band itself that he appreciated how important The Clash have become in the lore of music history. "There was nobody better than them. They were the best. I love those guys."

Check out David McGough's current project at [www.chuckpullin.com](http://www.chuckpullin.com) or visit his website for more photos of The Clash in Asbury Park at [www.davidmcgough.com](http://www.davidmcgough.com)