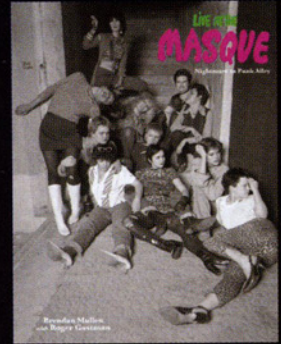


THE MASQUE WAS A GAS

LA Punk Club Gets Anthologized



Text **Maxwell Williams**
Photography **Anna Summa**

"Nightmare in Punk Alley" is the subtitle to the new book *Live at the Masque*, a visual trip down memory lane for Brendan Mullen, the ex-proprietor of the legendary Los Angeles punk and new wave party spot. It's a pretty apt subtitle: many of photos in therein contain extraordinarily dressed young punks—Masque regulars the Bags wore paper bags over their heads when they played, for instance. For budding young Republicans and old Governor Reagan supporters, it probably *did* seem like a nightmare.

Down in a rundown basement, Mullen started the Masque as a practice space. Quickly word spread and the place became a hotbed of activity, and a jumping off point for iconographic musicians like the late Darby Crash from the Germs and Exene Cervenka (pictured here) of X. Style matched the rawness of the scene back then, and the photos show a carefree time in LA when anything went and everyone had fun... 'til the cops busted up the party.

Mullen has gathered some stunning photographs from his old clientele, and mixed them in with show flyer art and old newspaper articles about the place to make a fittingly collage-like pastiche. The nightmare may be over, but the memories are beautiful.

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TOKION

Nate Lowman
underdog on top

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HEDI ELIMANE

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