



# MASQUE

## California Luvin'

New book brings LA punk capital  
The Masque into focus



CHiPs might have you believing that LA in the '70s was all blow-dried hair and pearly smiles, but there's nothing sunny about the po-po making one of their all too regular appearances at The Masque, the underground venue that nurtured such bands as The Germs, X and The Weirdos—whose singer John Denny appears adequately shook up by the men in beige (above).

This is just one of hundreds of shots taken at the Masque, now compiled in a new book, *Live at the Masque: Nightmare in Punk Alley*. Author Brendan Mullen who has been capturing the LA underground punk scene for years—from his oral history of LA Punk with Mark Spitz (*We Got the Neutron Bomb*) to the controversial Perry Farrell biography (*Whores*)—has teamed up with Roger Gastman, who's best known for his multiple tomes on the



Los Angeles graffiti scene, as the editor of *Swindle Magazine* and the go-to guy for edgy art books.

With Ramones songs being used to shill video games and the Sex Pistols shilling themselves whenever they can, LA punk represents the last scene still being discovered by a new generation of music fans looking for the real deal. This book will definitely ratchet up those punk points.

—Jasper Stahl

