

that nom du rock forever associating him with a band whose greatest work he played no part in making, it's little wonder the story is halfway through before Richie even auditions for the band.

Written with co-author Peter Aaron (singer with New York band the Chrome Cranks), Ramone's story is told with humour and candour, although perhaps not as much candour as you'd expect with the original band all passed on to the great High School in the sky. He may have pulled his punches, but it's a life well-lived, and a book well-earned.



Fraser Lewry

The Brian Jonestown Massacre Story: Keep Music Evil

Jesse Valencia JAWBONE

No-holds-barred account of legendary psych-rock outfit.

"If you're going to run away to the circus, you can't be all that shocked if you end up smelling of

elephant shit," muses one of the contributors to this eye-watering account of life in and around the Brian Jonestown Massacre. And the whiff of drugs, decadence and bad behaviour seeps from every page.

Denied access to Anton Newcombe himself, uber-fan Valencia instead tells the BJM story with a fannish zeal, fleshing out his own reminiscences with 125 interviews with those close to the carnage, including both percussionist Joel Gion and the Dandy Warhols' Courtney Taylor-Taylor.

Fans of Ondi Timoner's cult movie *Dig!* will revel in the minutiae of drug-centric tittle-tattle, but what you otherwise get is the sense that those caught up in Newcombe's mercurial orbit ultimately share Valencia's view that it feels like "a dream of life buzzing at its absolute maximum".



Paul Moody

Led Zeppelin: Denmark 1968 - 1970

Jørgen Angel & Søren Vangsgaard FLYING V BOOKS

Postcards from the land of ice and snow.

While the subject is not exactly underrepresented in terms of public-domain images, this eye-

opening Scandinavian archive adds both merit and bearing to the canon, shining a 100-lumen spotlight on Led Zeppelin's first ever performance (Copenhagen, 7/9/1968, billed as the New Yardbirds) and their subsequent ascendancy.

Shot by a teenage Jørgen Angel, there's a charming naivety to the composition, capturing perfectly the oh-so-young energy and nascent prowess on display. The depiction of other touring acts - Deep Purple, the Pretty Things, David Bowie - is a winning touch (a shot of Ritchie Blackmore in particular), as are chapters on the local club scene, support acts and Zeppelin's first tour manager, Jerry Ritz. Angel's craft develops in tandem to his subject's, and although the focus is on three gigs, a further chapter, on 1971 onwards, is equally illuminating. An evident affection from the band towards Angel warms the project, culminating in perhaps the rarest of all shots: a beaming Jimmy Page.



Tim Batcup

Rock 'N' Roll London

Tony Barrell ACC ART BOOKS

Pocket gazetteer of the capital's musical landmarks.



Let's not beat about the bush, this is not exactly what you'd call an original concept. Subtitled - with a tad more accuracy - *A Guide To The City's Musical Heritage*, this 160-page, A5-ish soft-back pinpoints geographical locations across the capital where notable music-related events occurred, alongside a paragraph of illuminating description. It's split into areas (central, west, east, north, south), unpretentious and, up to a point, does its job.

Events are split into four self-explanatory categories (Life And Death, Meetings And Happenings, Performances, Recording), along with succinct lists of lost London-based publications, shops and clubs and some tasty photographs.

So if you want to know where Hendrix expired or Bowie was inspired, then fill your boots. But 'Rock 'N' Roll...' Really? Kylie, Stormzy, Adele, yer Mumfords are all chronicled herein, so pedantic rock purists beware.

Far from definitive, index-free and map-less. One for tourists.



Ian Fortnam

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