

LINDA ARONOW

Born 2/5/1984...you do the math.

I grew up in Culver City, California and after a miserable time not fitting in during junior high I found myself in high school discovering punk rock. I bought my first Clash and 999 singles at *Hear and Now Records* a tiny hole in the wall record store in the neighborhood and got introduced to the coolest sisters: Sharon and Suzi, who it turned out lived on the next block, and started taking me to punk rock shows in the back of Sharon's white Toyota pick up. First show was Black Flag and the Adolescents at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and there was no looking back.

I had always loved photography and taken it as an elective in school. My dad lent me his Canon AE1 camera and eventually realized that he would never get it back. I started taking that poor camera to punk rock shows, thus combining my two loves. I have that same camera to this day and still use it to shoot live bands when the opportunity comes up.

Around that time I had the good fortune to meet Ed Colver who was (and still is) one of my all time favorite photographers and my biggest influence. His images are iconic and I was so lucky to meet him as a teenager. Ed was very kind and gave me some much-needed guidance—including a lesson in darkroom printing. I learned so much from that experience and my prints improved tenfold from gray and drab to bolder high contrast and it made such a difference that I still shoot and print like that today.

After some really awful jobs (including working a week in a *Fotomat* booth and the *J.C. Penney Portrait Studio* at Fox Hills Mall) I found my way over to Melrose and spent an amazing decade managing **Wacko** when that street was the coolest place to be. Some of the bands I shot during this time worked in shops just up the street (Patrick from Kommunity FK and Edward from Nervous Gender both worked at **Poseur**). I was able to shoot Black Flag at a surprise show at UCLA, which provided a rare opportunity to photograph them without having to dodge stage divers; although there was a weird kind of chivalry back then whereby people looked out for you and your camera—usually.

A random encounter between Sharon's little sister Suzi and Ross from GBH on their first US tour turned into a decades long friendship and opportunity to shoot them at many locations and over many years. Whenever they were in town we did our own mini-tour going to shows in all the surrounding cities like Santa Barbara and San Diego. Unfortunately life has gotten in the way over the last few years but I still try to see them whenever I'm able.

Notes on the Photos

- Alice Bag was shot with her band Fun House at *The-o-ret-i-cal*, which was held at the infamous *One Way* leather bar in Silverlake.

- * Screaming Jay Hawkins was shot at the Palomino Club in North Hollywood.
- * The Red Hot Chili Peppers were shot at the Music Machine in West Los Angeles when Hillel Slovak was still on guitar.
- Stiv Bators was shot when the Lords of the New Church played the Whisky in 1982.
- Gene October of Chelsea was shot at the Country Club in Reseda in 1982.
- Dukey Flyswatter from Haunted Garage was shot at Rajis.
- Rozz Williams from Christian Death was shot at Al's Bar when it was in the most desolate part of Downtown LA and everyone would breathe a sigh of relief after the show if their cars were still there.
- Minor Threat was shot at the Rollerworks in Chatsworth and Ian stopped a riot from breaking out by miraculously getting everyone to sit down when the cops came in and turned on the lights.
- Kommunity FK was shot at the Anti Club in 1982.
- Mike Ness from Social Distortion was shot at the Cathay De Grande.
- Jack Grisham from TSOL was shot outside Tower Records in El Toro.
- The Damned were photographed at the KROQ Inland Invasion in September 2002, where they shared the stage with the Sex Pistols, Buzzcocks, and Bad Religion among others.