

Punk Rock & Cocktails

Volume II

by Jesse Hubbard

For Kristena.

The love of my life. I want to go to shows with you forever.

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About the Author



Jesse Hubbard has spent the majority of his life working with music and cocktails.

In the music business he's worked for CBS radio, an East Coast record label, managed bands, booked shows and played (poorly) in bands himself. And in the world of cocktails he's ran bars in NJ, Oregon, Louisville, KY and Columbus, OH and has competed in and won multiple cocktail competitions over the years.

Originally from New Jersey, Jesse and his wife Kristena now reside in Columbus, OH with their three fur-babies, Scooter He-Man, Lola BB-8 and Charlee Barkley. When he's not busy creating amazing cocktails, Jesse hosts the popular podcast "Sound Out with Jesse Hubbard" and you'll often still find him at the local record store or catching a show at one of the many incredible rock clubs around town.

Foreword

I first met Jesse Hubbard at 12pm EST on Saturday April 3rd, 2021. I know the exact time and date of our first meeting because it was over Zoom and I just went back and double checked the email. I'm a sucker for details! He was a guest on my podcast, Stoke The Fire, a show that I produce and co-host with Jesse Leach from Killswitch Engage.

Stoke The Fire is all about in-depth, existential conversations with a wide range of interesting and inspiring characters, many of which have a tendency to land on the emotionally heavy end of the spectrum. Jesse (Hubbard, that is) was a guest during the early days of the show when we were still trying to establish our tone and demographic, so when he emailed us (that's myself and Jesse Leach) about coming on the podcast to talk about his first book, Punk Rock & Cocktails, we thought it would make an interesting and refreshing point of difference to host an altogether more lighthearted discussion about mixology, bar culture, and all things punk rock. Plus, I'm a sucker for irony and the idea of doing an episode based around booze when we'd already had several guests appear on the show to talk about either being sober or straight edge, well, that just appealed to the punk rock contrarian in me who loves to go against the grain. I've always been that kind of guy: "Don't try to pigeonhole me, mother f****r!"

Is pigeonhole a phrase you guys use in America?

That's the moment you realize I'm a foreigner. Yikes!

Allow me to formally introduce myself...

My name's Matt Stocks and I'm a Birmingham born, Bristol based, British DJ, TV & radio presenter, author, podcaster, live event host, and a million and one other things – good, bad, and everything in-between – depending on who

you talk to. And if there's anyone qualified to talk about punk rock and alcohol, it's me. I've been drinking since I was ten years old – I'm now 36 – and I've been into punk rock for just as long. But in case you need further proof of my credentials in regards to writing the foreword to this most excellent of sequels – are we still going with Punk Rock & Cocktails 2, Jesse? – then allow me to elaborate.

I spent my formative years as a young adult working in and living above a cocktail bar where I drank more cocktails than I ate hot meals – not that that's a good thing, but you understand what I'm saying. And over the course of the last decade I've shared alcoholic beverages (and other substances that will go unmentioned) with everyone from John Lydon (Sex Pistols) and Steve Diggle (Buzzcocks) to Fat Mike (NOFX) and Fletcher Dregge (Pennywise), plus members of X, Ramones, The Bronx, Flogging Molly, Less Than Jake, and many more. I've also interviewed pretty much every punk legend still alive, save for Iggy Pop and Henry Rollins, so I feel suitably qualified to set up a book about punk rock and alcohol, and the interrelation between the two.

Before I go any further, though, I feel it's important to mention this: please drink alcohol responsibly. I adore alcohol and many of my favorite moments have been sponsored by all manner of brewskis, cocktails and shots. But alcohol has also been my downfall on more than one occasion. Like all things in life, it's all about balance and moderation, which is something I'm yet to master – just like everyone, I'm a work in progress – and some days are more successful than others. But on the whole I've got a pretty good handle on it. I like to drink and I like to have a good time. Right, now we've gotten all the formalities out of the way, let's get back to Jesse Hubbard.

I've been interviewing people for over ten years and I must've interviewed over 500 people during that time. So I consider myself a pretty good judge of character. And I liked Jesse Hubbard immediately. He seemed to genuinely care about punk music (his hobby) and cocktails (craft), and it's just like Joe Strummer said: "Passion is a fashion" And I don't really care what you're passionate about – as long as it's not greed, intolerance or crimes against humanity – chances are, if you're passionate about something then we're

going to get along. But if you're passionate about two of my favorite things, then it stands to reason we're going to be friends for life

Those feelings were confirmed when I eventually met Jesse in person at our very first Stoke The Fire live event in New York City on Sunday April 3rd, 2022 – EXACTLY one year to the day after we first met on Zoom. How about that? I'm only just realizing this as I write the introduction to this book, but if that isn't serendipity in full effect then I don't know what is.

Watching all our listeners and previous podcast guests intermingle and connect in the room that night was an absolutely magical thing to behold; it's an evening that will stay with me forever. It was also the night that I really got to see what an authentic, genuine, generous soul Jesse Hubbard is up close and personal. And what an advocate for mental health he is, too. In that moment it all made sense as to why he was drawn towards Stoke The Fire and the amazing community that we've built around the podcast. And Jesse is a key part of that community.

Here's a quick little story about Jesse before we get into his book. I was joined out in New York by my best friend from Birmingham, Adrian Preston, who decided on a whim – and decidedly last minute, even for him – to hitchhike across America (New York to LA) in an attempt to raise money for homeless people across the pond. A few people from that live event were instrumental in helping Adrian on said quest across the US, but none more so than Jesse Hubbard. He took Adrian into his home and used his connections to set up interview appearances to promote all the charitable work that he was doing. He went out of his way to help my brother out – someone he had just met, I might add, and someone who can only be described as “a bit of a dodgy geezer,” as we would say over here in the UK.

I was humbled and honored to be asked to write the introduction to this book; it's the very least I can do after all the kindness and hospitality Jesse showed my best friend. And I look forward to the day when we can all next raise a glass together. Until then, my friend, stay free! And to everyone else reading this, please tag Jesse and myself on Instagram if you happen to post any of his delicious concoctions online. That way it will always be Happy Hour

somewhere, and we can both raise a glass to you, because if doing Stoke The Fire has taught me one thing it's the power and importance of community, and that's what punk rock means to me: COMMUNITY.

I would say, "See you in the pit!" But it's a lot more likely that I'll see you at the bar. Up the (aging) punx!

Cheers!!

Matt Stocks.

Introduction

Here we are back again, friends. It's been a couple years since Punk Rock & Cocktails Volume One was released and I cannot thank you all enough for supporting a project that continues to mean so much to me. It took me a while to work up the courage to let the book see the light of day because, well it can be quite a scary thing to put yourself out there. There's no hiding once you've put something out into the world. Whether it be a record like the amazing bands in the pages that follow have released or a book like Punk Rock & Cocktails, it exists for all to see, critique or to judge if they feel so inclined to do so. I just went for it, put it out there and let the chips fall where they may. I quickly realized an important thing - that I had a great deal of fun writing the book and was quite proud of it. If nothing else, that was enough. Even if it didn't sell a single copy outside of my mother buying a bunch for her and her friends, it was enough for me to have pride in the work I put in. I could hang my hat, so to speak, on that. But see, that's the thing about the punk rock scene that makes it so incredibly special - it's a community in every sense of the word. Since the first Punk Rock & Cocktails was released, I've met so many amazing people all with a shared love of all things punk rock and, well....cocktails. It's been a true pleasure to meet each and every one of you and share conversations about two of my favorite things in the world and seeing the cocktails be made and posted on social media has been an absolute blast. And being from the mix-tape generation it's always been a source of pride for me to craft that perfect mix to share with a friend with the hope that they discover something new that really speaks to them. You have to understand that the albums I chose to include in these books are incredibly important to me and many of them have had a hand in shaping the person I am today. So it should go without saying that every single time someone reaches out to tell me how much they loved one of the albums in the book it puts a smile on my face. I then get to hear how and why those same albums

mean so much to them and there's honestly not much better in the world than talking about your shared love of punk rock with like minded people.

I've said it before and it's worth repeating - great music is a time machine. The right song is capable of transporting you to a certain moment in your life or it can ignite a feeling or emotion long forgotten. The albums that grace the pages of both Punk Rock & Cocktails Volume 1 and 2 most certainly transport me to some of the most significant periods of both my youth as well as my adult life. I hope the experience of reading this book will do the same for you. I hope you start listening to an album from the following pages and it can be a time machine, taking you to a special moment and time from your life. Or maybe you're hearing one of these records for the very first time and the experience of the book can be that moment in time that future you look back upon fondly. Either way, if this book is in your hands right now I think it's safe to assume that music plays a meaningful role in your life and I'm honored that you're about to go on this journey with me. So with that said I think it's time to drop the needle on your favorite record and pour yourself a drink. Welcome to Punk Rock & Cocktails Volume 2.