

ROCK AGAINST RACISM

EXHIBITION GUIDE

WITH NOTES BY SYD SHELTON



Jubilee Street, Stepney, London 1977

The photograph was taken during the celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee as a statement of reaction to Britain's multiculturalism.



The Foster family, Lewisham, London June 1977

The Metropolitan Police staged dawn raids on 30 homes in New Cross and Lewisham. 21 young people were arrested, including 16 year old Christopher Foster. They were accused of being involved in muggings. Christopher's father, David Foster, was instrumental in the establishment of the 'Lewisham 21 Defence Committee' to support those arrested. The headquarters of the campaign was the front room of the Foster family home.



Jubilee Street, Stepney, London 1977



Lewisham, London, 13 August 1977

Lewisham youth show off the braid ripped from a flag of the National Front 'Honour Garde'.



New Cross Road, Lewisham, London 13 August 1977

National Front marchers.



Lewisham, London 13 August 1977

Demonstrators taking part in what has been known as the 'Anti-Anti Mugging March' in response to the National Front's 'Anti-Mugging March'. Some 5,000 local people and anti-racist activists occupied New Cross Road. A quarter of the Metropolitan police, together with their entire mounted division, were deployed as escort to the National Front demonstration.



New Cross, London 13 August 1977

Long after the National Front had been bussed out of the area, riot shields were used against protesters for the first time in mainland Britain.



Lewisham, London 13 August 1977

National Front demonstrators.



New Cross Road, Lewisham, London 13 August 1977

Police charge anti-racist demonstrators. Later in the day demonstrators fight back using bricks and flares.



Clifton Rise, Lewisham, London 13 August 1977

Civil liberties activist Darcus Howe addresses 'Anti-Anti Mugging March' demonstrators from the roof of a public toilet block.



Tulse Hill School Brixton, London 1977



RAR fans Paul Duncan and Lucy Tilney, Bethnal Green, East London 1978



Skinheads, Petticoat Lane, East London 1979



Mick Jones and Paul Simonon, The Clash, London 1977



Paul Simonon, The Clash, Rock Against Racism / Anti Nazi League Carnival 1, Victoria Park, East London 30 April 1978

The Carnival line-up also included punk poet Patrick Fitzgerald, X-Ray Spex, Steel Pulse and Tom Robinson Band.



**Tom Robinson Band, Carnival 1, Victoria Park, East London
30 April 1978**



**Tony James of Generation X plays bass guitar with Sham 69,
Central London Polytechnic September 1978**

The gig was infiltrated by a racist gang. The stage was protected by a heavy Southall possie and Sham 69 ended the gig jamming with British Reggae band Misty in Roots.



Carnival 2, Brockwell Park, Brixton, London 24 September 1978

Elvis Costello and the Attractions headlined the event. The rest of the line up included Aswad, Misty in Roots and Stiff Little Fingers.



**Jimmy Percy, Sham 69, Carnival 2, Brockwell Park, Brixton,
24 September 1978**

Sham 69 was billed to play but, due to death threats in reaction to their anti-racist stance, pulled out. Jimmy Percy did appear and made a brave, passionate anti-racist speech to the Carnival crowd.



Rock Against Racism / Anti Nazi League Carnival 1, Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, London, 30 April 1978

100,000 young people marched 7 miles from Trafalgar Square to Victoria Park in the East End. Singer songwriter Billy Bragg described the festival as “the moment when my generation took sides”.



Brick Lane, London June 1978

Bengali youths lead a demonstration of some 7,000 people against racist murders and attacks in the area.



Brick Lane, London, 1980

The scene of countless anti-fascist demonstrations.



Brick Lane, London, 1979



Bomb site, Lower Falls, West Belfast 1980



Belfast 1978



West Belfast 1980

As I photographed this woman she made a statement without any prompting from me: "I don't really mind the British Army patrolling the streets but the worst thing that ever happened to me was when I was in the outside toilet and a bloody Brit came and kicked the door open. If you can't even go to the toilet in peace, that's it, you're finished".



The Falls Road, West Belfast 1978



Tom Robinson fans, Salford, Manchester 1980



Sharon Spike, RAR activist, Hackney, East London 1979



Anti-racist skinheads, Hackney, East London 1979



Hackney, East London 1979



Militant Entertainment Tour, West Runton Pavilion, Cromer, Norfolk 1979



Southgate, North London 1980



Bagga (Bevin Fagan), Hackney, East London 1979

Lead singer of British reggae band Matumbi with the son of Dennis Bovel, founder of the band.



Militant Entertainment Tour, West Runton Pavilion, Cromer, Norfolk 1979



Misty in Roots fans, Militant Entertainment Tour, Sheffield 1979



Misty in Roots, Militant Entertainment Tour, Cambridge 1979



West Runton Pavilion 1979. Red Saunders (right), Rock Against Racism co-founder and Militant Entertainment Tour Master of Ceremonies



Barry Forde Band and the Leyton Buzzards backstage, Militant Entertainment Tour, Leeds 1979



Members of the bands Dambala and Misty in Roots with Tom Robinson perform in the finale of the Militant Entertainment Tour, Alexandra Palace, London 1979



John Segs Jennings of The Ruts, Militant Entertainment Tour, Leicester 1979



Ruts roadies, Stacey Elder and Vince Bates, Militant Entertainment Tour, Leicester 1979



Skully Roots (Jeff Walwyn), Majestic Sounds, Militant Entertainment Tour, Leeds 1979



Aswad, 'Southall Kids are Innocent' gig, Rainbow Theatre, London 1979.

The event was to raise money for the defence of the music collective 'People Unite' and the 'Southall Youth Movement'. It followed the violent police reaction to anti-National Front demonstrators in Southall on 23 April 1979. This resulted in the death of Blair Peach, serious skull and genital injuries to 30 others and 750 people arrested.



Joe Strummer, The Clash, 'Southall Kids are Innocent' gig, Rainbow Theatre, London 1979



Hackney, East London 1980



World Tattoo Convention Deal, Kent 1981



Matumbi, who played one of RAR's first gigs



Carnival against the Nazis, Southall 1979

Fans dance to Misty in Roots.



Misty in Roots, Dominion Theatre, Southall, London 1979

The body of Blair Peach lay in state at the theatre for six weeks following a fatal attack by the Special Patrol Group of the police during an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall on 23 April 1979.



Jamaican reggae artist Dennis Brown at Berry Street studios, London 1981



Feargal Sharkey, The Undertones, Chester 1981



The Beat, Coventry 1981



Specials fans, Potternewton Park, Leeds 1981



The Specials, Potternewton Park, Leeds 1981



**Rock Against Racism / Anti Nazi League Carnival Against the Nazis,
Potternewton Park, Leeds 1981**



Self-portrait, Charing Cross Road, London 1978

**Rock Against Racism is curated by Mark Sealy,
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