

Joan Jett



Group 1

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Introduction

Joan Jett was a popular musical icon of the 1980's. She is widely recognized for her hit “I love Rock n' Roll” , her punk rock appearance, and attitude. Our group picked Joan Jett as our topic because there has been little female representation in this class, and we wanted to diversify the sample of musicians.



https://www.reddit.com/r/OldSchoolCool/comments/3zic4d/joan_jett_circa_1980/

Joan Jett -Early Years



<https://www.pinterest.com/artofprogress/joan-jett/>

Joan was born September 22, 1958, in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

She was born into an everyday run-of-the mill family. Her mother was a secretary, and her father worked for insurance.

During grade school their family moved to Baltimore and then southern California in her early teens.

Joan Jett- Early Years

When Joan was 14 years old she received her first guitar for Christmas, and her love for music creation began.

She took lessons, but was unsatisfied because the lessons revolved around folk music, which was not her interest at all.



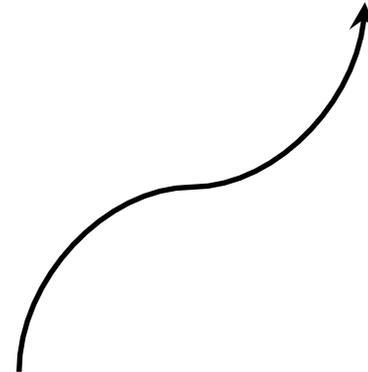
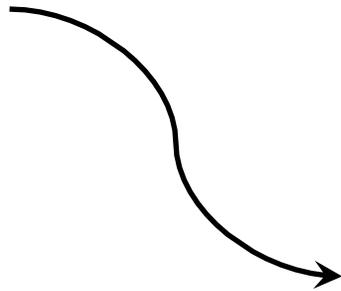
<http://www.vintage.es/2013/06/joan-jett-of-runa-way-s-in-los-angeles.html>

Joan Jett Musical Timeline

The Runaways

Joan Jett and
the Blackhearts

Joan Jett:
Solo Artist



Joan Jett-The Runaways

Joan formed her first band at the young age of 15 called The Runaways. Their band was highly criticized because it was an all female punk rock group that sang about sex and partying. On top of that, they also wore lingerie and jumpsuits during their performances. Needless to say they were not well accepted into the mainstream music scene.



Joan Jett-Guitar & vocals
Sandy West-Drums
Cherie Currie-Lead vocals
Jackie Fox-Bass guitar
Lita Ford-Guitar

Joan Jett-The Runaways

The Runaways first self-titled album was released in 1976. Though the album was highly rejected in the mainstream music scene, the song “Cherry Bomb” was a big hit in the punk scene.

The following year they released yet another album titled “Queens of Noise” which was also not well accepted in the US. However, this album was a big hit in Japan.

After the second album two band members left, and Joan and the others squeezed out two more albums before their demise.

Joan Jett- Going Solo

After The Runaways ended Joan decided to travel to England to work with former Sex Pistols musicians Paul Cook and Steve Jones to initiate her solo career.

During this time, Joan dabbled in other things too like acting and producing. In her time spent producing, she crossed paths with another producer named Kenny Laguna and a songwriter named Ritchie Cordell, both whom helped Joan complete her first solo album.



<https://clothesclature.wordpress.com/2015/07/11/joan-jett-godmother-of-punk/>

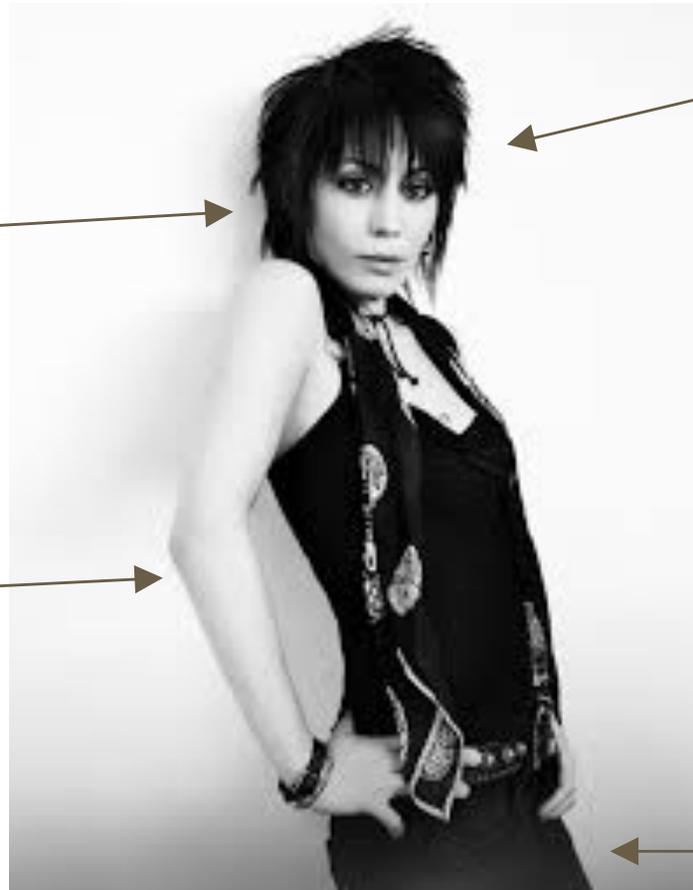
Joan Jett-Going Solo

After completing her solo album she tried and failed with 23 different record labels to sign her.

The remaining solution was clear to her and Kenny Laguna. They founded their own record label they named Blackheart Records in 1980. Joan Jett and Kenny did all the grunt work, and printed/distributed all the records on their own. They would just sell the records at her performances for people to purchase.

One of the records being sold at a show was purchased by someone from Boardwalk records which was released as “Bad Reputation”. At the time it seemed like a stroke of good luck, but unfortunately the record didn’t do very hot.

Appearance



Short Black Hair

Heavy Mascara

Dark Clothes

Tight Leather Pants

Joan Jett-Finally Fame



http://thegiant.org/wiki/index.php/Joan_Jett_Pop

Despite her first solo record being a flop, she pushed forward with another album titled “I Love Rock ‘n’ Roll”, and finally her edgy pop-rock sound caught on. She soared up the pop charts making it into the top 40’s in 1982.

Two more of her songs “Crimson and Clover” and “Do You Wanna Touch Me” were also big hits during 1982.

Beyond this album came a couple more album releases, but alas, did not do well. Making her one album a big hit.

I Love Rock and Roll



“I Love Rock and Roll” Lyrics

I saw him dancin' there by the record machine
I knew he must a been about seventeen
The beat was goin' strong
Playin' my favorite song
An' I could tell it wouldn't be long
Till he was with me, yeah me,
An' I could tell it wouldn't be long
Till he was with me, yeah me, singin'
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with me
He smiled so I got up and' asked for his name
That don't matter, he said,
'Cause it's all the same
Said can I take you home where we can be alone
An' next we were movin' on
He was with me, yeah me
Next we were movin' on
He was with me, yeah me singin'

I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with me
Said can I take you home where we can be alone
Next we're movin' on
He was with me, yeah me
And we'll be movin' on
An' singin' that same old song
Yeah with me, singin'
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with me
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby

I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with
I love rock n' roll
So put another dime in the jukebox, baby
I love rock n' roll
So come an' take your time an' dance with me



Picture from "I Love Rock and Roll" Music Video

Analysis of “I Love Rock and Roll”

Meter

The song has beats that are grouped into sets of three

This means that the song is triple meter

Beat Subdivisions

The beats are divided into three equal notes

This makes the song’s beat subdivision triple subdivision

Musical Texture

One melody grabs the listener’s attention more than the others

The texture is homophonic, melody and accompaniment



Joan Jett- After The Fact

Moving forward into her adult years, Jett has always kept music in her life. She signs on new musicians to her record label, does some producing, acting, and even comes out with more of her own music, though doesn't really attract mainstream audiences.

Jett's music career evolved interestingly at a young age, and even though she wasn't a lasting success, her hits are/will be known by past, present, and future generations.

Musical Style

The Runaways:

The all-female group were not taken seriously for a large portion of their existence, but today are credited for inspiring an entire generation of young female rockers

The band had more success in underground punk circles and in Japan than in the mainstream American market, mostly for their mixed style of heavy metal and punk rock paired with their in-your-face lyrics about sex, alcohol, and life on the streets.



Photo credit: <http://musicbloodline.info/artist/MN0000492275/spotify>

Musical Style

Jett is considered one of the founders for the feminist-punk rock movement

“People look at women differently” she says

She wanted to make women equal to men in the world of rock and roll

The goal of her music was to express her emotions and show people that she was not afraid to be herself as a woman



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Jett

Musical Style



Photo credit: <http://www.biography.com/news/joan-jett-rock-and-roll-hall-of-fame-interview>

“The Queen of Rock and Roll”

Jett’s career has been described as, “a perfect collision of brass-knuckled trouble, punk rock sass, leather-clad sneers, indelible riffs, and perfect melodies” (Jensen 2015).

Her stripped-down take on hard rock has remained a constant as the market has shifted from punk to glam rock to hair metal to grunge.

“I just say I’m a rock and roller. And how do I want to be remembered? As one of the first women to really play hard rock and roll” (Uhelszki).

Inducted Into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Inducted in spring of 2015

Inducted along with Ringo Starr and Green Day

Miley Cyrus inducted Jett

Cyrus talked about how impressed she was with Joan Jett's strength, wisdom, and soul



<http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/19/entertainment/feat-rock-roll-hall-fame-billboard/>

Influential Predecessors

**Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath,
The Sex Pistols**

Joan Jett was influenced by a variety of performers throughout her lifetime

While Jett claims to like most genres of music, she was heavily influenced by punk rock musicians

Although these musicians influenced her, Joan Jett had her own distinct sound and dreamed of starting her own band

Musical Influences: Led Zeppelin

According to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Led Zeppelin redefined Rock in the 70s and for all time

They impacted not only alternative rock musicians with their music, but classic rock as well

The group experimented with blues-rock form, but added in exotic flavors, with layered guitar work and thunderous drumming



<https://rockhall.com/inductees/led-zepelin/bio/>

Musical Influences: The Black Sabbath

- The Black Sabbath, according to The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, is credited for the creation of heavy metal
- Their extreme volume and dark subject matter embodied a heavy-metal aesthetic
- They possessed an inventiveness and fluency that also made them a progressive-rock band as well
 - Their songs were lengthy, with frequent meter changes



<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Sabs.jpg>

Musical Influences: The Sex Pistols

The Sex Pistols “ignited the Punk Revolution” according to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

The band was loud and dangerous, instilling a danger to rock music

There were often fistfights and flying bodies at their concerts

The group was scandalous and controversial, with taunting chants often added to their songs

“Actually, we’re not into music, we’re into chaos,” said guitarist Jones



<https://rockhall.com/inductees/s-ex-pistols/bio/>

Artists Joan Jett Influenced

Bikini Kill, L7, The Gits, and
many, many more



Left: L7
Below: Bikini Kill

<http://cultureaddicts.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/1280x720.jpg>



<http://cdn0.dailydot.com/cache/ad/6b/ad6bfc5312bb0a5876086b9463f7cbee.jpg>

Considering Joan Jett was one of the first female rockers, she influenced a multitude of female rockers to follow

She was a fearless, young, controversial artist who paved the way for female musicians

Her perseverance proved that females can succeed in a male dominated industry

“Girls see these defined roles they're supposed to follow in life, but when I was a young child, my parents told me I could be anything.”

-Joan Jett

Conclusion:

Joan Jett served as an inspiration to a multitude of female musicians. Her rebellious attitude and strong passion for her music made her a role model for several artists that followed her. This artist paved the way for female singers in all genres, but especially those in rock and roll. She will remain an iconic symbol of the growth of rock and roll for decades to come.



<http://innocentwords.com/celebrating-the-one-and-only-joan-jett/>

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