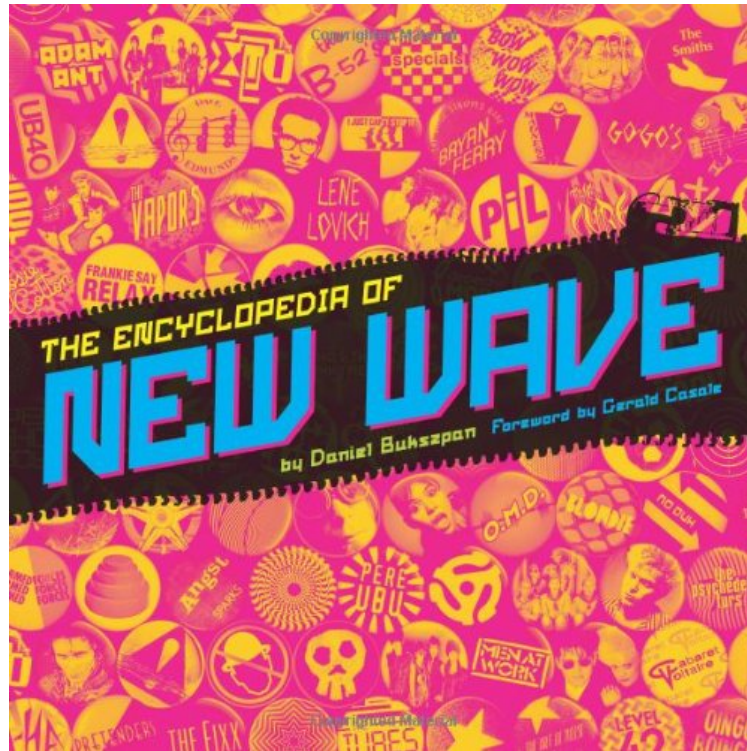


The Encyclopedia of New Wave

Daniel Bukszpan

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Daniel Bukszpan : The Encyclopedia of New Wave before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Encyclopedia of New Wave:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Ignores a Lot of Good BandsBy ETO BuffThe book brought back a lot of memories from my teens and early twenties, but the profanity wasn't necessary. I wouldn't have had a problem with it in those days, but I've grown out of it, and it made me not want to share some of the content with my kids, who are now in their teens. I found it interesting that the author chose to include Madonna (who was NEVER thought of as New Wave), Matthew Wilder, Tommy Tutone, and a few other questionable acts, but completely ignored bands like Blancmange, X, Bad Manners, Re-Flex, Bollock Brothers, JoBoxers, and many other acts that were genuinely part of the New Wave movement. Some of the information is incomplete, and there is a good portion of facts that are replaced by the author's personal tastes. Other than that, if you enjoy the music genre as I still do (I began a 31-year career as a DJ because of my love for this stuff), then you'll probably find a lot of this book interesting, or at least nostalgic for a time when so many bands produced music more for the music than to please the mainstream population. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty GoodBy The GhostI really enjoy this book, although certainly it is nowhere near comprehensive. It is chock full of wonderful color photos of the bands, and I like the period-proper style and layout. Most of the individual band write-ups are decent, although there is no new ground broken here and its all pretty standard stuff, but its nice to have it all together in one book. And yes, there may be some errors, but a project of this scope is bound to have a few misses. My four star rating is because of numerous omissions which I find bothersome. No Clash or U2 or Sex Pistols? Okay, The Clash and Pistols were punk, but The Clash edged into new wave/pop

territory, and PiL is here, so why not the Pistols? U2 became a stadium supergroup, but they had punky/new wave roots. Where was Bowie or Iggy Pop or The New York Dolls? Other notable omissions include CBGB's -- why did this iconic epicenter of the New York punk and new wave scene not get its own write-up? What about the film *Urgh! A Music War*, which highlighted dozens of important new wave bands? No mention anywhere of it. Of course a book like this can't hope to cover everything, but there are basics that should be included. Other bands which I was personally disappointed and surprised to find excluded included The Payola\$, The Plastics, John Foxx, Hazel O'Connor, YMO, The Mission UK, and a host of others. Again, a lot of this sort of stuff is personal preferences, but including folks like Robert Palmer and Grace Jones while skipping some of these others seems ridiculous. Maybe the author will do a second volume one day and include these artists who were excluded this time. Let's hope. One final thought: several reviewers have mentioned the snarky tone the author uses throughout the book. I agree that it is highly annoying, but I didn't find as much of that sort of thing as I expected from the other reviews. Most of the snark seems to have been reserved for photo captions -- band entries are pretty reverent in some instances. So, overall a pretty good book that would have been a great book with a little more work. I recommend it to any 80's/new wave music fans.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOVE IT!!! By Elizabeth Blumberg I was probably dragged away from MTV in its early days to do things like eat dinner and go to school, but I remember none of that. What I remember far more clearly than whoever taught me Social Studies in the Sixth grade is how very much I loved Billy Idol. This well-researched guide to all the awesomeness that was the '80's includes a full-color photo of a shirtless Billy Idol, worth the purchase price by itself, but also includes tons of fun facts about my favorite bands and even some pioneers in the genre that never quite made it to the big time. A great fun read!

The Talking Heads, The Boomtown Rats, Blondie, Elvis Costello: this fun new addition to the successful Encyclopedia series celebrates the hugely influential New Wave musical movement of the late 1970s and 80s. Originating as a less-aggressive sister movement to punk, New Wave encompassed a wide range of styles, from Brit pub-rock to electronica, synth-pop, and even ska. The Encyclopedia of New Wave comprehensively captures this eclectic music, all of which enthralled the newly emergent MTV generation. With its tendency toward romantic minimalism, dark dance beats, and gender-bending antics, New Wave changed the course of popular musical history, as well as fashion and art.

*"This colorful and wildly entertaining look at the New Wave era in pop music (roughly, late 1970s through the end of the 1980s and defined within as a straightforward songwriting approach relying heavily on synthesizers and other electronic equipment) covers more than 150 artists and bands--from a-ha to Ze Pops. Best-selling acts such as Duran Duran, the Police, and the Smiths are included alongside one-hit wonders like the Flying Lizards, Kajagoogoo, and Q-Feel. Influential music-related personalities of the era, including Malcolm McClaren and Brian Eno, are also featured. A foreword by Gerald Casale, of the band Devo, and the introduction by the author serve to define New Wave and explain who was included as well as what was left out. Entries range from one column to three page spreads. The longer entries are made up of many photographs, with larger, well-known bands getting more coverage. The text is highly subjective and meant to be more for entertainment than research. A snarky-but amusing-tone is found throughout (e.g., 'Despite writing songs for uniformly despicable films, Go West has managed to keep a career going; In 1989, Cutting Crew released the appropriately named *The Scattering*, which sent record buyers running in all directions looking for somewhere-anywhere-to go in order to not buy it.' The eye-popping graphics--featuring a massive amount of photographs--will delight any fan of the music and the time period. Interesting sidebars are peppered throughout the text, such as 'Gender-Bending,' 'NY Clubs,' 'Heartthrobs,' 'Men's Fashion,' 'The Many Sounds of New Wave,' 'Music Videos,' 'Female Sex Symbols,' and 'Movies.' Appendixes include several 'Best of New Wave' lists, including 'Fifty Most Essential New Wave Singles,' 'Top Ten New Wave Bands with the Most Ridiculous Hair,' 'New Wave Timeline,' 'Ten Weirdest New Wave Singles,' and 'Top Twenty Essential New Wave Albums.' A bibliography and an index of artists and song titles round out the book..Cheeky yet incredibly informative, this is an inexpensive must-have for any music collection and will do especially well in circulation." --Booklist [STARRED REVIEW]