



# AMERICAN HARDCORE

**THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN PUNK ROCK 1980 – 1986**

A documentary film by Paul Rachman  
Inspired by the book *American Hardcore: A Tribal History* by Steven Blush

**•Press Materials•**

**World Sales:**

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## Synopsis

Generally unheralded at the time, the early 1980s hardcore punk rock scene gave birth to much of the rock music and culture that followed. There would be no Nirvana, Beastie Boys or Red Hot Chili Peppers were it not for hardcore pioneers such as Black Flag, Bad Brains and Minor Threat.

Hardcore was more than music—it was a social movement created by Reagan-era misfit kids. The participants constituted a tribe unto themselves—some finding a voice, others an escape in the hard-edged music. And while some sought a better world, others were just angry and wanted to raise hell.

**AMERICAN HARDCORE** traces this lost subculture, from its early roots in 1980 to its extinction in 1986.

## Short Synopsis

**AMERICAN HARDCORE** is the history of American punk rock from 1980 – 1986.



## Technical Info

Director	Paul Rachman
Writer	Steven Blush
Producers	Steven Blush and Paul Rachman
Category	Documentary (feature length)
Running Time	98 minutes
Originating Format	Digital Video, 16 mm, Super 8, VHS
Projection Format	HD Cam, Digital Beta
Country of Production	USA
Year of Completion	2006



## Bios

### Director – Paul Rachman

Paul Rachman began his film career making underground hardcore punk films and music videos for bands such as the Bad Brains, Gang Green, Negative FX and Mission of Burma while he was in college. He quickly rose to become one of the industry's top music video directors at Propaganda Films in Los Angeles where he worked with such artists as Alice in Chains, The Replacements, Temple of the Dog, Sepultura, Roger Waters, Joan Jett and Kiss. He has also directed several award-winning short films most notably *Memories with Joe Frank* (1992), *Drive Baby Drive* (1995), *Bang Bang* (1999), *Home* (2001), and *Zoe XO* (2004). Paul made his feature film directorial debut in 2000 with *Four Dogs Playing Poker* starring Forrest Whittaker, Tim Curry and Olivia Williams. In addition, Paul was one of the founding filmmakers of the Slamdance Film Festival.

### Writer – Steven Blush

Steven Blush is the author of two books on the subject of rock—*American Hardcore: A Tribal History* (Feral House) and *.45 Dangerous Minds* (Creation Books). Throughout the early 1980s, he promoted hardcore punk shows in Washington, DC, and later went on to found *Seconds Magazine* in 1986, publishing it until 2000. Blush has written for over 50 publications including *Interview*, *Village Voice*, *Spin* and *The Times Of London*, and he currently serves as contributing music editor at *Paper Magazine*. Blush is also a noted veteran of NYC nightlife—he produced the critically acclaimed “New York City Rock N Roll” CD, and is DJ/promoter of the long-running NYC “Röck Cändy” parties.

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## Bios

### **Motion Graphics & Design – John Vondracek**

John Vondracek is an award-winning Graphic Designer who specializes in motion graphics, animation, and identity. His work has been recognized by the AIGA, Art Director's Club, Type Director's Club, as well as several other design annuals. He has co-taught Design In Motion for the past 8 years at NYC's Cooper Union, from which he is also a graduate. Vondracek is a regular consultant with Adobe Software, both for educational and professional disciplines. He is based in New York City. [www.johnvondracek.com](http://www.johnvondracek.com)

### **Music Supervisor – Anthony Countey**

Anthony Countey has been working in the music industry since the early 1980s, managing bands including: Bad Brains, dufus, Black Train Jack, Token Entry, Ceezy, and Me & I. His firm a. C. enter., Inc. consults rising musicians and managers, with the goal of bringing uniquely important voices and undiscovered talent to light. He is based in New York City.

### **Associate Producer – Karin Hayes**

Karin Hayes produced and directed two documentary films: *The Kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt* (HBO/Cinemax) and *Held Hostage in Colombia* (Sundance Channel, The History Channel, and excerpts on CBS *60 Minutes II*). She is currently working on a documentary film about friendship and race relations titled *Pip and Zastrow: An American Friendship* [www.pipandzastrow.com](http://www.pipandzastrow.com). Additionally, Hayes has field produced, directed and associate produced programs for National Geographic Channel, TLC, PBS and the Travel Channel. American Hardcore is her first foray into hardcore punk music.



## Director Statement

Hardcore punk rock in the early 1980s created an underground movement that championed independent thought and a fuck-you attitude—all with a fierce “Do-It-Yourself” aesthetic. These core values helped shape that generation’s creative expression through music, against the backdrop of a newly conservative America. Writer Steven Blush and I participated in this scene and still hold some of those values today. In making this film we hope to unveil the story, and the ethos, of American hardcore punk rock for generations to come.

—Paul Rachman  
Director, American Hardcore

## Writer Statement

AMERICAN HARDCORE—inspired by my book of the same name—is a 100% independent effort about a 100% independent subculture.

—Steven Blush  
Writer, American Hardcore



## Production Notes

Paul Rachman and Steven Blush met through the hardcore punk rock scene in the early 1980s. Steven promoted shows in Washington, DC, and Paul directed the first music videos for bands like Bad Brains and Gang Green.

Steven's book *AMERICAN HARDCORE: A Tribal History* (Feral House), which detailed the scene's rise and fall, came out in 2001. By that time, Paul had made some of MTV's most important videos for Alice In Chains, Temple Of The Dog and Pantera. The two reconnected when Paul moved back to NYC after completing his first feature film, *Four Dogs Playing Poker*. They ran into each other on the street, and talked about making a film inspired by the book.

After weeks of discussion, they got down to work. Their first interviews came in December 2001 when Paul joined Steve in his decrepit '84 Chevy Blazer for a five-hour drive up to Boston. Excited by their first efforts, they conducted interview after interview. With the shot footage accumulating, they took numerous meetings to secure funding—but quickly realized that few potential backers had ever heard of most of the bands. They realized that a film on the subject of hardcore—like the music itself—would have to be a 100% Do-It-Yourself effort.

Paul had a digital video camera and a laptop editing system. Steve had lots of punk rock contacts, and no day job. Five years, 100+ interviews, and untold urns of coffee later, a documentary film emerged.

AMERICAN HARDCORE is a testament to the power of youth, and an exploration of an unheralded subculture. Hardcore punk rock was more than just loud, fast music—it was a way of life.



## Credits

Director	Paul Rachman
Writer	Steven Blush
Producers	Steven Blush and Paul Rachman
Inspired by the book "American Hardcore: A Tribal History"	
Camera and Editing	Paul Rachman
Motion Graphics and Graphic Design	John Vondracek
Associate Producer	Karin Hayes
Music Supervisor	Anthony Countey
Assistant Editor	Jennifer Lilly
Post Production	Sony Music Studios
Post Production Sound	Sound One
Sound Edit and Mix	Robert Fernandez
Re-recordists	Shane Stoneback Mike Patrick
World Sales	Films Transit International, Inc. Montreal, Canada



## In Order of Appearance

Lucky Lehrer (Circle Jerks)  
Vic Bondi (Articles Of Faith)  
Joey "Shithead" Keithley (D.O.A.)  
Keith Morris (Circle Jerks)  
Angie Serappa (Boston Hardcore scene)  
Nancy Barile (Boston Hardcore scene)  
Mike Watt (Minutemen)  
Dave Markey (filmmaker)  
Jordan Schwartz (filmmaker)  
Howard Saunders (Philadelphia promoter)  
Perry Webb (Culturcide)  
Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat, Fugazi)  
Bobby Steele (Undead, Misfits)  
Greg Hetson (Circle Jerks, Bad Religion)  
Richard "Crispy" Cranmer (White Cross)  
Ken Inouye (Marginal Man)  
Jesse Malin (Heart Attack)  
Henry Rollins (Black Flag)  
Jeff Atta (Middle Class)  
Mike Patton (Middle Class)  
Chris Foley (SS Decontrol)  
Dave "Springa" Springs (SS Decontrol)  
Dicky Barrett (Impact Unit, Mighty Mighty Bosstones)  
Dave Dictor (Millions Of Dead Cops)  
Chris Doherty (Gang Green)  
Brett Gurewitz (Bad Religion, Epitaph Records)  
Greg Ginn (Black Flag, SST Records)  
Moby (Vatican Commandos)  
Sean Taggart (New York Hardcore scene)  
Jack Grisham (TSOL)  
Paul Mahern (Zero Boys)  
Dan Kubinski (Die Kreuzen)  
Kimm Gardner (CH3)  
Paul "H.R." Hudson (Bad Brains)  
Brian Baker (Minor Threat, Dag Nasty, Bad Religion)  
Chuck Treece (McRad, Bad Brains)  
Gary "Dr. Know" Miller (Bad Brains)  
Flea (Fear, Red Hot Chili Peppers)  
Steve Soto (Adolescents)  
Frank Agnew (Adolescents)  
Casey Royer (Adolescents, D.I.)  
Curtis Casella (Taang! Records)  
Tony Cadena (Adolescents)  
Harley Flanagan (Cro-Mags, Stimulators)  
Darryl Jenifer (Bad Brains)  
Jerry Williams (Bad Brains/Beastie Boys producer)  
Dave Brockie (Gwar)  
Alec MacKaye (The Faith)  
Dante Ferrando (Iron Cross)  
Dez Cadena (Black Flag, Red Cross)  
Phil Anselmo (Superjoint Ritual, Pantera)  
Hank Williams III (Superjoint Ritual)  
Duff McKagan (The Fartz, Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver)  
Kira Roessler (Black Flag)  
George Anthony (Battalion Of Saints)  
Jack Rabid (The Big Takeover fanzine)  
Rev. Hank Pierce (roadie)  
Dave Smalley (DYS, Descendents)  
Kevin Seconds (7 Seconds)  
Al Barile (SS Decontrol)  
—continued—

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## In Order of Appearance

Jamie Serappa (SS Decontrol)  
Christine McCarthy (Boston Hardcore scene)  
Alec Peters (promoter, manager)  
Jon Anastas (DYS)  
Jimmy Gestapo (Murphy's Law)  
Vinnie Stigma (Agnostic Front)  
Alvin Robertson (Bad Brains roadie)  
John Joseph (Cro-Mags)  
Todd Youth (Agnostic Front, Murphy's Law)  
Matthew Barney (filmmaker, sculptor)  
Tommy Stinson (The Replacements)  
Reed Mullin (Corrosion Of Conformity)  
Steve DePace (Flipper)  
Mark Arm (Mr. Epp, Green River, Mudhoney)  
Bruce Loose (Flipper)  
Ted Falconi (Flipper)  
Mike Dean (C.O.C.)  
Joe Carducci (SST Records)  
Steve "Mugger" Corbin (Nig-Heist)  
Greta Brinkman (Wasted Talent, Unseen Force)

Brandon Cruz (Dr. Know, Dead Kennedys)  
Louiche Mayorga (Suicidal Tendencies)  
Alex Gonzales (LA Death Squad)  
Edward Colver (photographer)  
Sean Stern (Youth Brigade)  
Mark Stern (Youth Brigade)  
Sal Canzonieri (Electric Frankenstein)  
Gary Tovar (promoter, Goldenvoice founder)  
Wino (The Obsessed)  
Anthony Countey (Bad Brains manager)  
Sid McCray (original Bad Brains member)  
Jack Flanagan (The Mob)  
Winston Smith (graphic artist)  
Zander Schloss (Circle Jerks)

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## The Bands

Adolescents (Orange County, CA)  
Agnostic Front (New York, NY)  
Articles Of Faith (Chicago, IL)  
Bad Brains (Washington, DC/ New York, NY)  
Bad Religion (San Fernando Valley, CA)  
Battalion Of Saints (San Diego, CA)  
Big Boys (Austin, TX)  
Black Flag (Hermosa Beach, CA)  
Channel 3 (Orange County, CA)  
Circle Jerks (Los Angeles, CA)  
C.O.C. (Corrosion Of Conformity) (Raleigh, NC)  
Cro-Mags (New York, NY)  
D.I. (Orange County, CA)  
Dicks (Austin, TX)  
Die Kreuzen (Milwaukee, WI)  
D.O.A. (Vancouver, BC)  
D.R.I. (Houston, TX)  
DYS (Boston, MA)  
The Faith (Washington, DC)  
Fartz (Seattle, WA)  
Flipper (San Francisco, CA)  
The Freeze (Boston, MA)  
Gang Green (Boston, MA)  
Gwar (Richmond, VA)  
Heart Attack (New York, NY)  
Iron Cross (Washington, DC)  
Jerry's Kids (Boston, MA)  
McRad (Philadelphia, PA)  
Marginal Man (Washington, DC)  
MDC (Millions of Dead Cops) (Austin, TX/San Francisco, CA)  
Middle Class (Orange County, CA)  
Minor Threat (Washington, DC)  
Minutemen (San Pedro, CA)  
The Mob (New York, NY)  
Mr. Epp (Seattle, WA)  
Murphy's Law (New York, NY)  
Necros (Toledo, OH)  
Negative Approach (Detroit, MI)  
Negative FX (Boston, MA)  
Nig-Heist (Hermosa Beach, CA)  
Poison Idea (Portland, OR)  
Really Red (Houston, TX)  
The Replacements (Minneapolis, MN)  
Scream (Washington, DC)  
7 Seconds (Reno, NV)  
S.O.A. (Washington, DC)  
SS Decontrol (Boston, MA)  
Suicidal Tendencies (Venice, CA)  
Teen Idles (Washington, DC)  
TSOL (Orange County, CA)  
Undead (New York, NY)  
Unseen Force (Richmond, VA)  
Vatican Commandos (Darien, CT)  
Wasted Talent (Harrisburg, PA)  
Wasted Youth (Venice, CA)  
White Cross (Richmond, VA)  
Void (Washington, DC)  
YDI (Philadelphia, PA)  
Youth Brigade (Hollywood, CA)  
Zero Boys (Indianapolis, IN)

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