

2TIMERS STORY

The 2Timers were formed by childhood friends Audie Willert and Jimmy Morrison in the summer of 1977. Audie had just returned from London, where he ran in to Joe Strummer whom he met in Amsterdam when Joe was playing with the 101ers (Keys To Her Heart) who told him to check out a band called the Sex Pistols at the 100 Club. Joe told Audie he left the 101ers to join a punk band called the Clash because the Pistols had started a Punk Rock movement, and it was going to be big. Skeptical, (he had seen the CBGB scene fizzle and left NYC to try his luck in London) Audie never checked out the Pistols, but one of his last gigs was playing in a band opening up for the Stranglers at the Woolwich Polytech. When over 500 punk and punkettes jammed the place, he knew Joe was right. There was an energy, look, and vibe totally different from the NYC scene. The biggest difference was the age of this crowd. It was young. His age (22) and younger. Later, in the youth hostel he was living in Bayswater, they put the Pistols first single "Anarchy in the UK" in the jukebox. Audie played it, and knew from the first chords, the sound of the guitars drums and vocals that one band can indeed start a movement. The idea was to form the 2Timers, and bring the band to London to get a record deal. With that in mind, Jimmy and Audie recruited two friends from Astoria, Queens, a guitarist they knew from 8th grade John Marmora (Jones), and George Salorio (Fury), a friend from Long Island City High School to play bass. After auditioning what seemed like hundreds of singers, the band chose John Warnick, who had the energy, look, and feel they were looking for. Plus John knew all about the burgeoning London Punk Rock scene, while the majority of singers were still long hairs. The 2Timers first gig was opening up for Toronto punk band the Vile-Tones at Max's Kansas City. Their next gig was opening up for Jimmy's old band Tuff Darts at CBGB. They were on their way. They recorded a three song demo of Sick and Tired, Dancing with My Girl, Now That I've Lost My Baby, and made their way to London. They got lucky when the owner of the Speakeasy Club, Jim Carter Fea, loved the band, and gave them steady gigs, opening for bands like the Only Ones, and Levi and the Rockats, who let them use their amps and drums. It was here that Patti Smith came onstage and sang with the band, getting press in the weekly music mags. She also did the same at CBGB's, as did Johnny Thunders jamming with them onstage at various clubs when they returned to New York. The band signed with Virgin, as they were short on money, but stupidly turning down Miles Copeland (Police, Fine Young Cannibals, Go-Go's). In six months the band went from forming to getting a record deal, but it was the beginning of the end. Virgin released "Now that I've Lost My Baby" (riff stolen by Keith Richards for Start Me Up), with Fast and Furious on the B-side in the Spring of 1978. A promotional tour was set up by their manager opening up for the Damned, but half the band didn't want to go back to London, wanting to stay in New York and getting more established, while Jimmy and Audie wanted to return to London where they already had something happening. This caused friction within the band, and it was decided to part ways with John Warnick. Auditions for a new lead singer were fruitless, and the band continued as a four piece before breaking up. Some 30 years later Audie thought it was time for closure and contacted the original members to see if they were interested in finishing what they started. They all agreed, and what you are holding is not a recreation of the New York - London Punk Rock scene by musicians who weren't even there, but music made by the original members who were part of the movement. Sadly, many are no longer with us, but what has made the Punk Rock movement have such a lasting impact in fashion, music, and socially is that it was created by young people who wanted something different and not dictated by their elders or powers that be. You made your own clothes, cut your own hair, wrote your own songs and made your own records. It was DIY. It was rough, raw, and fun. The beauty of the music was in the energy and conviction of the singing and playing, rather than the ability of the musicians. Like Harley's, motorcycle jackets and Doc Martens, Punk Rock has stood the test of time, the only true test of worthiness. We were ahead of our time. It's taken all these years for the rest of the world to catch up. We were there. We are now. These songs represent the then and now. Play it loud. Have some fun. Enjoy.