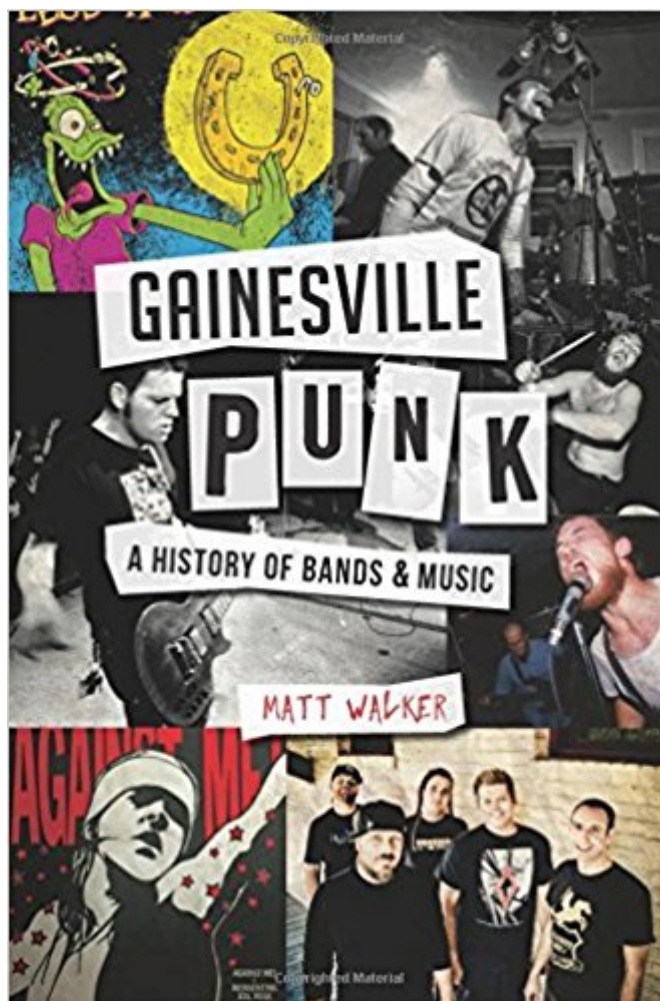


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# Gainesville Punk: A History Of Bands & Music (Landmarks)



## Synopsis

Known for The Fest, Less Than Jake and Hot Water Music, Gainesville became a creative hub in the 1980s and '90s for many of punk rock's greats. Whether playing at the Hardback or wild house parties, earnest acts like Against Me!, Spoke and Roach Motel all emerged and thrived in the small northern Florida city. Radon burst onto the scene with chaotic energy while Mutley Chix helped inspire local torchbearers No Idea Records. Through this succinct history, author Matt Walker traces each successive generation's contributions and amplifies the fidelity of the Gainesville scene.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This weekend, thousands of frat bros will leave the sleepy college town of Gainesville, Florida, while a comparable number of street punks, deep-pocketed music fans, and various riff-raff flood its streets. It's a bizarre Halloween switcheroo that happens because the University of Florida Gators happen to take on their rivals in a recurring out-of-town football game that takes place at the same time as a giant punk rock festival known as the Fest kicks off. The few hours when the jocks and their Southern belle counterparts collide with the influx of train-hoppers is always glorious.

Gainesville Punk: A History of Bands and Music, [released this week,] explores how the place that produced people like Tom Petty, Stephen Stills, and John Vanderslice went on to incubate talents like Laura Jane Grace of Against Me! and Chuck Ragan of Hot Water Music." Vice Magazine "A little more punk history will be coming to FEST during its [Flea Market](#) that pops up

during registration time on Friday. Matt Walker will be set up to debut his book "Gainesville Punk: A History of Bands and Music." The Arcadia Publishing website previews the book by saying that "Gainesville became a creative hub in the 1980s and '90s for many of punk rock's greats." Gainesville Sun "The book follows the history of several classic Gainesville bands. Notable mentions include Roach Motel and Spoke. In "Gainesville Punk," Walker interviews members from a lot of big acts that got their start in Gainesville. 'I got to interview some people from Hot Water Music, Less Than Jake and Against Me!' Walker said. 'But I also got to talk to a lot of bands who are smaller and currently living in Gainesville. The primary source material for the book was talking directly to musicians.'" The Independent Florida Alligator "Matthew Walker doesn't miss a thing with Gainesville Punk: A History of Bands and Music. The book is an all-killer-no-filler telling of how Gainesville, Florida's thriving punk scene grew up and evolved to national prominence over the course of three decades from the early 1980s to the present." theonlyfredsmith.com "The first of its kind, Gainesville Punk: A History of Bands and More by local author Matt Walker, provides an intimate look at the Gainesville punk music scene through the ages. Organized into three parts, the book describes three distinct musical eras. In the first part, Walker describes the origins of the punk scene, with a particular emphasis on bands Roach Motel and Mutley Chix. The other two sections describe revivals of the scene, the evolution of the local sound, and the ascent of Less Than Jake and Against Me! respectively. Though it is a work of nonfiction, Gainesville Punk reads like a narrative. Compelling storytelling links seemingly every band in the punk scene, describing how they influenced each other and helped establish major record labels, zines, and venues that are still around today." The Florida Basement

Matt Walker works as a communication specialist at the University of Florida. He has been writing about music and playing the guitar for over fifteen years. Matt was the founder and editor of Lead Us Down, a website dedicated to covering local punk and indie music in Gainesville, from 2011 to 2014. He served as music editor and then editor of Satellite Magazine, a Gainesville monthly paper dedicated to arts, culture and music in the region. Matt earned his BA in English literature from Valdosta State University and his master's degree in journalism from the University of Florida.

Full disclosure - I played in bands featured in this book and was interviewed by the writer, but I paid for my own copy! Author Matthew Walker has done a truly admirable job coalescing the chaotic bubbling history of the early Gainesville Florida punk rock scene into a coherent timeline in a quick,

fun read that covers a lot of ground. Loaded with tons of stories and interviews from the scene's movers & shakers in the early 1980s/1990s and beyond, think of it as a slightly less debauched, much more heat and humidity-laden version of 'Please Kill Me' and you'll get the drift. I most enjoyed the focus on the scene's early stages when disparate punk bands like Roach Motel, Mutley Chix, The Doldrums and Psychic Violents (photo) arose out of the primordial North Florida swamp to set the stage for the mainstream achievements of successive Gainesville bands like Against Me!, Less Than Jake, and Hot Water Music. I arrived in Gainesville during the summer of 1982 to attend the University of Florida and immediately immersed myself in the underground house parties and VFW shows where punk bands played prior to the formation of The Hardback in 1988 - the original club hub of the Gainesville rock scene. When the Hardback first opened, it was a singular oasis in a boring desert of Tom Petty, .38 Special and Molly Hatchet, so there's no doubt that Gainesville punk really took flight from that tiny Hardback stage. That single venue served to anchor and showcase the Gainesville punk scene for the next decade (thank you Hardback!). Now some 30 years later, it's almost hard to recall the trailbreaking drive and sheer artistic power of the original early Gainesville punk bands who were freely informed by vastly wide-ranging music styles from the Sex Pistols to Die Kreuzen, art rock to David Bowie, Black Sabbath to Aerosmith and, yes, Lynyrd Skynyrd (you just can't get away from it down there). Walker's book does a wonderful job bringing to light many of the deserving pioneers of Gainesville punk rock. Highly informative and recommended for any fan of the history of alternative music in the USA. It shines a light into an incredibly active music town - going back to The Allman Brothers and the southern rock of the late '60s & '70s - that was as intensely creative as anything from more well-known indie rock scenes like Seattle, Minneapolis, Austin, Athens GA., et al. Great stuff!

Matt Walker has captured the spirit and emotion of a regional zeitgeist in Gainesville Punk: A History of Bands & Music. He vividly recalls the grandeur and sound of the era and presents it in spectacular fashion. A great read.

This book was a great trip down memory lane

Well written account of Gainesville's growth into a punk mecca. While I was familiar with some of the bands in the book I learned a lot more. The author does a good job of capturing the flavor of certain times with strong stories while still spreading the knowledge. I am curious to see what this new author writes next.

A great look back at Gainesville's punk scene from the past three decades, including the infamous Fest. Matt's writing should inspire others to tell their in-depth stories of college-town punk and indie rock both here and elsewhere.

Great look at a small but very important punk rock scene. Many of the bands chronicled in this book helped shape punk rock as a whole throughout the 90s and 2000s. This was a great record of an often overlooked part of the country when it comes to punk and rock music in general.

I fell in love with punk rock in Gainesville in the 90s and still live in Gainesville. This book was a fun, fast read that brought to mind a lot of great songs and memories as well as drawing lots of elements of this one local music scene into a clear narrative.

Well written book about a music scene that produced so many great bands over the years. The author did a tremendous amount of research and conducted a ton of interviews with primary sources.

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