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## ***The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's* explores the intersection of Jewish identity and punk rock**

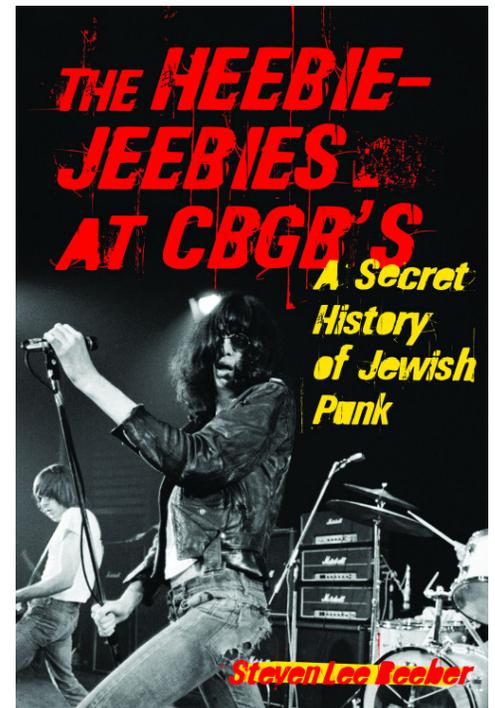
**\*\*Jewish-owned punk landmark, CBGB, will close on October 1, 2006\*\***

CHICAGO: On October 1, 2006, CBGB will shut its doors for good. The little Lower East Side Jewish-owned club became the center of the New York City punk scene, and on the eve of its closing, a new book examines its role, and that of Jews in the punk movement.

*The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's: A Secret History of Jewish Punk* (Chicago Review Press, October 2006) by Steven Lee Beeber delves into punk's beginnings in New York City and discovers it to be the most Jewish of rock movements, both in makeup and attitude. *The Heebie Jeebies at CBGB's* offers

a fascinating mix of biography and cultural study that explores the lives of Jewish punks and creates an in-depth historical overview of the punk scene.

In the early 1970s, from in and around New York, came a rag-tag assortment of young people. They came from a wide range of backgrounds, from comfortable and conservative middle class families to poor and immigrant origins, but despite their differences, they all had something burning inside. Fueled by the humor of Lenny



Bruce—and more strongly influenced by their Jewish heritage than even they knew—they emerged, raw, ambitious and ready to rock, into the New York scene and changed music forever.

Beeber interviewed more than 125 people integral to pre- and early punk for *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's*. Tommy Ramone, Chris Stein (Blondie), Lenny Kaye (Patti Smith Group), Hilly Kristal (CBGB owner), John Zorn and many others offer their thoughts on the early days of punk and the Jews who made the music happen. Beeber reveals the commonalities between the New York Jewish experience and the ethos of punk, focusing on irony, romanticism and humor. *The Heebie-Jeebies* also explores the ways in which, at their core, both being Jewish and being punk are all about questioning authority.

Woven throughout *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's* is a discussion of the nature of Jewish identity since the Holocaust. Class warfare and periodic anti-Semitism came to define latter-day punk, moving it somewhat away from its original Jewish roots. But rebellious Jews are still making challenging, humorous music—Beeber crowns New York's own Beastie Boys as the proper heirs to the Jewish-punk aesthetic.

**Steven Lee Beeber** has written for *Heeb*, *Maxim*, *Mojo*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review* and *Spin*. He is the editor of *Awake: A Reader for the Sleepless*. He lives in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts.

**Book Details:**

Title: *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's: A Secret History of Jewish Punk*

Author: Steven Lee Beeber

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Music/Jewish Studies, 272 pages, 6 x 9, 35 B&W photographs

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1-800-888-4741. Visit us online at [www.ipgbook.com](http://www.ipgbook.com).**



## What people are saying about *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's*

“A unique new perspective on the history of punk rock.”

—Tommy Ramone

“A beautiful, well-written book that’s not only the kind you can’t put down but also a true revelation. Reading it was a real learning experience: I hadn’t realized how many Jews were involved in punk. A genuinely great book.”

—Alan Vega of Suicide

“Shocking confessions of an eternally wicked tribe of dysfunctional kids in search of an identity—lonely, uncomfortable, wild-eyed wanderers given to sexy, subversive, and stylish rebellion. All of the characters in this book somehow contributed . . . to a culture that refuses to allow anyone to return to normalcy again. Why? Because being a Jew is an eternal struggle to be bad. As my grandmother would say, ‘It’s hard to be bad. You really have to work at it. It’s so much easier to be good! But who wants to be good?’ ”

—Malcolm McLaren, manager of The Sex Pistols

“This book steps out on a limb in attempting to tie the original group of NYC punks to the faith of their birth. Up close and personal accounts of the original New York City punks—from Lenny Bruce to Lenny Kaye, Blondie, Suicide, and beyond—and the oft-observed cultural background that helped define their art. Who knew?” —Lee Ranaldo, Sonic Youth

“A raunch epistemology of Jewcore . . . like wow!” --Richard Meltzer, author of *The Aesthetics of Rock* and *A Whore Just Like the Rest*

For more information on *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's* and author **Steven Lee Beeber**, please contact Sara Hoerdeman, Publicity Manager, Independent Publishers Group, 312-337-0747 ext. 236, sara@ipgbook.com