

PSYCHOBILLY

A novel by Craig Brackenridge - foreword by Alan Wilson

“Once, late at night on BBC2, I saw a film that was made in Stevenage in the late 1960’s. It starred that bloke from ‘Mind Your Language’ and it was full of fresh looking dolly birds and young geezers having a good time. Everything looked fresh & new, the shops and houses were sparkling clean and people were shagging at parties and zipping about in sports cars, laughing and generally having a good time. Its not like that in 1986. Coming home from the chippy near the town square tonight I had to dodge a mob of blonde-streaked trendies who were hanging around the bus station looking for trouble. Then I brushed passed some begging junkies in a reeking underpass and finally reached my house, where I settled down in my room where the walls are so thin I can hear my Dad scratching his arse in the room next door. Don’t get me wrong, I am not some whining, socially deprived youth or a victim of some pot-smoking social engineers. I have a great life. I love Stevenage. My mum and dad got the New Town dream but I got something a lot more worthwhile. I got Psychobilly!”

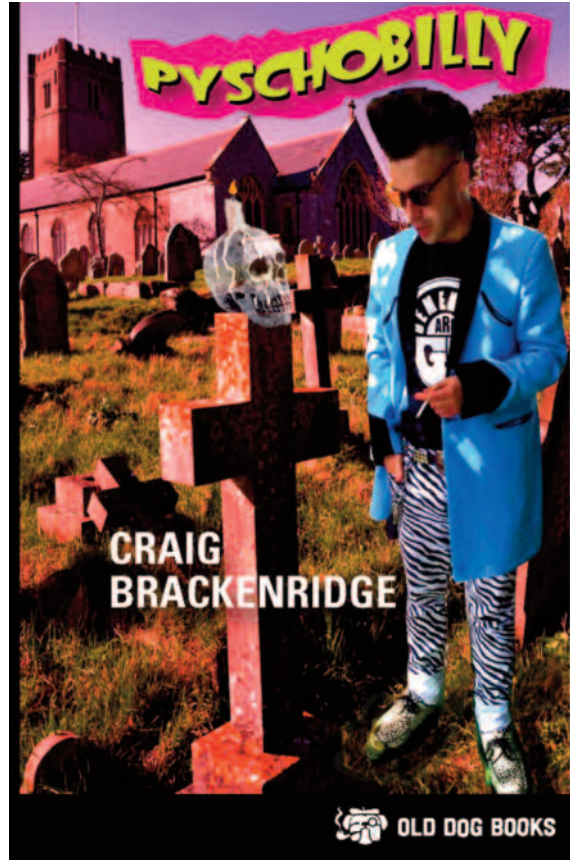
Stevenage. 1986. The Psychobilly disease is spreading across the UK and Harry Powell and his mates have got it bad. They are followers of the brutal blend of Rockabilly & Punk that is seeping across Britain’s musical underground and from the Klub Foot to Scarborough Scooter Rally, they will go anywhere for wrecking and rumpo.

Along with the booze, brawls and bunk-ups, Harry finds something even more special but a dark secret within the crew threatens to tear them apart. However, no matter what they face, their lives revolve around the adrenalin-fuelled, pounding beat of Psychobilly.

Although set in 1987, ‘Psychobilly’ takes its influence from the 1970’s golden age of British pulp fiction when publishers such as New English Library canonised every aspect of working-class street culture in lurid paperbacks which delivered sex & violence to the masses in regular instalments.

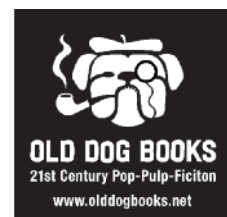
It’s not all boots ‘n’ bovver though as ‘Psychobilly’ also draws on the knockabout humour and sexual shenanigans of other knuckle-shuffling pulp novels such as Timothy Lea’s highly successful ‘Confessions of...’ books.

If you understand the Psychobilly subculture then this is recommended reading. If you don’t... just think of it as ‘Gregory’s Girl’ with top-shelf magazine strength smut or ‘Quadrophenia’ with quiffs.



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Craig Brackenridge Biography

I've been writing about movie sleaze and demented Rock 'n' Roll since 1995 and have written for the magazines Total Film, Bite Me, BFM and The Encyclopedia of Cinematic Trash.

My first book 'Let's Wreck' was a part-biographical look at the Psychobilly scene from the early 1980's to the 2000's. This mutated music genre grinds together the very best of Punk, Rock 'n' Roll, Rockabilly and many other boot-stomping forms of music into a hellbound racket that has been starved of the oxygen of the mainstream music press for too long.

In a bid to continue to record the history of Psychobilly for posterity I launched 'Vinyl Dementia: The Psychobilly & Trash Record Guide'. (Now deleted).

'Hell's Bent On Rockin': A History of Psychobilly' was my attempt to chronicle the entire Psychobilly genre at the time for Cherry Red Books. I'm pleased to say that since it was published the scene has continued to grow so much that its now kinda out of date but it covers the movement from its earliest days right up to 2005.

After the mammoth task of 'Hell's Bent...' was behind me I decided to move into fiction as I have long been a fan of exploitative pulp paperbacks from the 1970's. Short snappy novels filled with bikers, skinheads, teddy boys, boot boys, youth gangs, randy window cleaners, sexually frustrated housewives and ruthless characters from the old west are what I enjoy the most and both 'Psychobilly - the novel' and the blood-spattered Western 'Apache Gold' are my contributions to the genre I love.

I currently write for the music magazines StreetSounds (UK), Mad Music For Bad People (UK) & DogEatRobot (Italy) and create sleevenotes for selected rockin' releases from Cherry Red Records.



Foreword for Psychobilly

Craig Brackenridge is an author of note. His name is steeped in respect on the worldwide underground music scene and more specifically in the murky, often overlooked world of Psychobilly. I've been aware of Craig as a writer for a decade or so, yet it was as a musician that he first came into my orbit. As a lifelong Psychobilly fan myself, I remember Craig's name cropping up way back when - as a member of the band The Rednecks.

Now in my experience, musicians normally suffer memory loss due to their 'on the road' lifestyle. No sleep, far too much alcohol and (in some cases) dubious substances tend to kill brain cells! However Craig's the exception that proves the rule. He must have the best memory of anyone I know! His numerous books, packed with meticulous detail are testament to this.

I've enjoyed Craig's writing for many years in the form of numerous fanzines and books. His comprehensive publication 'Hells Bent On Rockin'' is a virtual bible on the Psychobilly scene and its origins. I've also asked Craig to write album notes for my projects on a few occasions, such is my faith in his deep knowledge.

So it was with genuine excitement that I read his novel, unsurprisingly titled 'Psychobilly'. For me, it felt almost like re-living my own youth as I could totally relate to almost everything in the book. It even reminded me of things I'd forgotten!

I'd say this is an essential memory jog for anyone of my age who fondly recalls those halcyon teenage days spent discovering bands, buying records and getting into scrapes. Furthermore, it's equally valuable for those poor souls unlucky enough to have missed it by being born too late. 'Psychobilly' delivers on a plate, the perfect snap-shop of life in Britain in the 1980s and being part of the subculture known as the Psychobilly scene.

Alan Wilson - The Sharks/Western Star Recording Company. 2015

MARKET Film/Music/Fashion/ Literature

KEY SELLING POINTS:

- A unique insight in the 1980s Psychobilly Scene
- An understanding of England provincial towns in the 1980's
- Foreword by Psychobilly main man Alan Wilson
- Fast paced and easy to read.
- Plenty of Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'Roll. And Cider...

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