

Classic Posters Interview with Mark Dancey by Michael Erlewine

Classic Posters Interview with Mark Dancey by Michael Erlewine

Michael@Erlewine.net

Michael Erlewine: When and how did you get interested in art?

Mark Dancey: I have been interested in pictures for as long as I have been able to see. I became interested in posters when I became interested in punk rock. Initially, I made my own posters on poster board by enlarging and painting the cover art from my Elvis Costello and Clash cassettes.

Michael Erlewine: What kind of art influenced you?

Mark Dancey: I learned from copying Marvel Comics and Mad Magazine and later I liked Zap comics and Mayan art and Russian constructivist art and M.C. Escher and Ralph Steadman's illustrations.

Michael Erlewine: What concert-posters artists influenced you

Mark Dancey: I liked BxW Xeroxed flyers for hardcore shows and my room was papered with them. The designers were always anonymous. Later I liked Mucha and Will Bradley and Josef Sattler.

Michael Erlewine: What was your first concert-music poster?

Mark Dancey: The first flyer was not even for a gig but simply had our band's name Born Without a Face on it. That was in 1983. We were so excited about the whole thing that we went around town putting up flyers, just to be doing it!

Michael Erlewine: What are the main venues you have done posters for?

Mark Dancey: I have done many posters for St. Andrew's Hall, which is in my home town of Detroit.

Michael Erlewine: What are the main bands you have done posters for?

Mark Dancey: When I was in a band, I did many posters for my own band. Now I actually prefer to do posters for anything other than rock concerts. For example, I enjoyed doing a poster for a boxing match between Angel Manfredy and Jorge Paez, and would like to do more projects like that.

Michael Erlewine: Please describe the media and size/formats you have most used?

Mark Dancey: I usually silk screen the posters in 18"x24" format. When I first started making posters. I was using a local printer, until I discovered he was running off many more copies for himself and selling them. After that, I have been working with a friend and printing everything myself.

Michael Erlewine: What other poster artists have you collaborated with?

Mark Dancey: none

Michael Erlewine: Who are your favorite current poster artists?

Mark Dancey: I don't have any favorites

Michael Erlewine: What are your favorite bands?

Mark Dancey: I do not like very many bands. I think the bands are often the weakest part of the posters. So often I have seen a perfectly good poster marred by having the name of some stupid band on it!

Michael Erlewine: Please list any poster shows of your work:

Classic Posters Interview with Mark Dancey by Michael Erlewine

Mark Dancey: Popkom, Cologne, 1993,
The Shelter, Detroit, 1993, Galerie
Slaphanger, Rotterdam, 1997, C-Pop,
Detroit, 1997