

An empowering scene grows in the heart of the Rust Belt

# Out of the Basement

From Cheap Trick to DIY Punk in Rockford, Illinois, 1973-2005

by David Ensminger

"David Ensminger writes a fascinating story about the development of punk in Rockford, Illinois. He weaves engaging personal narratives with interesting historical accounts of proto-punk, power pop, punk rock, and hardcore in this Midwest town." —Daniel Makagon, author of *Underground: The Subterranean Culture of DIY Punk Shows*

"A vivid portrait of late 20th century 'rust city kids' skateboarding through a kind of pulp noir 'dead-end America,' sustained by punk and its DIY ethos. It is at once both a typical story and a singular one, and Ensminger captures it all." —Michael Stewart Foley, author of *Dead Kennedy's Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables*

"Wild, subterranean notations and sense impressions combine with slices of scholarly reflection and the author's own energy and timeless enthusiasm to deliver not only the glory of a youth movement on the page, but the nearly lost art of punk itself." —Denise Sullivan, author of *Keep on Pushing: Black Power Music From Blues to Hip Hop and Rap It Up: Rock 'n' Roll Rulebreakers*

*Out of the Basement* is a bracing, candid, cutting-edge portrayal of a rust belt city full of rebel kids making DIY music despite the odds. It combines oral history, brutally honest memoir, music history, and a sense of blunt poetics to capture the ethos of life in the 1970s-2000s, long before the Internet made punk accessible to small towners. From dusty used record stores and frenetic skating rinks to dank basements and sweat-piled gigs to the radical forebears like the local IWW chapter, the book follows the stories of rebels struggling to find spaces and a sense of community and their place in underground history.

SUBJECT: Music History / Regional  
PUBLICATION: February 7, 2017  
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ISBN: 978-1-62106-766-5

FORMAT: 96 pages, 5.5x7"

CARTON QTY: 128

ART: contains b/w photos, copies of show flyers, and other art

## Marketing Notes

1. Third entry in Microcosm's popular Scene History series
2. Features previously unpublished stories about Rockford natives Cheap Trick and other celebrity appearances like Green Day and Fred Armisen.
3. Of interest to anyone from the Rockford, Illinois area and other midwestern rust belt cities

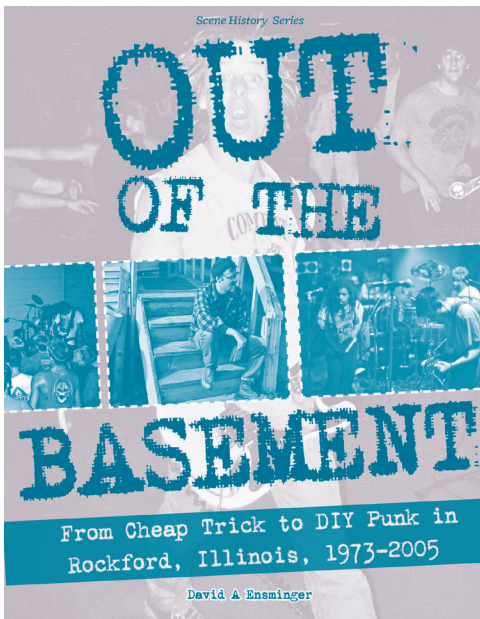
## Comparative Titles

- *Rock and Roll of San Francisco's East Bay, 1950-1980* (Scene History 2) Cory M. Linstrum 9781621065159 (Microcosm) \$4.95, 2016
- *Punk in NYC's Lower East Side, 1981-1991* (Scene History 1) Ben Nadler 9781621069218 (Microcosm) \$4.95, 2014
- *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* (33 1/3) Michael Stewart Foley 9781623567309 (Bloomsbury) \$14.95, 2015
- *Beat Happening* (33 1/3) Bryan C. Parker 9781628929270 (Bloomsbury) \$14.95, 2015



David A. Ensminger is a college instructor and the author of four books covering both American roots music and punk rock history—*Visual Vitriol: The Street Art and Subcultures of the Punk and Hardcore Generation* (Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2011), *Mojo Hand: The Life and Music of Lightnin' Hopkins* (Univ. of Texas Press, 2013), *Left of the Dial: Conversations with Punk Icons* (PM Press, 2013), *Mavericks of Sound: Conversations with the Artists Who Shaped Indie and Roots Music* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), and *The Politics of Punk: Protest and Revolt from the Street* (Rowman and Littlefield, Jan 2016). Both the *Boston Globe* and the *Economist* have highlighted his research. He writes for publications like *Art in Print*, the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *Houston Press*, *Trust* (Germany), *Artcore* (Britain), and *Maximum Rock'n'Roll*. He lives in Houston, Texas.

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