

THE MUSIC OF BANDSLAM

From 1950s Jamaican ska to The Burning Hotels, *Bandslam* is full of exciting music. The film takes us from the sounds that influenced music today to the new young bands of tomorrow.

Ska

Will's band, I Can't Go On, I'll Go On, plays 'Everything I Own' at Bandslam. The song was originally by Bread, a rock group. Will's band play it in the style of ska music. Ska music started in Jamaica in the 1950s, with singers like Prince Buster. Ska was also very popular in the late 1970s, with bands like The Specials and Madness. Reggae music came from ska.



Prince Buster



The Velvet Underground

The Velvet Underground

Will and Charlotte both love The Velvet Underground, a New York band from the late 1960s and early 1970s. The band's two main songwriters were Lou Reed and John Cale. The Velvet Underground's songs were often dark and strange. At the time they weren't a popular band, but they had a big influence on later music.



The Ramones

New York Punk Rock

Will's favourite place in the world is CBGB, a little music club in New York. In the 1970s the club became famous for a new kind of music – punk rock. The Ramones, the Patti Smith Group, Television, Talking Heads and Blondie all played there. The club stayed open until 2006. Punk singer Patti Smith was back on stage for the club's last night.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bandslam director, Todd Graff, was once in a band that played at CBGB!

Which bands or music styles would you like to find out more about? Why?

Bandslam bands

Todd Graff filmed *Bandslam* in Austin, Texas. 'There are lots of great bands in Austin,' he says, 'and a lot of them don't have record deals. So they're playing in bars and clubs, and they're on MySpace and YouTube.'

Todd picked five of these bands to be in the Bandslam competition. At the competition, the bands and the actors played in front of a real crowd. Over 1200 people came to watch. One of the young bands in the film was rock band The Burning Hotels.



The Burning Hotels

What do these words mean?

You can use a dictionary.

influence (n & v) originally style
director actor