

# E10 Gallery East heyday on display

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By JIM SULLIVAN

## MUSIC

Before J Mascis formed Dinosaur Jr. he'd take the bus from western Massachusetts to South Station and go hear hardcore punk rock bands at Gallery East.

A teenaged Dicky Barrett, the future Mighty Mighty Bosstones singer, would do

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the same, sometimes driven in from Norwood by his mother.

Gallery East was a 5,000-square-foot space in Boston's Leather District. For hundreds of suburban teens, it was the epicenter for the Boston hardcore

scene of the early '80s.

Sunday afternoon in Revere at Club Lido, the scene will live again at the Gallery East Reunion Show. Gang Green, DYS, Jerry's Kids, the F.U.'s, Antidote and three other bands play an all-ages show that's being filmed for a 90-minute documentary, "xxx All Ages xxx." The film is produced by former Gallery East owner Duane Lucia and directed by Antidote singer Drew Stone.

"Everyone from back in the day is calling this show their high school reunion," Lucia said. "The movie steers clear of personal conflicts and philosophical issues. Instead, it focuses on what we accomplished collectively and collaboratively. That's why everyone's excited to be at the reunion



**FOR THE 'KIDS':** Jerry's Kids guitarist Bob Cenci shows off his skills in a show at Gallery East.

show and be a part of telling the story."

"This film is not about the guys in the band," added

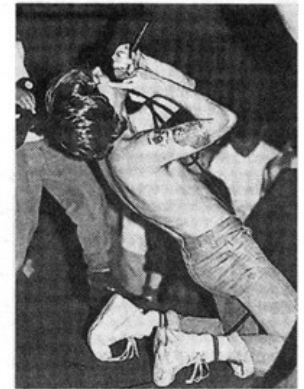
Stone. "It's about the community and the culture — the environment of that era."

Hardcore was a spinoff of the mid- to late-'70s punk movement in America and England.

"Myself and a lot of people involved were bored teenagers," said Gang Green singer-guitarist Chris Doherty. "Most of us came from broken homes and were pissed off with the way life was going. We were just a bunch of troublemakers getting together and having fun."

Hardcore punk was a speedball of 90-mph anger and aggression, inspiring young, mostly male fans to crash the stage and dive into mosh pits where they slammed together like human bowling pins. Occasionally blood flowed, but often bonds formed.

"It was like passing through an explosion at



**HARDCORE DAYS:** Dave Smalley of DYS rocks Gallery East.

times," said Jerry's Kids guitarist Bob Cenci. "The music was faster and louder than what we knew as punk, and the reaction more brutal than ever. Kids were flying off of the stage and being swept up in what seemed to be a brawl below."

Gallery East Reunion Show, Club Lido, Revere, Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15. 781-289-3080.

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For Jonathan Anastas, bassist for DYS, the hardcore scene was a lifeline.

"As a latchkey kid," he said, "struggling to find his place and means of creative expression, there was no place that felt more like home than Boston hardcore. The values and friends I found there kept me focused on a fairly healthy path."

Achieving stardom or fame had nothing to do with it.

"There really wasn't much separation there between the guys on stage playing music and in the crowd," Doherty said.

"Hardcore is responsible — directly — for any success I have today," Anastas said. "Each band was a DIY small business. We had to learn how to work in the studio, how to get a record pressed, get the covers made, sell them into distribution. We had to learn how to book tours and earn enough to keep us on the road. It was a punk rock MBA."

"The Boston hardcore scene changed my life forever," said the Bosstones' Barrett, who plans to attend Sunday's show. "It played a big part in developing me into who it is I am. I met lifelong friends and became part of something that was very special and very important to me."

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