
Exhibition and book to bring together the covers of every important counterculture publication from the 1960s

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British Underground Press covers, L to R: *International Times* 27, 8 March 1968; *OZ* 28, May 1970; *cOZmic Comics* 4, 1972



Exhibition Information

The British Underground Press of the Sixties
28 September – 4 November 2017

A22 Gallery
22 Laystall Street
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Opening times:
Thursday to Saturday, 12 – 6pm, or by
appointment

Albany Arts Communications is delighted to announce the exhibition *The British Underground Press of the Sixties*, to be staged at the A22 Gallery, Clerkenwell, from 28 September – 4 November 2017.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a book of the same name edited by Barry Miles and James Birch which will be released on 5 October 2017 only at www.britishundergroundpress.com.

The British Underground Press of the Sixties brings together the iconic covers of *International Times*, *Oz*, *Frends* and *Frendz*, *Gandalf's Garden*, *Black Dwarf* and *Ink* for the first time in a dedicated book, along with comic books, original ads, graphics, posters and flyers. Fractious, challenging, and highly controversial, these titles not only caught the spirit of the times, they are also a guiding light for the 'zines of today. The publication is timed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Summer of Love and the beginning of British counterculture.

In a time when telephones were rooted to the spot and radio and TV were controlled by the state, the only way for alternative points of view to reach others was through the medium of print. Which was why, in 1966, Barry Miles and John 'Hoppy' Hopkins decided to start a newspaper. They called it *International Times* and launched *IT* in October 1966. It was the first British underground newspaper, and began a news media revolution.

After *IT* came *Oz*, and then *Frends* (which became *Frendz*), *Gandalf's Garden*, *Black Dwarf* and *Ink*. While *IT* revolutionised the editorial direction and style of mainstream newspapers, *OZ* soon brought to the attention of thousands the psychedelic art scene, employing artists and designers who used vibrant colours, materials and ideas to create posters, clothes, lightshows and art installations.

Importantly, *IT*, and *Oz* in particular, not only gave precious column inches to the developing underground music scene, but they also provided the spaces and events for bands such as Pink Floyd, Soft Machine and Tomorrow to perform. *IT* was launched with London's first big 'Happening' at the Roundhouse, at which the Floyd and Soft Machine appeared; and Hoppy opened the UFO club in Tottenham Court Road, where Soft Machine and Pink Floyd were the 'house' bands.

The championing of the alternative music scene by *IT* and *OZ* inspired mainstream publishers to create magazines similarly dedicated solely to the emerging music scene (such as *Sounds*), or to reposition existing titles as alternative papers (such as the *NME* and *Melody Maker*).

Without the British underground press of the 1960s, there would have been no countercultural underground, no psychedelic revolution: Miles, Hoppy and *IT* were instrumental in taking the emerging psychedelic scene out of the underground and onto the streets. Miles was a close friend of Paul McCartney and shared records, books and publications from the US with the Beatle, who subsequently shared them with his band.

The exhibition, *The British Underground Press of the Sixties*, to be held at James Birch's A22 Gallery in Clerkenwell, is the first time that every single edition of every significant underground publication dedicated to counterculture has been put on display. The accompanying book is the first time these covers have been brought together in print, and also includes a history of the underground press written by Miles.

The exhibition and book features the covers of:

174 issues of *International Times*, comprised of full issues and half issues

48 issues of *Oz*

7 issues of *Gandalf's Garden*

7 issues of *Black Dwarf*

29 issues of *Friends*

36 issues of *Frendz*

29 issues of *Ink*

7 issues of *Nasty Tales comics*

21 issues of *cOZmic Comics*

Plus, more than 50 assorted posters, flyers, paraphernalia and ads from the various publications. The book is published by Rocket 88 and will only be available via the *The British Underground Press* and Rocket 88 websites. Pre-ordering before July 21 will enable buyers to get a discount on the purchase price, and the chance to have their name printed in the book.

www.britishundergroundpress.com

There will be 100 limited edition copies of the book, which will be housed in a bespoke case, and will include original copies of a single edition of *IT*, a single copy of *Oz*, and a 1971-issued poster of Janis Joplin, originally created for *IT* on the occasion of her death.

**For more information, please contact
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Notes to Editors:

About Barry Miles:

Barry Miles is an English author known for his participation in, and writing on, the subjects of the 1960s London underground and counter-culture. Miles has published more than 50 books, among them the best-selling biographies of major counter-cultural figures William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, Frank Zappa and Charles Bukowski. His first autobiographical book *In the Sixties: Illustrated* is also published by Rocket 88. He lives in London and France.

About Rocket 88:

Rocket 88 is a London-based publisher of unique, beautifully designed and produced books. Each Rocket 88 title is sold directly via a bespoke website.

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