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Queens of Noise: The Real Story of the Runaways

Evelyn McDonnell

Loyola Marymount University

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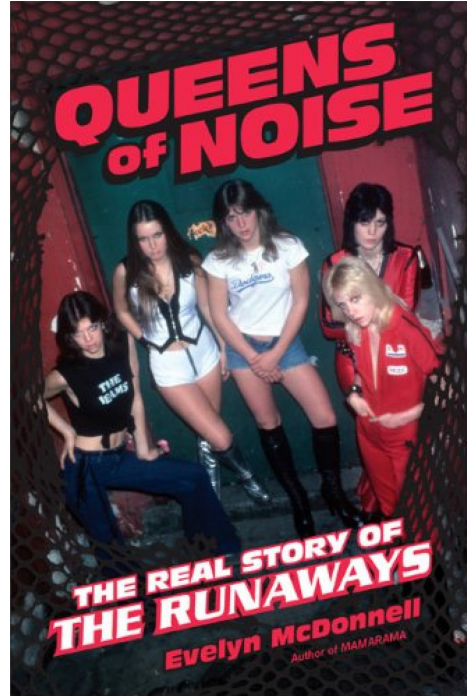
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Faculty Pub Night – Spring 2014

Date: April 22, 2014

Speaker: Evelyn McDonnell



About the Author

Evelyn McDonnell is assistant professor of journalism and new media at Loyola Marymount University. She has been writing about popular culture and society for more than 20 years. She is the author of four books: *Queens of Noise: The Real Story of the Runaways*, *Mamarama: A Memoir of Sex, Kids and Rock 'n' Roll*, *Army of She: Icelandic, Iconoclastic, Irrepressible Bjork* and *Rent* by Jonathan Larson. She coedited the anthologies *Rock She Wrote: Women Write About Rock, Pop and Rap* and *Stars Don't Stand Still in the Sky: Music and Myth*. She has been the editorial director of www.MOLI.com, pop culture writer at *The Miami Herald*, senior editor at *The Village Voice*, and associate editor at *SF Weekly*. Her writing on music, poetry, theater, and culture has appeared in numerous publications and anthologies, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Ms.*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *Spin*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Us*, *Billboard*, *Vibe*, *Interview*, *Black Book*, and *Option*. She codirected the conference *Stars Don't Stand Still in the Sky: Music and Myth* at the Dia Center for the Arts in New York in 1998. She has won several fellowships and awards, including an Annenberg Fellowship at USC and a fellowship to the NEA Arts Journalism Institute in Theater and Musical Theater. Her 2004 *Herald* expose of hip-hop cops was awarded first place for enterprise reporting by the South Florida Black Journalists Association and second place in the Society of Professional Journalists' Sunshine State Awards. She earned her Master's in Specialized Journalism, the Arts, from USC, where she was chosen for the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. She earned her Bachelor's in American studies, graduating magna cum laude from Brown University. She lives in San Pedro with her husband, son, many animals, and a fantastic view of the ocean.

About the Author's Work

In four years the teenage members of the Runaways did what no other group of female rock musicians before them could: they released four albums for a major label and toured the world. The Runaways busted down doors for every girl band that followed. Joan Jett, Sandy West, Cherrie Currie, lead guitarist Lita Ford, and bassists Jackie Fox and Vicky Blue were pre-punk bandits, fostering revolution girl style decades before that became a riot grrrl catchphrase.

The story of the Runaways has never been told in its entirety. Drawing on interviews with most of this seminal rock band's former members as well as controversial manager Kim Fowley, *Queens of Noise* looks beyond the lurid voyeuristic appeal of a sex-drugs-rock 'n' roll saga to give the band its place in musical, feminist, and cultural history.