

3.7. The influence of punk in the social movements

Liljana Siljanovska¹

Vlera Ejupi²

Abstract

According to an American rock critic, "punk tried to return back to rock music everything lost, on its way of becoming a mass mega successful phenomenon, so if punk did not exist, rock would have disappeared". Because of the greediness of the discographic industry, punk which appeared on the streets, developed into several streams the aim of which was an aggressive but also a creative realization of its ideas for an authentic penetration in the environments it is present, interweaving the variations of the styles into a heterogeneous musical scene. Even though, representing subculture, it tries to be imposed by attracting peoples' attention whenever it is listened to. Besides, many of Punk streams are closely connected to the streets, every day's life, being a characteristic of the 70s and 80s of the past century. One of its characteristics is also its close connection with the working class, even though it was later defined as a style with neonazi elements, and a simple destruction of everything. With specific variations of its thematic, punk is listened to, and has got its admirers in the Macedonian society as well, as a reflection of the globalization tendencies in music, its industrialization and low budget production. Apart from the uniformity of the musical contents, punk also reflects its specific ways of reactions, and the movements in the society, even though not as avangarde, but as a postmodern subcultures with its admirers. In Macedonia punk is admired as a result of the apolitical messages it reflects, and the freedom of speech. It is very effective, since being in a transitional society, where everyone is addicted to the extremely politicized mass media, punk is a good way to keep the autonomy of thinking and expressing one's attitude.

Keywords: phenomenon, mass, authentic, subculture, streams.

Introduction

Once upon a time a famous Irish writer said – life is climbing a spiral staircase, and this means that we measure our progress with the number of the stairs that we climb. The more we climb, the bigger our progress is. So is the function of punk, and it should be as a music of progress, because it springs out of the realistic desires to change the deformities of the society. The more the society is criticized, the more should be the positive energy for the changes. Punk music is a music of the wish to change, to improve, to scream loud, because people have a need to be heard. Punk is a music of reality, a mirror of moods of the people, of the social unbalanced staircases, breaking the unbroken ice, a lightning out of a blue sky, a part of our everyday life, and a wonderful depiction of 'our skeletons in the cupboard'.

¹ South East European University – SEEU, Tetovo, Macedonia.

² South East European University – SEEU, Tetovo, Macedonia.

Punk is not only music, but also a way of life and contemplation!

The majority of the youngsters have almost the same universal desires for the future: either being a football manager, or have a band of their own. All this sounds well, but not all the young people have the same fate to experience this miracle. And the miracle is, at least for a moment to feel the fast beating of the drums, or the fast beating of their young hearts after a well-played football game. The feeling would have been the same if the youngsters would have been given the chance to play their favourite music on their guitar, which their parents unfortunately would have never had the money to buy.

Knowing perfectly well the very bad conditions of football in the Republic of Macedonia, we would concentrate on the talented young people. The life of these people is not that attractive for the majority of them, because it is very difficult for them to survive in a poor society, and what is more they cannot even imagine how difficult it is for them to make a good song. But these are underground youngsters who deserve a lot of respect, because they never give up their dreams. It means that they are very decisive and work in the garages where their talent begins to be shown.

We were given the opportunity to make an interview with the famous punk-rock band in Macedonia, Filter 57, which has been making music for over three years. It consists of four teenagers who were very happy to communicate with us, because they, as a band, are a very good proof that punk music is rather present and well accepted by almost everyone in our country, especially by those who are completely dissatisfied and disappointed from the social movements in the Republic of Macedonia. This Punk band has already produced several songs, and a demo-album, which they consider to be a huge success. But on the other hand, they are also very eager to speak about the problems they face, such as the place where they can make their rehearsal as well as a lot of other obstacles which they already manage to overcome. So their enthusiasm goes that far that they say that if something is done with a lot of love, the positive results are always present.

- The real boom in the Republic of Macedonia, as far as punk music is without any doubt, the band `Parketi`. Very attractive songs, with extremely lyrics, and more attractive looks, they managed to be the first ones in all the top lists, all around Macedonia. Songs like „Портокали“ (Oranges), „Муви“ (Flies), „Едно млеко и едно кафе“ (Milk and a coffee), „Да ја ебам бабати на летање“ (Fuck your grandma like flying), „Клара пуши трева“, (Clara smokes weed)...
- The essence of all these wonderful lyrics is the harsh revolt against the wrong decisions of the politicians, of the quasi-intellectuals who desperately want to turn into public famous people who spend the peoples' money on their luxuries life, on their pathological desires to reach the impossible in every aspects of their life, thus enabling the emergence of the deviant social movements, and making an irreparable harm to the innocent and poor, and normal people in the society. The band `Паркети` as a matter of fact is the voice of the ratio of the normal people in the social movements in the Republic of Macedonia.

The steps which should be undergone to make people come closer to the domestic quality of music

On this question, the underground youngsters, answered that you can never change the peoples` taste. This is a fact that proves that you can never make anyone listen to music by influencing them. The best way to act, according to them, is to have more concerts, even if it means that you audience will consist of ten people, and they believe that it is these ten people who will look forward to the next concert, and will enjoy it. Further on, they state that only good bands can change the desperate mood of the people in the society we live.

Our following question was whether these underground youngsters had have the chance to the concerts outside Macedonia, in front of an unknown audience. They have been invited, the two abovementioned punk groups, in Subotica, a town in Vojvodina, where a famous Rock- Festival is being held annually. They have also been invited in Croatia, and the final answer was, that- the punk groups in Macedonia do not have any chance to go toward progress because they have to pay for everything by themselves, and this is something they cannot afford.

In the question about the procedure of producing an album in Macedonia and how much it costs, the answer was that it is the same as making a tour with the band around the Balkans and as far as the procedure is concerned, the most important part is money.

Our final question was about the influence of this underground music on the people that do not like punk, their answer was that punk is not only a music direction, but also a way of life and a way of thinking. The way in which the wild musical notes increase the adrenaline so do the anarchistic texts perform their task with the brain of the people who are listening to it. Through our texts we express our dissatisfaction toward politics, manipulation, money, injustice, racism, Nazism, and we remain strongly against the global indoctrination of the people.

There have been many cases when people closed with their hands the ears because they could not listen to our loud music, there have been cases that we were laughed at, at our impossible aim. But most frequently the audience asks for us to return on the stage back.

So these were very sincere answers that we got from these young people in order to show them our respect and support for them, which they definitely need very much. So the people from Macedonia have to be aware of the great number of talents it has got, who are still unrevealed.

Conclusion

Living in a world of depression, living in a world of lies, of floods of false ideas and attitudes, we should be aware of the loss of the core of the normal human`s codex which can improve everything. This huge swamp, is nothing but our collective home. Like it or not, we are its inhabitants, like it or not we should follow the rules imposed on us. Music is a nice way to relax from the sometimes mortal strike of the swamp`s waves. But the code of sounding beautiful, has been lost. That is why the society that we come from is infested with commercial and claustrophobic music. It is very difficult to find places where punk music will be heard. The worst kind of music which is heard all around is the so called turbo-folk music. It is a mixture of folk and popular music, which sounds idiotically. That is why the punk bands in Macedonia very persistent to show their positive role in the social movements. That is why

they tend to be very loud sometimes, louder than the rest of the types of music, because it wants to prepare its healthy path to showing the reality, and at the same time a rebellion about everything that is bad.

‘PARKETI’ are very good at showing about everything that is abovementioned

References

Interviews with two Macedonian punk bands- ‘Filter 57’ and ‘Parketi’