

= Subterranean Jungle =

Subterranean Jungle is the seventh studio album by the American punk rock band the Ramones , released by Sire Records in February 1983 . The album appealed to a hardcore punk rock style rather than featuring several pop oriented pieces ; this is because guitarist Johnny Ramone received more leeway with steering the overall genre with his hard rock influenced riffs . The recording sessions saw disputes between band members , mainly because many of the band members were dealing with alcohol addiction , or in bassist Dee Dee Ramone 's case , cocaine .

The album begins with two cover songs , and features a third on Side 2 . Lyrics circle various themes , while the structuring of the songs shifted towards hard rock , psychedelic rock . The album was deemed by critics to be an attempt to retreat to the band 's roots and received mostly positive reviews . Subterranean Jungle was not very successful commercially , peaking at number 83 on the US Billboard 200 and failing to chart internationally . The singles released from the album did not chart either . This is the last album by the band to feature Marky Ramone on drums until the 1989 album Brain Drain .

= = Conception = =

Unlike previous albums , Subterranean Jungle shifted the band 's sound output focus towards getting back to their punk rock roots , rather than trying to expand fan @-@ base by releasing more pop @-@ oriented songs . This change is due to guitarist Johnny Ramone obtaining more priority over the style choice . Johnny felt as though the band needed to " be focused and stop worrying about getting played [ on the radio ] and just make a good record . " Since lead singer Joey Ramone was not given as much stylistic freedom , the album lacks the sense of pop @-@ influence which previous releases had contained and instead was shaped mostly by Johnny 's hard rock background .

Johnny obtained more control over the musical style because the band members experienced conflict amongst themselves , specifically rooted in each member ? excluding Johnny ? facing issues with addiction . Both Joey and drummer Marky Ramone were dealing with alcoholism , while bassist Dee Dee Ramone was severely addicted to cocaine and was undergoing psychotherapeutic treatment . Since the Ramones ' previous two releases had producers which proved disappointing to the members , they were skeptical of the upcoming producer ; this would be Ritchie Cordell , with whom they also had issues with . Marky relates : " I hated the production , I hated the producer . "

The artwork for Subterranean Jungle features an image of the band inside a subway car . The photograph was taken by George DuBose at the subway station on 57th Street and Sixth Avenue in Manhattan . This cover concept was deemed by Dubose , who suggested that since the B Sixth Avenue Express train stopped at the empty station for about 20 minutes . In the photograph , Marky is featured peering out the subway window ? Marky was positioned this way after Johnny asked DuBose to do so because " they were kicking him out of the band , but he didn 't know it yet . " Marky recalled that he " liked that shot , but [ he ] knew something was up . "

" I was lying on my bed , watching Kojak when Joey calls me and says , ' Mark , I feel bad about this , but , uh , you can 't be in the band anymore . ' I deserved it . Joey was okay about it , but the others , forget it . No one called me after that . If it was today , Joey would 've said , ' Why don 't we take off for a month and you get sober ? ' But I didn 't want to tell Joey or the band about my being in rehab , because I would 've been admitting my guilt . "

The internal conflicts during recording sessions would cause band members to fire Marky during the album 's recording , consequently substituting him with drummer Billy Rogers on " Time Has Come Today . " Johnny recounts , " We were having trouble with Mark because his drinking problem was really bad . So we did " Time Has Come Today " with a different drummer , Billy Rogers , from Walter Lure 's band . "

= = Compositions and lyrics = =

The album opens with two cover songs ; the first , " Little Bit O ' Soul , " was originally written by John Carter and Ken Lewis and the second , " I Need Your Love , " was first performed by Bobby Dee Waxman . Subterranean Jungle is the first Ramones ' release to begin with a song not written by the band ? this track list structure was criticized by author Everett True , who said that it was " disorientating . " Johnny also thought that the fact that the album featured three covers was a bad idea , saying , " we shouldn 't have , but I was happy with the guitar sound on it . " The album 's third track , " Outsider , " was written by Dee Dee and , in 2002 , it was covered by Green Day on *Shenanigans* . " What 'd Ya Do ? " was track number four , and was described by music journalist Chuck Eddy as " crudely metallic . " Eddy also deemed the next track , " Highest Trails Above , " as " AOR @-@ mystic . " " Somebody Like Me " was called a " full @-@ on rock anthem " by Everett True , who went on to say that the lyrics contained " no @-@ nonsense lines . "

Side B of the album begins with " Psycho Therapy , " which was written by both Johnny and Dee Dee ; the song has since grown into one of the most popular Ramones ' song . Dee Dee recalled : " I knew we needed a real ' Ramones song ' for the album , and I knew [ Johnny ] was depressed about how things were going . He needed that song to get excited about the band again . " The next track is another cover song , " Time Has Come Today , " which was originally recorded by the soul music group The Chambers Brothers . The Ramones ' version of the song featured a psychedelic rock influence , and was said by Eddy to have more of a " garage " feel to it , as compared to the original . " My @-@ My Kind of a Girl " was directed specifically toward the band 's female fandom . The lyrics were written by Joey about meeting a girl on 8th Street in Manhattan and wanting to spend his life with her . In *Vanity Fair* , the song was regarded as a " lingering affection for Phil Spector 's pop grandeur . " Dee Dee 's " Time Bomb , " which was track number eleven , was said by True to be " more ridiculous than frightening . " The album concludes with " Everytime I Eat Vegetables It Makes Me Think of You , " which was said by author Todd Anderson to be a " sing along . "

= = Release and reception = =

*Subterranean Jungle* was released by Sire Records in February 1983 . In a contemporary review for *The Village Voice* , music journalist Robert Christgau wrote that despite containing two inferior pieces ( " Highest Trails Above " and " I Need Your Love " ) , the album is " more worthy of an audience than anything they 've done in the ' 80s . " *Stereo Review* magazine strongly recommended it to " headbangers of all ages " as " a textbook Ramones album " whose unintellectual lyrics about mental illness and drug abuse " can actually be refreshing . " The album peaked at number 83 in on the *Billboard* 200 in the US , but failed to chart elsewhere . Neither of the album 's singles ? " Psycho Therapy " and " Time Has Come Today " ? charted .

In a retrospective review for *AllMusic* , author Stephen Thomas Erlewine called *Subterranean Jungle* the band 's " most enjoyable record since *Rocket to Russia* , " and said that the producers " steered the Ramones back toward the ' 60s pop infatuation that provided the foundation for their early records . " He ended his review by stating that it may not be defined as the " strictest sense " of punk rock ; however , he strongly suggested that the band had not sounded so " alive " since their earlier days . Douglas Wolk , writing in *The Rolling Stone Album Guide* ( 2004 ) , was less enthusiastic and called it an " attempt at radio @-@ friendly production , " with a series of cover songs that " almost recasts the group as an oldies act . " In a 2004 interview for *New York* magazine , Johnny Ramone graded the album a " B " and said that he was pleased with its guitar sound , despite the three cover songs , while remarking " I was watching the *Brewers @-@ Cardinals* World Series when we were recording it . "

= = Track listing = =

The following track listing can be verified through the *Subterranean Jungle* expanded edition liner notes .

= = Personnel = =

The following credits are adapted from AllMusic .

Ramones

Joey Ramone ? lead vocals ( all but track 11 )

Johnny Ramone ? Lead guitar

Dee Dee Ramone ? bass guitar , backing vocals , lead vocals on track 11

Marky Ramone ? drums ( all but track 8 )

Additional musicians

Walter Lure - extra guitar

Billy Rogers - drums on track 8

Production

Ritchie Cordell ? producer

Glen Kolotkin ? producer

Ron Cote ? engineer

George DuBose ? photography

Tony Wright ? cover art