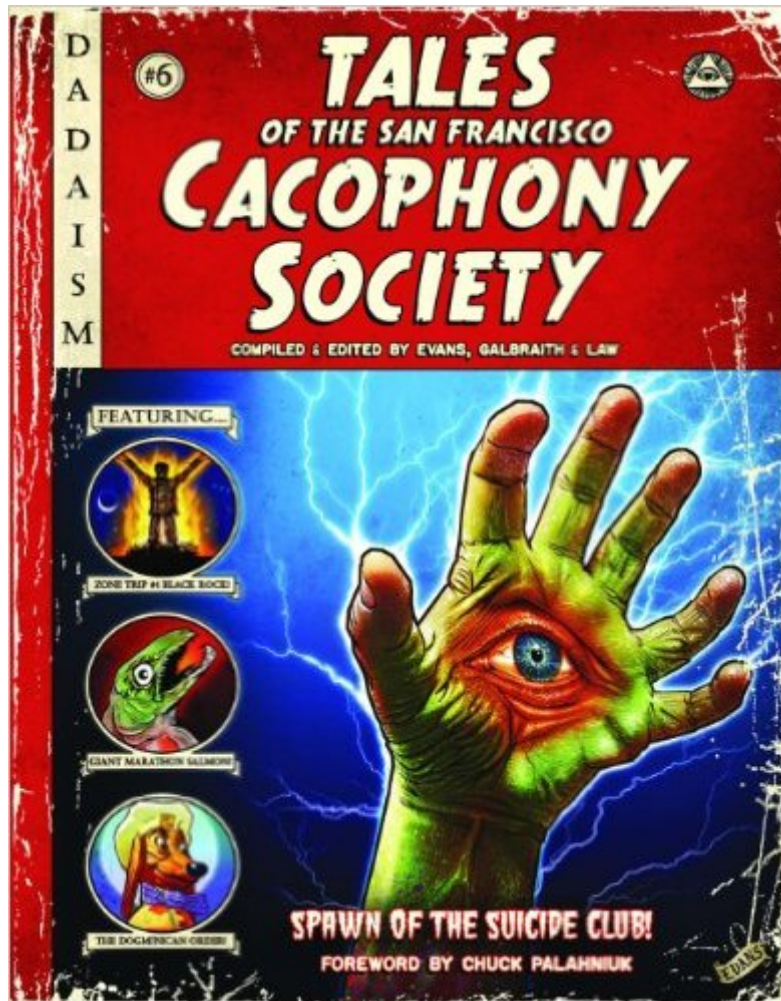


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Tales Of The San Francisco Cacophony Society



Synopsis

This book will prove to be a template for pranksters, artists, adventurers and anyone interested in rampant creativity, for years to come. Tales Of The San Francisco Cacophony Society is a retelling in period images and words of the history of the most influential underground cabal that you have never heard of. Rising from the ashes of the mysterious and legendary Suicide Club, The Cacophony Society, at its zenith, hosted chapters in over a dozen major cities, and influenced much of what was once called the underground. Flash Mobs, Urban Exploration, and Culture Jamming are a few of the pop culture trends that Cacophony helped kick off. Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club, Burning Man and Internet social networking powerhouse Laughing Squid were informed and inspired by Cacophony. The Burning Man Festival actually began as a Cacophony event as did the annual, and now world-wide SantaCon. Cacophony events could range from something as simple as climbing the Golden Gate Bridge or having a discussion over drinks about a movie seen together, to something as elaborate as The Atomic Caf  - an event involving a hundred bedraggled "nuclear holocaust Survivors"; mounting elaborate costumed rituals throughout the bowels of a massive abandoned tooth paste factory. Yes  . Cacophony was that strange. Cacophony's heyday was concurrent with the rise of the internet. The story of this group is of historical significance for this reason. Information about upcoming pranks, street theater and other events hosted by Cacophony was spread by paper flyers posted on telephone poles and left in coffee shops, by the Societies mailer "Rough Draft"; and by word of mouth. Then, with the genesis of personal computing and social networking, the jokers, artists and troublemakers of Cacophony were among some of the first non-geeks to explore the power of this new and world changing way of communicating. Burning Man, Urban Exploration, flash mobs and the like were avenues of creativity with their roots in Cacophony, that spread like wildfire through the mechanism of these new communication technologies. This book is a large format, full color, hardbound homage to this protean group. Tales of San Francisco Cacophony is replete with original art, never before published photographs, original documents, incredulous news accounts and is beautifully laid out by Carrie Galbraith with color illustrations by Kevin Evans and end plates by noted artist and Cacophonist Winston Smith.

Book Information

Hardcover: 300 pages

Publisher: Last Gasp (May 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0867197749

ISBN-13: 978-0867197747

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #374,615 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #119 in [Books > Arts &](#)

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Customer Reviews

Full disclosure - I was a very small part of some of the events mentioned in this book, and am a contributor, so I'm obviously a bit biased..... that said, this tome fills in some of the cultural cracks that have appeared over the last 20 years or so - Cacophony turns out to be the secret glue between Burning Man, FIGHT CLUB, flash mobs, media pranks, EXTREME sports, and probably many, many more cultural niches. Until now, Cacophony has been an open secret; not completely unknown, but a part of another story... just look at the various books and articles that've been written about Burning Man over the past decade. Thankfully, due to the efforts of Brer Law, Brer Evans and Sister Galbraith, who opened up their vaults and memories, and beat the bushes for other Cacophonists to do likewise, we now have this thick (but somehow, still too short) history of Cacophony - from its origins in The Suicide Club (like the Cacophony Society, but smaller and even more badass than Cacophony) to the start of Cacophony and how it gradually evolved through the 90's to the present day. Obviously, even 320 pages isn't even enough to contain every single event, although the editors do their best to give a good representation - obviously those interested in Burning Man will grab copies (and be thoroughly schooled in the real history of How It Came To Be); there's also Santacon, Zone Trips, Atomic Cafes, The Great Car Hunt, Let Them Eat Cake, Moonlight Walks, Midnight Sewer Tours... and even more events that I had no idea of at the time! If there's any real criticism to be thrown their way, it's that it's NOT NEARLY ENOUGH!

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