

THE BALLROOM

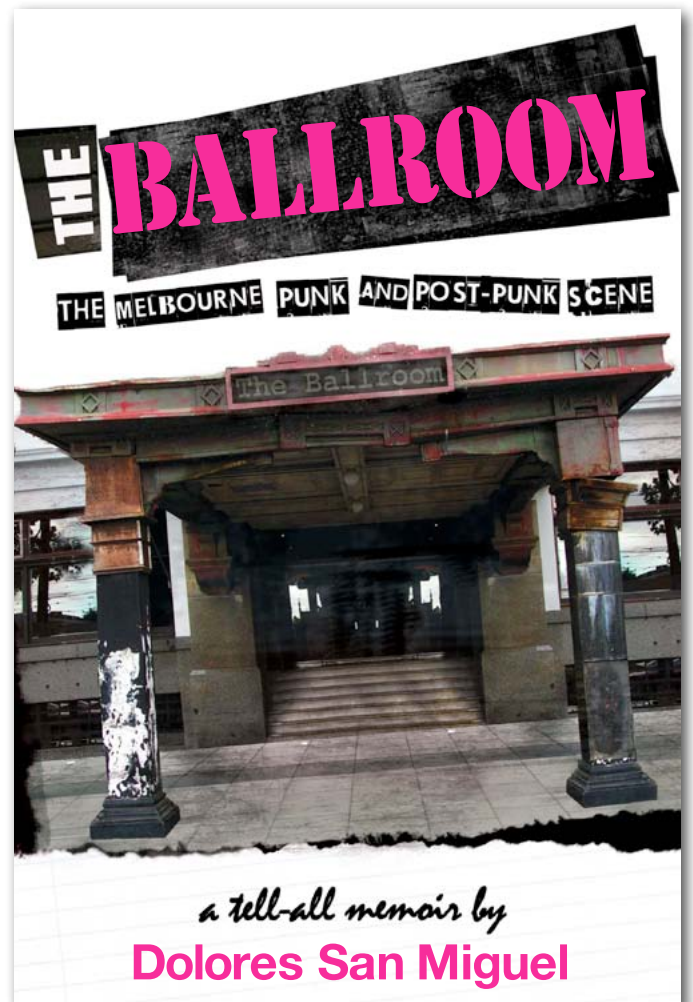
The Melbourne Punk and Post-punk Scene
a tell-all memoir by **Dolores San Miguel**

The Ballroom is a brutally frank memoir of what has become known as one of the most pivotal, fascinating and influential periods of Australian musical and cultural history. The story is illustrated with original flyers and candid photos, some never before seen or published.

The scene: St. Kilda, Melbourne in the late 70s. It was here amongst the prostitutes, drunks and junkies that a music venue was born, a venue that would soon become the pulse of punk and new wave music in Australia. Melbourne's most famous and infamous musicians, artists, filmmakers and fashion designers such as Nick Cave, Hunters and Collectors, Richard Lowenstein, Sam Sejavka, Howard Arkley and Alannah Hill gathered on a weekly basis during their formative years. Internationally acclaimed acts such as Iggy Pop, The Cure, INXS and Johnny Rotten also performed there.

“ I started the Ballroom on a whim born of serendipity in 1978. Soon I was booking the bands, partying with the players, pursuing and being pursued by the musicians and movers and groovers of the era. I saw it all. My memoir is a candid view of the times, the tragedies and the triumphs from international stardom to suicides, and is intermingled with anecdotes from former patrons and personalities.

By the end of the millennium I had spiralled into a chasm of anxiety, self-harm, and substance abuse. It took a newfound



confidence to pick up the pieces, dust myself off and return to the music fray in 2004. All I found, however, was a new set of faces with the same old tricks. I learnt that this was it. This was rock n' roll. And I had come full circle. ”

Includes introduction by Dr Lisa Dethridge(RMIT) and contributions from many other Ballroom identities.

Published by **Melbourne Books**
www.melbournebooks.com.au
Large format paperback
244 pages 16 photo pages

RRP: \$29.95 ISBN: 9781877096419
Launch: November 2011
For all queries, please contact:
info@melbournebooks.com.au
Trade distribution by Dennis Jones & Associates