



## **Dub7 was also the first rock band ever to play at Storyville and then the last rock band to ever play at Storyville. What is known?**

Based on the comprehensive research, here's what is known about Dub7's unique distinction as both the first and last rock band to play at Boston's legendary Storyville nightclub:

### **Storyville's Jazz Legacy**

Storyville was originally one of Boston's most prestigious jazz venues, established by George Wein in 1950 and named after New Orleans' famous red-light district where jazz originated. From 1950-1960, it hosted jazz luminaries including Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Dave Brubeck, and Sarah Vaughan. The original club moved between several locations including the Copley Square Hotel, Hotel Buckminster in Kenmore Square, and finally the Bradford Hotel on Tremont Street before closing in 1960. <sup>[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6]</sup>

### **The Rock Era: 1982-1984**

After more than two decades, Storyville was revived in the early 1980s at 645 Beacon Street in Kenmore Square, but this time as a rock venue rather than a jazz club. This marked a dramatic departure from its jazz heritage, reflecting Boston's vibrant post-punk and alternative rock scene of the early 1980s. <sup>[3] [6] [7] [8]</sup>

### **Dub7's Historic Bookends**

Dub7 holds the remarkable distinction of being both the first rock band to perform at Storyville when it reopened for rock music in 1982, and the last rock band to play there before the venue ceased hosting live music in 1984. This effectively means they bookended the entire rock era of this storied venue. <sup>[9] [10]</sup>

During the brief two-year period between Dub7's opening and closing performances, Storyville hosted a diverse array of notable rock and alternative acts including:

- The Del Fuegos<sup>[6] [7] [3]</sup>
- Bush Tetras<sup>[7] [3] [6]</sup>
- 'Til Tuesday<sup>[3] [6] [7]</sup>
- Barrence Whitfield & the Savages<sup>[6] [7] [3]</sup>
- Violent Femmes<sup>[7] [3] [6]</sup>
- The Feelies<sup>[11]</sup>

- Sonic Youth<sup>[11]</sup>
- Lyres<sup>[11]</sup>
- David Thomas and the Pedestrians<sup>[12]</sup>

## Context and Significance

This period coincided with Dub7's evolution from their earlier incarnation as 007, as they adopted a more dub-influenced and experimental sound while maintaining their post-punk roots. The venue's location in Kenmore Square placed it in the heart of Boston's music scene, near other legendary venues like The Rathskeller (The Rat).<sup>[2] [10] [13] [9]</sup>

The timing of Dub7's final performance at Storyville in 1984 aligns with their participation in the WBCN Rock 'n' Roll Rumble that same year, representing the peak of their mainstream visibility before the band began to fade from regular radio play and public attention.<sup>[10] [9]</sup>

## Legacy

Dub7's unique position as both the alpha and omega of Storyville's rock era represents a fascinating footnote in Boston music history—a genre-defying band that literally opened and closed a chapter in the life of one of the city's most historically significant music venues. This distinction adds another layer to their already notable place in Boston's early 1980s post-punk scene, where they were known for their sophisticated live shows and genre-blending approach that incorporated punk, ska, dub, and R&B influences.<sup>[9] [10]</sup>

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