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Dennis Dunaway book talk, signing, and music performance at Strand Books

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Alice Cooper co-founder and bassist Dennis Dunaway spoke about his memoir “**Snakes! Guillotines! Electric Chairs!: My Adventures in The Alice Cooper Group**,” which was released, in the Rare Book Room at the Strand Book Store in Greenwich Village last night. He took questions from the capacity crowd, before playing four songs with his band Blue Coupe — former Blue Öyster Cult members Joe Bouchard and Albert Bouchard. He then autographed copies of his book for a long line of fans.

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15 photos](#)

performed "I'm 18," "No More Mr. Nice Guy," and "Don't Fear the Reaper" at the Strand Book Store in Greenwich Village, on 6/9/15.
Leslie Feffer

After a quick discussion with former “Rolling Stone” writer Chris Hodenfield, the 2011 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee read aloud a brief passage from his book. He then fielded questions from fans, covering a wide range of topics, such as his late bandmate Glen Buxton, what it was like dating (then marrying) another bandmate’s sister, and had a sentimental exchange with the son of Alice Cooper’s co-manager, Joe Greenberg.

One question from the audience was whether the stories that **George Burns and Groucho Marx** used

to be backstage at Alice Cooper shows, and that the comedy legends compared the theatrics of the band to vaudeville were true. “That happened when we were in Los Angeles, and I could see that because there’s a lot of vaudeville in what we did. A lot of Vincent Price, a lot of vaudeville,” he said. “Those guys were showmen, and that’s what we wanted to be.”

Dunaway also spoke about playing rock concert promoter Bill Graham’s Fillmore Auditoriums (one in the East Village, the other in San Francisco) — and how much the impresario did not like the band. “I can’t even tell you what he would say whenever we were around,” the bassist said, laughing. He spoke about how Graham refused to ever list Alice Cooper as headliners, insisting on making them “Special Guests.”

“He said early on ‘Your name will never be at the top of the bill!’ and we’re like ‘OK, we’re closing the show and the other bands are opening, so what are we doing here?’” the bassist **recounted**. He then spoke about the current lack of that type of music venue and how much Graham loved music — “He just didn’t care for theatrics.”

After a half hour, his Blue Coupe bandmates joined him to play a 20-minute set comprised of Alice Cooper and Blue Öyster Cult hits, with back-up singers Tish and Snooky, who own **Manic Panic** (a punk clothing and hair color shop, originally located on St. Marks Place in the East Village). Video clips of the mini-concert are [here](#) and [here](#).

SUGGESTED LINKS

- [John Lydon book discussion and signing at the Strand Book Store](#)
- [Scott Ian book talk and signing at Strand Books](#)
- [Richard Hell book reading and talk at Strand Bookstore](#)
- [Lower East Side Film Fest with Beach Boys’ Mike Love as a judge coming soon](#)
- [NYC classic rock locations: Fillmore East](#)



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