

## JFA (band)

**JFA** (**Jodie Foster's Army**) is an American hardcore punk band formed in 1981, with roots in Arizona and in Southern California skateboard culture. The original members include Brian Brannon (vocals), Don "Redondo" Pendleton (guitar), Michael Cornelius (bass), and Mike "Bam-Bam" Sversvold (drums). Alan Bishop of Sun City Girls also played bass for a time. The band was pivotal in the development of the skate punk and Skate Rock scenes. Over the years, the lineup has included many bass players and drummers but the core of Brannon and Redondo has remained constant.<sup>[1]</sup>

## History

### Establishment

JFA was formed in April 1981, 19 days after the failed attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan by John Hinckley Jr.<sup>[2]</sup> Hinckley, an obsessed fan of Jodie Foster and her portrayal of a teen prostitute in the 1976 Martin Scorsese film *Taxi Driver*, reportedly attempted to kill the President as a means of impressing the actress.<sup>[3]</sup> The band's name was thus a dark play on Hinckley's attempt at murdering Reagan — a hated figure in the early 1980s punk rock scene.

Don Pendleton, then in the band The Deez, and Cornelius, then in the band Jr. Chemists, knew each other from shows around Phoenix, Arizona and from skateboarding. They began playing together after a D.O.A. concert during the band's *Hardcore 81* tour. Bam-Bam later joined after meeting Pendleton at an "Industrial Dance" in Phoenix. Brian Brannon was pulled into the band by Cornelius who met him skateboarding and at punk shows.

The band's first show was opening for Black Flag at an Industrial Dance which was one of a series of early Phoenix punk shows. Their first song of the night was "Pipetruck", which combined elements of "Police Truck" by The Dead Kennedys and "Pipeline" by The Chantays.

As of 1984 all members of the band were from Arizona, except Pendleton (Huntington Beach, CA) and Cornelius (Bethesda, MD).<sup>[4]</sup>

### Recording history

JFA	
Origin	Phoenix, Arizona; Southern California, U.S.
Genres	Skate punk, hardcore punk
Years active	1981–present
Labels	<u>DC-Jam Records</u>
Members	Brian Brannon <p>Don Pendleton</p> Corey Stretz <p>Jamie Reidling</p>
Past members	Michael Cornelius <p>Mike "Bam-Bam" Sversvold</p> Alan Bishop <p>Scott Chazan</p> Bob Cox <p>Brian Damage</p> Joel DuBois <p>Trace Element</p> Matt Etheridge <p>Jim Moore</p> Al Penzone <p>Jaime Reidling</p> Bruce Taylor <p>Mike Tracy</p> Todd Barnes (deceased)

Placebo Records released their debut EP *Blatant Localism* in late 1981. The band toured the west extensively and played many local shows. Their first national tour was in the summer of 1983 following the release of their first album *Valley of the Yakes*.<sup>[5]</sup>

The original bassist, Michael Cornelius, left the band in the summer of 1984 prior to the nine-week summer '84 tour. Alan Bishop of labelmates Sun City Girls played bass until Cornelius returned for the 1986 release *Nowhere Blossoms*.

The band received continuing coverage in the influential skateboard magazine *Thrasher* during the 1980s. Brannon appeared on the April 1987 cover of *Thrasher* riding backside at the Love Bowl in Phoenix, Arizona.<sup>[6]</sup> He also appeared on the cover of the April 1989 issue grinding a fakie layback thruster on the edge of the pipe at Thrasherland Skatepark in Glendale, Arizona.<sup>[7]</sup> In 1990, Brannon took a full-time position as staff writer at *Thrasher* and eventually became music editor and art director of the magazine until he left in 1997. Throughout the 1980s, Brannon, Pendleton and Cornelius were *Thrasher* freelance contributors of articles and photographs.

Brian Brannon holds the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy Reserve.

## Current lineup

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- Brian Brannon – vocals, piano, organ
- Don "Redondo" Pendleton – guitar
- Corey Stretz – bass
- Jamie Reidling – drums

## Discography

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- *Blatant Localism* 7", Placebo (1981)
- *Valley of the Yakes* LP, Placebo (1983)
- *Untitled* LP, Placebo (1984)
- *Mad Gardens* 12", Placebo (1984)
- *Live 1984 Tour* LP, Placebo (1985)
- *My Movie* 7", Placebo (1986)
- *Nowhere Blossoms* LP, Placebo (1988)
- *Lightnin' Storm/People's Revolutionary Party* 7", Buzzkill (1991)
- *Camp Out/Travels With Charlie* 7", Spontaneous Combustion (1995)
- *Secret Agent Man Split* 7" with Jack Killed Jill, NRA (1996)
- *Only Live Once* CD, Hurricane (1999)
- *We Know You Suck* CD, Alternative Tentacles (2003)
- *Live in Chicago* 7" with the Faction, Spontaneous Combustion (2003)
- *To All Our Friends* LP, DC-Jam (2009)
- *Speed of Sound* CD, DC-Jam (2012)

## UK releases

- *Untitled* 12", Fundamental UK

- *Valley of the Yakes 12"*, Fundamental UK

## Music videos

- Live at CBGB's (1984)
- Pipetruck (1984)
- Wilson (2010)
- Danny Sargent's Trucks (2010)
- Skateboard Anarchy (2014)

## Compilations

- *16 Hi-Fi Hits*, vinyl, DC-Jam
- *All the Rage, Volume 2*, GMD
- *All the Rage 2000*, GMD
- *Amuck*, Placebo
- *Best of Flipside*, Flipside
- *Best of Rodney on the ROQ*, Poshboy
- *Best of Smoke 7*, Bomp
- *Bite the Bullet*, Know
- *Blazing Wheels & Barking Trucks, Skate Rock No. 2*, High Speed
- *Born to Skate, Skate Rock No. 4*, High Speed
- *Buried Alive*, Smoke 7
- *Concrete Waves*, Disaster Records
- *Eastern Front*, Enigma/Eastern Front
- *Explicit Skate Rock, Skate Rock No. 10*, High Speed
- *Flipside Vinyl Fanzine*, Flipside
- *For the Kids*, Together
- *High Rollers*, AZPX
- *Meathouse*, cassette-only, Version Sound
- *More Coffee for the Politicians*, Placebo
- *Old Skars & Upstarts*, Disaster
- *Phenis*, Phenis Fanzine
- *Pogo Strut Slam Swivel & Mosh*, Devil Doll
- *Rat Music for Rat People, Vol. 2 (CD Presents, 1984)*
- *Rodney on the ROQ, Volume 2*, Poshboy
- *Scene Killer*, Outsider
- *Sudden Death*, Smoke 7
- *This is Phoenix, Not the Circle Jerks*, Placebo
- *Thrasher Magazine Skate Rock No. 1*, High Speed
- *VMLive, Series 2/Volume 2*, VML
- *We Got Power*, Mystic
- *Workers Comp*, Recess

- *Hardcore Breakout USA 1,2,3,...*, (New Red Archives 2004)

## Soundtracks

- Damage, Think Skateboards Video (Phil Shao and Tim McKenney parts)
- Griptape and Gasoline, Duke Video
- High Rollers, AZPX
- Hitting the Streets, Thrasher Magazine Video
- Label Live!, Black Label Skateboards Video
- Mt. Baldy Pipe segment, Bluetorch TV
- Nude Bowl segment, Bluetorch TV
- Pow Wow at Powell II, NSA Skate Video
- Risk It, Santa Cruz Skate Video
- Skatopia, Speed-Line Productions
- Speed Freaks, Santa Cruz Speed Wheels Video
- Strange Notes - Son! Get Down From There!, Santa Cruz Skateboards
- Wheels of Fire, Santa Cruz Speed Wheels Video

## Video games

- *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4*

## Skateboards

- Brian Brannon Signature Model by AZPX Skateboards (<http://www.azpx.com/brian-brannon-signature-model-v2-0-viejo-guerrero-series-deck/>)
- JFA Boards by Factory 13
- JFA Skateboards by Placebo Products (1980s)

## See also

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- Ronald Reagan in music

## References

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1. Vincent Jeffries, "JFA Biography" (<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/jfa-mn0000119821/biography>) AllMusic.
2. "JFA," *Flip Side Fanzine*, whole no. 31 (April 1982), p. 28.
3. Douglas O. Linder, "The Trial of John Hinckley: Taxi Driver," (<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/hinckley/taxidriver.htm>) University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, 2002.
4. Eager, Wendy (1984). "J.F.A." (<https://archive.org/details/GUILLOTINENumber8JacksonHeightsNY/page/n11/mode/1up>) *Guillotine* (8) – via Internet Archive.
5. Tom Reardon, "Placebo Records and the Story of Phoenix's Wild Early Punk Scene: An Oral History" (<https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/music/placebo-records-phoenix-early-punk-scene-oral-history-jfa-mighty-sphincter-11488462>) Phoenix New Times Weekly.

6. *Thrasher Magazine, April 1987* (<https://www.thrasher magazine.com/articles/magazine/april-1987/>)
7. *Thrasher Magazine, April 1989* (<https://www.thrasher magazine.com/articles/magazine/april-1989/>)

## External links

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- [Official JFA web site \(http://www.jfamusic.com\)](http://www.jfamusic.com)
  - [Maximumrocknroll Interview \(https://web.archive.org/web/20100315153849/http://www.operationphoenixrecords.com/maximumrocknrolljfa.html\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20100315153849/http://www.operationphoenixrecords.com/maximumrocknrolljfa.html) - JFA interview from 1983 (archived copy from March 15, 2010, retrieved from Internet Archive January 18, 2018)
  - [Scanner zine interview \(http://www.scannerzine.com/jfainterview.htm\)](http://www.scannerzine.com/jfainterview.htm) - December 2009
  - [1984 Guillotine Fanzine Interview \(https://archive.org/details/GUILLOTINENumber8JacksonHeightsNY/page/n11/mode/2up/\)](https://archive.org/details/GUILLOTINENumber8JacksonHeightsNY/page/n11/mode/2up/) - The Ragged Edge Collection @ Archive.org
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