



## **MARK "WEISSGUY" WEISS**

Mark Weiss is an American rock music photographer that lived, rocked and photographed the 80's. His most widely recognized photographs capture the look and aesthetic of music and celebrity personalities of the 1980s. His work with publications such as Circus magazine and FACES helped establish Mark "Weissguy" Weiss as a name known for rock photography. He has photographed a wide range of acts including the Rolling Stones, Kiss, Madonna and Wu Tang Clan.

Mark was raised by the Jersey Shore and in 1974 at the age of 14 he made a deal with a neighbor to cut his lawn all summer in exchange for a 35 mm camera. Mark filled his teenage nights sneaking into concerts to shoot the biggest rock stars of the era, and then selling his photos for a buck a piece out of his high school locker and outside concert venues.

After getting arrested outside a KISS concert at Madison Square Garden in 1977 he walked into the offices of Circus magazine with his portfolio. The timing was perfect; the art director needed Aerosmith pictures, and Mark had them. His first published work was a Circus centerfold of Steven Tyler. Soon after, Mark was hired as a staff photographer at the magazine, shooting covers and features.

Weiss quickly developed relationships with musicians and their managers and became immersed in the burgeoning rock scene. He played an active role in creating the visual imagery of heavy metal and glam rock, as these styles of music began to gain radio airplay, eventually topping the charts and packing stadiums worldwide. Major acts and record labels contracted Weiss for photography and art direction, and many albums to

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which he contributed went on to multi-platinum sales. Weiss became tour photographer for numerous artists of the era, including Ozzy Osbourne, Mötley Crüe, Poison, Metallica, Twisted Sister and others. His material is also syndicated internationally in books, magazines, and licensed merchandising.

Ozzy Osbourne has said of the photographer: “I’ve known Mark Weiss since he was a teenager. He was relentless in the pursuit of his art. Mark would knock on my hotel door all hours of the day and night wanting to take photos. He definitely had—and still has—the rock and roll spirit.”