

James Spooner – Author. Illustrator. Tattoo Artist. Punk Rocker

LONG BIO

James Spooner is an award-winning author, graphic novelist, filmmaker, and tattoo artist. His new book, *It Starts with Anger* (Pantheon, August 4), is a hybrid prose and comics memoir chronicling his journey from the punk underground through the founding of a global movement. His debut graphic novel, *The High Desert*, was named a Best Book of 2022 by Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post, and the New York Public Library, and received the American Library Association's Alex Award and the Cartoonist Studio Prize. He is also the co-editor of *Black Punk Now*, named one of the top music books of 2023 by Pitchfork and The Guardian, with a starred review from Kirkus.

Spooner directed the seminal documentary *Afro-Punk*, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and the American Black Film Festival, and co-founded the Afro Punk Festival, which now draws worldwide audiences in the hundreds of thousands. A restored version of *Afro-Punk* is currently in production following a successful Kickstarter campaign.

His work has been featured in NPR, The Los Angeles Times, The New Yorker, Vice, The Village Voice, MTV, NBC News, and Variety. He is a recipient of the ReNew Media Rockefeller Grant, has served as guest curator for the Broad Museum in Los Angeles and the Punk Rock Museum in Las Vegas, and previously programmed for the Brooklyn Academy of Music. James continues to screen *Afro-Punk* and give talks on punk, comics, authorship, and Black identity.

SHORT BIO

James Spooner is an award-winning author, graphic novelist, filmmaker, and tattoo artist. His new book, *It Starts with Anger* (Pantheon, August 4), is a hybrid comics and prose memoir chronicling the Black punk experience from the underground to the global stage. His previous works include the graphic novel *The High Desert* and the anthology *Black Punk Now*. He directed the seminal documentary *Afro-Punk* (2003) and co-founded the Afro Punk Festival, which now draws worldwide audiences in the hundreds of thousands. Always true to his DIY roots, James continues to screen *Afro-Punk* internationally and gives talks on punk, comics, authorship, and Black identity.