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Carmine Appice to speak about his new autobiography at Sheen Center

June 24, 2016

1:40 PM MST



NASHVILLE, TN - MAY 15: (EDITORS NOTE: Image has been converted to black and white) Carmine Appice joins R.A.T.S. (Rock Against Terrorism) during Music Biz 2016 at Renaissance Hotel on May 15, 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Photo by Rick Diamond/Getty Images

Few rock stars are revered as legends among their peers. One of those few is [Carmine Appice](#), whose nearly 50-year career as a rock drummer has included stints with [Vanilla Fudge](#), [Rod Stewart](#), and [Ozzy Osbourne](#), among many others.

Fortunately for fans, the iconic musician's recently released (May 1) autobiography, "[Stick It! My Life of Sex, Drums, and Rock 'n' Roll](#)" is a wide-ranging look at his life and career. With the wealth of inside information about the rock world in the book, he finds that fans are most interested in certain anecdotes. "I get asked about Rod [Stewart] stories a lot," Appice told the Examiner.com. "And I've been asked about the Prince story lately, because he just passed away." When Prince was starting out in the music business, he stayed in a house which Appice partially owned and their paths crossed.

The 256-page book opens with the recounting of what it was like to be on tour with Ozzy Osbourne during the US leg of his "Bark at the Moon" tour in 1984. Appice pulls no punches as he describes what it was like to be harassed by, have his merchandise sabotaged by, and ultimately be fired in the middle of the tour by Osbourne's famously overbearing wife/manager, Sharon.

Fortunately, most of the stories from Appice's half-century career are more positive.

One memory he shared with the Examiner.com was about a pre-fame [Jimi Hendrix](#), who went by the stage name Jimmy James in the mid-1960s. "Funny enough, we played in a club on 77th and Broadway, and it was called The Lighthouse. In those days, this area was like [1971 movie] "Panic in Needle Park." It was really bad — full of drug addicts and prostitutes and everything," Appice recalled. "We were playing at this club, my band and his band, and during some of the breaks, we hang out together. We'd go up to this apartment where this prostitute lived, we'd be smoking some marijuana and talking about maybe one day making it, and getting out of these horrible clubs. I mean, it was like 20 people there [in the club]. The next time I saw him was in London — I was in Vanilla Fudge and he was Jimi Hendrix. I reminded him of that night in the hooker's apartment, which he actually remembered. He said 'What are you doing here?' and I said 'I play with Vanilla Fudge' and he said 'Oh, I love the Fudge! You guys got a lot of soul!'"

Although Appice's celebrated/illustrious career has taken him around the world and to dizzying heights of fame, the Brooklyn-born rocker remains a New Yorker. "I've gotta say that Radio City [Music Hall] was pretty impressive to play. It has a really great sound," he said. "When you play Madison Square [Garden], it's just a big barn like all those arenas. You can't see the people, you just see the first 30 rows and the rest is all black. But at Radio City, you can actually see the whole audience. It's probably one of my favorite places to play." He only played there once, in 2007 with Vanilla Fudge.

Throughout his extensive career, Appice has inspired countless drummers — such as [Phil Collins](#) (Genesis), [Roger Taylor](#) (Queen), [John Bonham](#) (Led Zeppelin), and [Tommy Lee](#) (Motley Crue), among many others. He long admired [Buddy Rich](#) and wound up becoming close friends with the acclaimed jazz drummer after they met in 1981, when Rich was a judge at the second [Carmine Appice Drum Off](#) competition in Los Angeles. "It was always known that Buddy Rich never liked rock drummers," Appice said. "[That day] I got to meet with him, played with him, and then he was playing at Disneyland that night.

We flew in a helicopter together to Disneyland [with a local news crew] and during a tv report that went nationwide, Buddy turned to the camera and said 'This is my friend, Carmine Appice. He's a great rock drummer. But what do I know?' So my manager used that line — 'Buddy Rich's favorite rock drummer' — to open up every interview that I did."

The legendary rock drummer is looking forward to sharing more memories and answering fans' questions at an event at The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture (18 Bleecker Street) on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m. This will be the second in a new series at The Sheen Center — "[Hit Makers: Music Icons In Performance and Conversation with Valerie Smaldone](#)." A renowned radio host and interviewer, Smaldone is a good friend of Appice and his girlfriend, Leslie Gold. Tickets are available [here](#) for \$25 apiece.

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