

musicians

Brothers Frank and Vince Rogala and Robin Canada created NC-17 in 1990. Ready to go at the onset of the alternative movement, NC-17 set out on a mission to write and record a collection of powerful new rock songs without the use of a guitar. After months of writing and rewriting, recording and re-recording, NC-17 completed its debut album "The Happiest Place On Earth." Using a distorted Rhodes to take up the sonic territory left by the absence of guitar, and adding a slew of non-standard instrumentation, effects and recording tricks, "The Happiest Place On Earth" set the unique tone that is NC-17.

Shortly after the completion of "Happiest..." the group sought out a bass player for its live show, and was introduced to Ron Perron through a mutual friend. With Ron on bass, NC-17 played a handful of shows in Hollywood clubs. A few months later, Ron introduced the band to his own former band mate Chuck Hohn when the band found itself in need of a live sound engineer. Chuck did sound for a few shows and then made the switch to become NC-17's drummer, with whom the band then continued its steady Hollywood show schedule.

In early 1992, NC-17 was selected to appear on Rock America, a video program produced and directed by Dov Kelemer. The band performed a number of songs on the show, and more importantly built a friendship with Dov, who subsequently directed two videos for NC-17 and is currently completing a feature length documentary about the band.

Violinist Robert Anthony Aviles hooked up with NC-17 later in 1992 when he, Chuck, Ron and Robin were invited to play together for a showcase at the Troubadour to back up a singer. Robert fronted (and still now performs with) his own band called Insight, which had been a winner on Star Search a few years before. The band quickly integrated Robert and his unique style into its already distinct sound, and began work on "Hellhead" and "Inside/Outside," two important recordings that marked the next step in the evolution of NC-17.

In 1993 NC-17 completed an EP entitled "Hellhead" containing both "Hellhead" and "Inside/Outside." Those two cuts, along with the "Hellhead" video directed by Dov, were licensed to a company for release in Indonesia and a few other Southeast Asian countries. More recordings were licensed there in 1995, and a full album was released.

Seven years later the full-length feature documentary *WON'T ANYBODY LISTEN* (WAL) was finished and the band with director Kelemer recorded the film's score

in the band's Anaheim garage studio. After completing the score the band recorded the album *Listen* that the film documented them writing. *WON'T ANYBODY LISTEN*

WAL's big screen debut at the Hollywood Film Festival was greeted with a standing ovation. The film went on to receive a theatrical release through *Seventh Art Releasing* and received rave reviews and positive notices from *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Variety*, etc. After its theatrical run it was picked up as an official selection of the Sundance Channel. Netflix has acquired exclusive DVD rights to the film and has set a February 2005 release date.

One of the subjects of the film is now making a film. Frank Rogala (lead singer of NC-17), has acquired motion picture rights for the book *Retards, Rebels & Slackers* by Jaina Bell www.jainabell.com. Rogala is currently co-writing the screenplay (*House of Tards* TM) with Bell and producing an audio version of the book with intellectually disabled actors www.houseoftards.com. Rogala describes the screenplay as a dramedy (drama-comedy) that is a cross between *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Animal House*.