



## How did Lawrence LaFerla influence Boston's punk scene in the 1980s

Lawrence LaFerla significantly influenced Boston's punk scene in the 1980s by leading the genre-blending, racially mixed band 007 (later Dub7), whose energetic performances and fusion of punk, ska, dub, R&B, and mod styles inspired a diverse wave of younger local acts.<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>

### Breaking Genre Barriers

LaFerla and 007 introduced a fluid, eclectic approach at a time when most Boston punk bands were slotting into rigid genres like hardcore, post-punk, or power pop. Their live shows stood out for seamlessly incorporating ska rhythms, dub effects, soulful vocals, and sharp pop hooks, which encouraged Boston's underground to move beyond punk orthodoxy and welcome experimentation.<sup>[1] [2] [3]</sup>

### Cultural Impact and Representation

As one of Boston's few racially inclusive bands, 007, led by LaFerla, challenged the predominantly white punk scene, bringing more social consciousness and musical diversity to local stages. Their collaborations and shared bills with influential touring bands, as well as their openness to political and genre-crossing influences, drew audiences from across racial and cultural divides.<sup>[1] [3]</sup>

### Legacy

LaFerla's work with 007 inspired many local musicians to blur genre lines and embrace unorthodox sounds, helping Boston's scene develop a lasting reputation for creativity and authenticity. The band's ability to attract enthusiastic crowds, gain college radio play, and become in-demand openers for national and international acts reflected the broad appeal of their vision. Even decades later, retrospectives credit LaFerla with helping to define the inclusive, artistically adventurous ethos of 1980s Boston punk.



1. <https://007-boston-dub7.com>
2. <https://www.loosenuppwiththekessels.com/larryblog/boston-80s-underground-rock>
3. <https://007-boston-dub7.com/007-Dub7-timeline/>
4. <https://dresshistorians.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/The-Journal-of-Dress-History-Volume-2-Issue-2-Summer-2018.pdf>
5. <https://www.loosenuppwiththekessels.com/larryblog/lawrencelafer-la>

6. <https://lawrencelafer.la>
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steampunk>
8. <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/24c3d06f-a75c-49c4-a084-d354d16f5da8/content>
9. <https://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/17451/1/MRoman - Celebrities At Work - Final Thesis - Oct 2021.pdf>
10. [https://nibmehub.com/opac-service/pdf/read/Designing Clothes Culture and Organization of the Fashion Industry.pdf](https://nibmehub.com/opac-service/pdf/read/Designing_Clothes_Culture_and_Organization_of_the_Fashion_Industry.pdf)