



007 was often seen as second-wave ska revival. Did they influence Boston's third wave of ska?

Boston's 007, often labeled as part of the second-wave ska revival, played an influential—if sometimes underrecognized—role in shaping Boston's third wave of ska.^{[1] [2]}

Direct Influence on Third Wave Ska

007 modeled a hybrid approach that mixed ska grooves with Boston-centric lyrics and a punk-infused delivery, creating a "genre-blending, racially mixed" template for bands that followed. Their performances and recordings in the early 1980s directly preceded the emergence of proto-Bosstones projects; Dicky Barrett and others in what would become the Mighty Mighty Bosstones drew direct inspiration from the style, live energy, and local audience crossover 007 pioneered. The transition from 007's more cosmopolitan, post-punk sensibility to the Bosstones' "ska-core" marked an amplification of that formula: what started as a creative impulse in 007 became a rallying point for the city's next ska and punk fusion wave.^{[2] [1]}

Lasting Legacy

Though 007 was less about "mosh pit energy" and more about uniting Boston's subcultures—hardcore, mods, punks, and ska fans—they helped establish the possibility of a unified, mixed audience gathered around genre collision. This approach laid the foundation for later acts like the Bosstones and Dropkick Murphys, whose success with genre-colliding, crowd-mixing shows is now well-known but traces in part to 007's earlier efforts.^{[1] [2]}

In summary, 007 helped test, refine, and normalize the stylistic and social chemistry that would define Boston's third-wave ska, cementing their influence on the scene's iconic later acts.^{[2] [1]}

✱

1. <https://007-boston-dub7.com>
2. <https://007-boston-dub7.com/007-Dub7-timeline/>
3. <https://007-boston-dub7.bandcamp.com/track/zen-gangsters>
4. <https://www.loosenuppwiththekessels.com>
5. <https://www.loosenuppwiththekessels.com/larryblog/boston-80s-underground-rock>
6. <https://www.musicgateway.com/blog/spotify/best-ska-bands-of-all-time>
7. <https://007-boston-dub7.bandcamp.com/album/007-live-in-boston-and-south-yarmouth-1980-1981-1982>
8. https://www.reddit.com/r/Ska/comments/wmee9h/influential_ska_bands_that_deserve_a_lot_of/

9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycLUYNTnaFQ>