

Homegrown Brainstorms

How did you start working with Bryan Talbot on the Brainstorm series?

In 1972 just after I started Alchemy a young art student came from Preston, Lancashire to see me to buy stock for his small head shop called White Rabbit. He told me he was an artist and asked if I would be interested in publishing his first comic when he finished it, so he hitchhiked down to my flat in Ladbrooke grove and laid out this comic "The adventures of Chester P. Hakenbush". I didn't know anything about underground comics at the time but after reading it I was deeply moved. It was a spiritual Journey and Psychedelic magical trip, so I said I would publish it, and Brainstorm #1 came out on my wedding day in November 1975. I published the Brainstorm trilogy and altogether I published six comics in all. Its now in all the history books on Underground comix and is thought of as the most successful underground comic that existed in Britain.

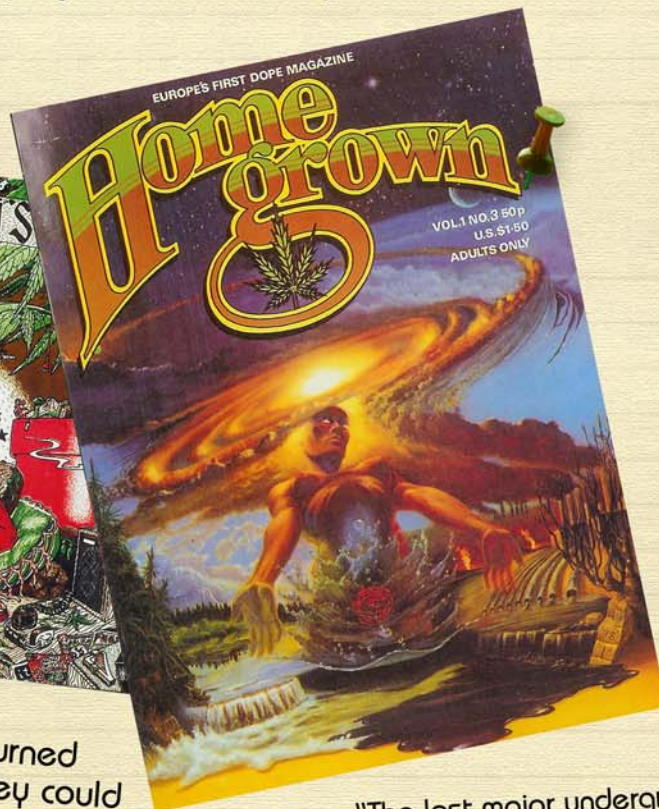
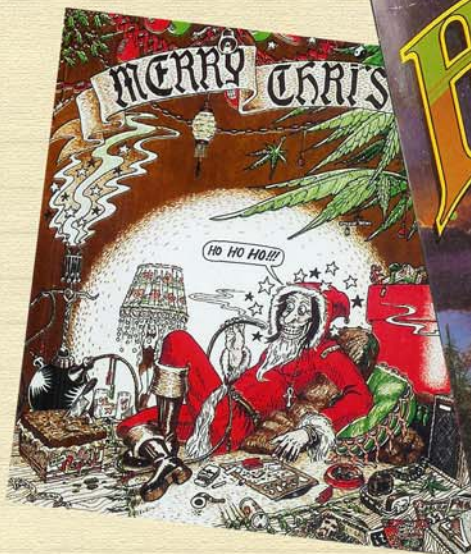
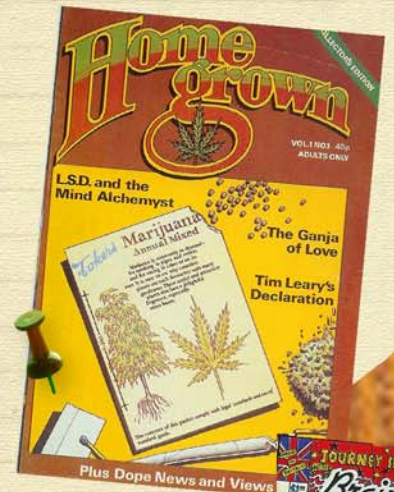


So it was quite influential then?

Oh yes, I remember getting a letter back from Stan Lee who expressed a great compliment, It inspired Neal Gaiman the great comic writer, Allan Moore the creator of V for Vendetta, From Hell and more has said it was very influential to him as a young artist.

What inspired you to publish Home Grown?

It was 1977; ten years after Flower Power and I wanted to celebrate that and I had an idea of doing a magazine about cannabis and it was Europe's first dope magazine. It featured Timothy Leary and all the eminent writers on cannabis at the time so it received world publicity and shocking write ups in the press. It was very difficult to get advertising because it was so beyond its time and in a period of five years I published ten issues which are now collector's items, and I am so pleased to see Stoner magazine as the latest offspring, I feel humbled and proud to read it.



"I got a kick out of it and turned it over to the bullpen so they could bask in the radiance of its magnificence"

Stan Lee - **Marvel Comics**

"The last major underground comic to appear in Britain was Brainstorm Comix"

Nasty Tales - **David Huxley**