

ES

AC/DC

BACK IN BLACK

AC/DC

THEIR ALBUMS & TOURS  
CLASSIFICATION  
CLASSIFICATION  
CLASSIFICATION  
CLASSIFICATION

# SWITCHED-ON AC-DC MAKES

In the very early hours of October 6, 1980,

somewhere between chess in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin, I lost fifty dollars playing poker with AC/DC on their tour bus. For a freelance writer with no expense account, living on unemployment checks, that was a lot of money. For AC/DC — drummer Phil Rudd, bassist Cliff Williams, singer Brian Johnson and founding guitarist and brothers, Angus and Malcolm Young — it was a drop in the pot.

Eight days later, on October 16th, AC/DC's sixth U.S. album, *Back in Black*, was certified platinum; released that July, it was the band's first American million-seller. And in November, a single from the LP, the ballrooming love song "You Shook Me All Night Long," peaked at Number 21 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. AC/DC's first Top Forty score since they started banging their heads and guitars against those shores in 1976.

England, Europe and the group's native Australia already knew that AC/DC — started by the Youngs in 1973 and dedicated to the fundamental joys of rock: riffs, hot-wire choruses and whiplash-wound sexual innuendo — were *Hard Rock in Exile*, the baddest lounge machine in the business.

*Back in Black* made them the biggest too — in America, the final

AUSTRALIAN group AC-DC have created rock history with the release of their new album *Back in Black*.

The LP has soared into Number One position on England's charts after only six days — selling 10,000 copies a day.

AC-DC has four albums in England's Top 10. If You Want Blood (31) Highest Top

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



After considerable speculation, AC/DC are pleased to announce that they have now found a new singer for the group following the tragic death of Bon Scott some weeks ago.

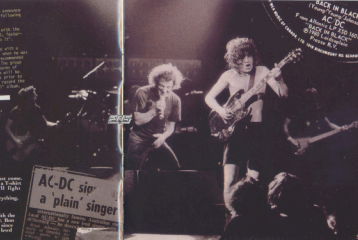
The new singer is Brian Johnson, who was previously with the group Georgia - they had had two Top Twenty hits in 1974, featuring Brian, with "It's Because of You" and "Can You Do It".

Brian, born Jeff outside Newcastle, had been singing with a re-formed line up of Georgia around the North-East, when he was asked to audition for AC/DC last month. Brian was recommended to the group by their producer Robert John Lange. The group felt that Brian fitted in both as a singer and as a member of the band, having now joined the group. Brian will be rehearsing initially with them for the next few weeks prior to going into the studio at the beginning of May to record the follow up to the highly successful "Highway to Hell" album.

and everywhere else. By 1984, *Back in Black* had sold five million copies in the U.S. alone. Today, the tally stands at 19 million. *Back in Black* is officially one of the best-selling rock albums of all time. But in October, 1988, the triumph was still fresh. On the night I lost my fifty dollars, 6,000 AC/DC fans at the Milwaukee Auditorium set a house record for T-shirt and merchandise sales. "They have this intense loyalty," Johnson said of those fans the next day, over breakfast in Madison. "The kids don't want to just come. They want to be part of it. They want a T-shirt that says, 'I like AC/DC,' and I'll fight anybody who says different."

In 1988, after nearly losing everything, AC/DC had won the war.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The story of this album begins with the end of a life. On February 19, 1980, Bon Scott - AC/DC's vocalist and lyricist since 1974; the opening image of the band's hard



AC-DC sip a 'plain' singer

...intentionally James Cameron...  
lead AC/DC has a more...  
...the...  
...of...  
...the...  
...the...



By the time I got home, the album had been released in America. I was a little bit of a fan of AC/DC's music, but I didn't know they were from Perth. I was a little bit of a fan of AC/DC's music, but I didn't know they were from Perth. I was a little bit of a fan of AC/DC's music, but I didn't know they were from Perth.

AC/DC were a very interesting band, with a very unique sound. I was a little bit of a fan of AC/DC's music, but I didn't know they were from Perth. I was a little bit of a fan of AC/DC's music, but I didn't know they were from Perth.



AC/DC

every question a newspaper back - was just dead in London in the box of a car where he had spent the night before, drinking, smoking, and choked on his own vomit in his sleep. He was 33.

Scott was also the boss, well as the heart of AC/DC. Like the Youngs, whose band emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland to Sydney, Australia in the early 1960s, Ross-Bellford Scott was a real Scotsman from the town, Kirriemuir, raised and Aussie skin. First Melbourne, then in the west coast city of Fremantle, and Perth. He had already been pop star in Australia - in a 1960s beat group - Valentines, then in a high-rock band Primal - before he first saw AC/DC perform in Adelaide August, 1974 with original singer Dave Evans. I September, Scott was at a table, imagining the scene in the audience with a microphone charisma, as Melrose played the rhythm section and Angus tore up the boards with his rickety, wobbly guitar. It was a perfect marriage of contrasts, a Scott's death ended it just as a first classic lineup of AC/DC with the Melbourne-born Ray who joined in January of '74 and Williams, an Englishman who arrived in the summer '77 - cracked the gold record



AC/DC  
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Monday 20 July 1981 10.20

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"I didn't even think about the band. We'd been with them all that time we'd seen more of him than his family did." But Angus and Malcolm, who were writing and rehearsing for a new album when Scott died, went right back to work. "I thought, 'Well, fuck this, I've got gonna do around people' all fuckin' year," Malcolm explained. "So I just rang Angus and said, 'Do you wanna come back and rehearse?'" That was two days after Scott's funeral in Fremantle on March 1st. On April 8th, AC/DC announced that they had a new lead singer Brian Johnson.

John Mellencamp  
of the loudest rock  
in the world when  
play in Sydney next

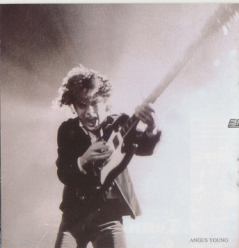
Westwood, then-  
and runner-up meet  
the Eastern Pavilion  
Friday week — the  
right the AC/DC  
group plays at-the  
the Westwood.  
With only a few hun-  
dreds separating the  
arena from the  
group took certain  
through the tunnel.  
AC/DC, according to  
Mellencamp, are the  
most and loudest live-  
ing rock outfit in  
world — capable of  
drawing an audience  
of 80,000 fans.  
The group also has a



Johnson, a  
counsellor's son  
from Newcastle,  
England, who had  
been through a  
decade of labor  
and struggle with  
the British band  
Geordie, not only  
had the pipes but,  
crucially, had Scott's  
stamp of approval.  
Scott once saw  
Johnson in concert  
with Geordie, and  
came away very  
impressed.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Wednesday, February 11, 1981

# Tennis champs in for AC/DC cheer





# AC-DC hits number one

Australian heavy rock group AC-DC has soared to number one on the UK album charts with a new album only six days after its release.

"Back in Black," the group's first album since the death of singer Bon Scott in February, joins three other AC-DC albums in the UK top 100.



For the Youngs, it was like a nod from the beyond. "We knew if Bon liked him, he must be good," Angus said, "because Bon didn't like many people." Johnson was working on a British Leyland assembly line, reading cars, when he got the call. He passed his audition, at AC/DC's rehearsal space in London, by singing the and Tina Turner's "Nutbush City Limits" and "Whole Lotta Love," a Ray Scott showcase from 1977's *Let There Be Rock*.

In mid-April, AC/DC set up shop at Compass Point Studios in the Bahamas, although not without a good flash of warrior attitude. When the band arrived at the airport in Nassau, a customs inspector seized Malcolm's guitar. "Malcolm pulled it off him," Johnson recalled, "and went, 'You fuckin'...'" Fortunately, somebody held him back. We'd just come down to do the album, and he would've ended up in prison.

The next six weeks were all business.

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



...the honors on Highway To Hell and was on his way to becoming one of the most successful console doctors in the recording industry, already knew how to make passionate thunder from the bone-deep simplicity of AC/DC's sound. "With AC/DC, you'd just have Malcolm Young's guitar on one side and Angus' on the other," Lange told me in a 1982 interview. But he notes, "I always thought the guys in AC/DC were masters of slow rock. They could play it half-time and sound so much more powerful." AC/DC were basically a blues band playing with heavy metal might as R&B virtuoso, throwing vocal and guitar lightning over locked, snare mid-temp grooves. With minimal overblending and a attention to raw detail, Lange achieved clarity of attack that preserved the atmosphere of AC/DC's live shows when squeezed through radio speakers.

*Back in Black* was, and still is, marvel of rock & roll synchronicity: a dynamic new lead singer, the first live in the Youngs' still library, of concentrated violence of Angus' guitar breaks production that is once barbarous and bloodgusting.

You don't need the adjective anymore. Heavy Metal Nation knows these hits by heart: the opening clang and lion march of "Hell's Bells," the defiant clank of "Let Me Put My Love In You," the gold-digger put-down "When Do You Get Your Money Honey?" and Johnson's classic back-to-back AC/DC's critics "Back And Forth Ain't No Fashion," which ends with the rock-bottom equation, "Rock & roll is just rock 'n' roll, yeah." AC/DC, on stage and on record, were about a pure exchange of energies between hand and







ANGUS YOUNG, LEAD GUITAR  
MALCOLM YOUNG, GUITAR  
BRIAN JOHNSON, VOCALS  
PHIL RUDY, DRUMS  
CLIFF WILLIAMS, BASS

1. HELLS BELLS (3:09)

2. SHOOT TO THRILL (3:14)

3. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR MONEY HONEY (3:33)

4. GIVIN' THE DOG A BONE (3:30)

5. LET ME PUT MY LOVE INTO YOU (4:12)

6. BACK IN BLACK (4:12)

7. YOU SHOOK ME ALL NIGHT LONG (3:28)

8. HAVE A DRINK ON ME (3:57)

9. SHAKE A LEG (4:03)

10. ROCK AND ROLL AIN'T NOISE POLLUTION (4:12)

All titles A. Young - M. Young - B. Johnson  
All titles published by J. Albert & Son (Pty) Ltd



CD 15

Produced by Robert John "Mutt" Lange

Engineered by Tony Platt  
Assistant Engineers: Jack Newbar, Benji Aronbinder  
Recorded at Conway Point Studios April - May 1981

Mixing Engineer: Brad Samsbock

Albert Productions

Thanks to Keith Evans and Peg Lister for their help in the studio and to the rest of the AC/DC road crew: Ian, John, Mike and Terry. Thanks also to Greg.

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all other digipak photos by Bob Ellis (from original LP)

Additional artwork courtesy Albert Productions and Armand Durieux.

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