



# AC/DC

HELL ON THE WALL



# FLY ON THE WALL

AC/DC EMBARKING ON FIRST U.S. TOUR IN TWO YEARS;  
NEW ALBUM CERTIFIED GOLD

## Staying True To The Denim Brigade: AC/DC's *Fly On The Wall*

It seems ridiculous now, but in 1985, the press and the music industry seemed to be wondering - feebly - whether or not AC/DC's day was done.

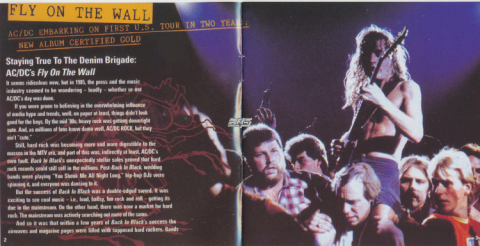
If you were prone to believing in the overwhelming influence of media hype and trends, well, on paper at least, things didn't look good for the boys. By the mid '80s, heavy rock was getting downright nasty. And, as millions of fans know damn well, AC/DC ROCK, but they ain't "cute."

Still, hard rock was becoming more and more dignified to the masses in the MTV era, and part of this was, indirectly at least, AC/DC's own fault. *Back In Black's* unexpectedly stellar sales proved that hard rock records could still sell in the millions. Post-*Back In Black*, wedding bands were playing "You Shook Me All Night Long," hip-hop DJs were spinning it, and everyone was dancing to it.

But the success of *Back In Black* was a double-edged sword. It was exciting to see cool music - i.e., hard, ballsy, hot rock and roll - getting its due in the mainstream. On the other hand, there was now a market for hard rock. The mainstream was actively searching out more of the same.

And so it was that within a few years of *Back In Black's* success the airwaves and magazine pages were filled with ragged hard rockers. Bands

PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]



# WOMEN

## KNOCK OUT!



... and how they ...

AC/DC are just a good rock 'n' roll band. We keep our nose out of politics and everybody else's business and just set down to the matter in hand and make everybody stamp their feet" ... Brian Johnson.

They're not millionaires; they like women, sit and sing and when they walk down the street, no-one ever recognizes them. But that's the very AC/DC way. At least that's what Georgia-born, lead-singer, Brian Johnson, says.

In New York, when I spoke to Johnson, AC/DC were putting together arrangements for their new to be released new album, Fly On The Wall. It is not as easy as it sounds playing music on the radio. It is exciting to be able to reach out of the world album over continents and become household names for a couple of days. Of course, they start for a couple of days.

AC/DC are anything but shy people. They drink, smoke and act like the millionaires of the world who follow the band and they're not being mean to the women. To keep their bodies looking good they have diet. AC/DC are the only band in the world to have a proper hair backstage at all of their gigs, which of course is catered for by a large barbershop and a professional hairdresser. They're not just a rock band.



1985

who softened their sound with racks of keyboards and synthesizers. They played power ballads with dewy-eyed acoustically strummed song intros - at least one per album. Their guitarists played million-note-a-minute guitar solos. They wore tight clothes - including garments that were non-design and that were not t-shirts. They were more making than your girlfriend, and had higher hair. This was the dress code and sound requirement for new major label acts. Lots of '70s hard rockers legends were taking notice, too, adopting some of these gimmicks, often to the chagrin of their



longtime fans. The artists themselves may have had reservations about jumping on the trends, but hey, they did whatever was necessary to stay in the hit parade.

AC/DC never embarrassed themselves, or their fans, in that way. It is in any other way. Which brings us to their 1985 album, Fly On The Wall.

Each track, there were lots of fans concerned about issues like "selling out," and "going pop." But if there had been a checklist of Embarrassing Trends for Awesome Bands To Avoid, our boys would have done just fine, as opposed to many of their peers. No new hairdos, no



Manchester

I'M A FLY on the wall, looking at thousands of one-track minds, people with eyes for only one thing. Not just the well-oiled cog called AC/DC, no, let's be a touch more precise. The 'thing' is Angus. They roared, screamed and demanded his presence.



new look, no trigonometry-inspired guitar solos, no ballads, no keyboards, no synthesizers. One minute into the album, it was obvious that AC/DC passed any credibility tests with flying colors. If the boys even were aware of current trends (not a given), they paid those trends no mind. All was as it should be.

Of course, not every fan worries "selling out" or "going pop." There were, as there always have been and always will be, rock fans that don't care to read the magazines, and who are only concerned with whether or not a record actually rocks. They listen to music, as opposed to obsessing about music and all that surrounds it. What the artists wear, what they stand for, are their songs used in commercials... to many, none of these issues matter. Just the songs, do they rock? To many, that is the only question worth asking.

And on *Fly On The Wall*, the answer was a big, loud "yes."

As Angus told *Soundz* magazine, "Nice and light, earthie 'deep."

Mission accomplished! In the album's opening moments,

Brian greeted the fans with his declaration

that "You can dance through the night/Rock 'n' roll music itchin' to light/Makin'





**AC/DC**  
 THE POWER OF LOVE  
 THE POWER OF LOVE  
 THE POWER OF LOVE

AC/DC's success over the U.S. is further proof of the  
 fact that the growing strength of rock music  
 has, in California, Illinois, Michigan, Oregon,  
 Pennsylvania and Texas, been a major factor in  
 their success. AC/DC's success was achieved by  
 their ability to play all local venues and  
 maintain their act of 12 rock bands offering  
 and to deliver, AC/DC was forced to live-officially to perform  
 without the two major regional venues whose presence  
 meant meaning and the show. AC/DC's major  
 success, "Black Veil" is a typical live & direct of  
 recorded with the band, but what's the fun of live with

# NORTH AMERICA 1986

12 NEW ORLEANS, LA. CITY  
 ARENA  
 13 BRIDGEPORT, LA. ARENA  
 MEMORIAL COL.  
 14 LITTLE ROCK, ARK. ARENA  
 COL.  
 15 KANSAS CITY, MO. KEMP  
 ARENA  
 16 FT. WORTH, TX. BRANT CO.  
 CONV. CT.  
 17 BOSTON, TX. CONANT  
 18 SAN ANTONIO, TX. MEMPHIS  
 ARENA



19 RAPID CITY, SD. RISEMORE  
 ARENA  
 20 SIOUX FALLS, SD. ARENA  
 21 MINNEAPOLIS, MIN. MET.  
 CENTER  
 22 MINNAPOLIS, WISC. DANE CO.  
 ARENA  
 23 WYOMING, WYOMING VALLEY  
 24 LOUIS. MO. ARENA  
 25 MAN. ILLINOIS, IL. POPULAR  
 CREEK  
 26 MINNEAPOLIS, ILL. MARKET ST.  
 ARENA



never drunk or stoned/ cocaine/ for dollars/ Get cocaine bond." As usual, he sounded like he had downed a few slugs for most of Jack Black's, smashed the bottle, and gorged the broken glass.


The album contains some true gems that, if you relied on classic rock radio, and even rock magazine "best albums ever" lists, you might have missed. There is the aforementioned "Fly," as well as "Shake Your Foundations" and "Sink the Pink." The latter may or may not have been written about Billie Jean, but the video featured a rather intense game of pool.

AC/DC has always been "it" without ever being it, and without ever worrying about it. Yes, in the '80s, as pop mental dominated the airwaves, AC/DC still sold records and sold out arenas. And, next — if





not all - of the big hair bands worshipped Angus, Malcolm and the boys. In the '70s, rock bands dubbed "grunge" by the press were ruling the charts and industrial rock was being hailed by some as "the next big thing." But many of the grunge dudes learned their chops by playing along to AC/DC records, and the industrial bands loved AC/DC's sexual and creepy imagery. So this essay is being written, so-called "garage rock" is the latest rage, and, wouldn't you know, AC/DC is routinely hailed as a "seminal influence" among that scene as well.

There's a beauty in being accused  of something, and not bullshitting anyone about what that something is. That's what the doubters missed in 1981, when they wondered whether or not AC/DC "fit in." That wasn't even the point. The big trends of 1985, or 1995, or 2005, or 2015 have nothing to do with AC/DC, and we can all be damn grateful for that. AC/DC know that, as they know now, who and what they are. Samples, loops, bits, syllableness need not enter the studio nor approach the stage. That's why we loved them then, and why we still do. The "devil brigade" will



always show up for an AC/DC show (which, you'll note, is almost always held in an arena). Of course, there will also be pop metal fans, classic rockers, grunge dudes, hipsters, and even business-suit clad folks. They all love AC/DC, not because AC/DC catered to them, but because they didn't. Long may they rock!

-Brian Ives





YOUNGBLOOD

1. FLY ON THE WALL
2. SHAKE YOUR FOUNDATIONS
3. FIRST BLOOD
4. DANGER
5. SINK THE PINK
6. PLAYING WITH GIRLS
7. STAND UP
8. HELL OR HIGH WATER
9. BACK IN BUSINESS
10. SEND FOR THE MAN

All songs written by Angus Young, Malcolm Young & Stevie Nicks  
All titles published by J. West & Son/Pfizer Inc.

Angus Young Lead guitar  
Malcolm Young Rhythm guitar  
Stevie Nicks Bass guitar  
Brian Johnson Vocals  
Geezer Butler Drums

Produced by Angus & Malcolm Young  
Engineered by Mark Brzezinski

Recorded at Mountain Studios, Mountain, Switzerland  
Originally released on Atlantic 8080 in June 1976

Digitally Remastered from the original master tapes by George Marino at Sterling Sound  
Mastering Supervisor: Mike Toner & Al Schnaper

Digitally Remastered by: Bob  
Cover Design: Todd Lott  
Original CD Art Director: Bob Babin  
Banner: Boulder Design CMYK White

Photography: Steve Kipka (left) pp. 2, 3, 4 top, center & bottom, right photo; 5, 11-14 George Siskulakakis; inside spread right, bottom back cover, pp. 10 right, inside photo; 15 right: Tony Pearson; pp. 1-1, 11 bottom, left photo; 12 (left) Robert; pp. 1 top, right photo; 13 top, left photo; 14 (left) Robert; pp. 1 (left), 16 George Orr  
Address of artist's company: Black Peak Music & Record Service

The CD takes advantage of Compact Disc technology and will work as a floppy to which you can transfer music, videos, photos, and more at [www.youngblood.com](http://www.youngblood.com)

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