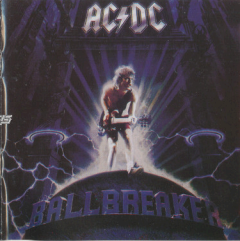




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BALLBREAKER



# Ballbreaker

## AN AC/DC FAMILY JEWEL

A fan's notes by David Wild

How can you not love an album like *Ballbreaker*? Why, you'd have to be nuts.

Think of *Ballbreaker* as gangsta rock, or how about grunge that's actually grungy? Okay, then what about simply saying this is rock-hard music for just about any emotion you feel from a band with true staying power?

The legendary Aussie band's 1996 collaboration with famed rap and rock producer Rick Rubin, *Ballbreaker* serves up a tasty, peppy platter of dirty musical deeds done well, if not especially cheap. Whatever it may have cost to make, *Ballbreaker* is precisely trashy and appropriately ballsy. Even by AC/DC's own fantastically notorious standards, *Ballbreaker* seems particularly lowdown and lewd, ballbally pissed off, and perhaps even a little politically charged.

action hero. The song turned out to be much better received than that infamous non-blockbuster hit. The video for "Big Gun"—featuring the future Governor of California in modified Angus schoolboy garb—remains a hilariously rocking campaign ad just waiting to happen.

Despite a certain thematic connection, "Big Gun" somehow doesn't make the cut for *Ballbreaker*—there's definitely no shortage of outstanding disc jobs to be had here.

In fact, the album's explosive opener, "Hard As A Rock," is a huge piece of classic rock

featuring some particularly brilliant axe-work from Angus and Malcolm Young. It's also quite possibly the only song in all of rock history to include the following decidedly non-Atkins Diet lines: "Her hot potatoes/will clovele you." Right from the start, the sound on *Ballbreaker* seems little more stripped back and slightly drier



**AC/DC Get Your Rocks Off**

AC/DC's new album is a return to the band's roots... [The following text is partially obscured and difficult to read due to image quality and angle.]

AC/DC

Get Your Rocks Off

AC/DC

Get Your Rocks Off

AC/DC

Get Your Rocks Off



# Breaking Balls The World Over

their biggest fan of all is their lead singer

than AC/DC had become accustomed to in the late Eighties and the first part of the Nineties. The resulting effect is to make AC/DC a little less monolithic, a little more human—almost a sort of subtle homage to the band's early Bon Scott-era roots.

Not that the AC/DC boys don't enjoy a slickness every now and then—the next song, "Cover You in Oil," is a slippery power's wet dream. "The Furrer" is frankly a little disturbing, with a fitting sense of fascistic danger. That musical dark ride is followed by "Boogie Man"—one of AC/DC's more authentic and atmospheric takes on traditional blues with a particularly effective vocal from Brian Johnson. "The Honey Ball" begins with the classic first line "Honey roll over and letfuck on top." By the end of these five and a half minutes well spent, you'll be left hungry and horny—though not necessarily in that order.

One of the real hot highlights of *Ballbreaker* is "Burnin' Alive"—an intense, intriguing rocker that seems fresh and deeply felt. One can't help but wonder: who exactly is this man who "came from a little town called Hope"? Whatever "Burnin' Alive"'s political point of view may or may not be,







MUZIKU



the song clearly rocks hard across all party lines. The politics are a tad more old school for the album's next selection—the entirely raucous “Hail Caesar.” As for the sexually charged “Love Train,” let it be said that the tune offers a meaningfully democratic worldview: “Where the size doesn’t matter.” Apparently, big and little guys are all welcome to jump on this “train.”

How on earth had AC/DC not written a song called “Caught With Your Pants Down” before this point? Clearly, it was just an unfortunate oversight, but the guys righted that wrong right here with a memorable, horny rocker. Meanwhile, the far more boozey

“Whiskey On The Rocks” is another spirited highlight of the set. Finally, the album ends with the seriously rickrolling title track—a grand celebration of male/female interaction with this truly classic couplet: “Livin’ out for dreams/rippin’ off my jeans.”

Ballbreaker was a commercial success—lasting straight in at #4 on the *Billboard* album charts and going Platinum in its first six months of release—but more to the point, this was another return to brilliant, ruggedy form for one of rock & roll’s most solid, crowd-pleasing acts. On *Ballbreaker*, AC/DC was back not in black, but in some slightly new shades that looked



AC/DC

1. Hard As A Rock 4:27
2. Cover You In Oil 4:22
3. The Funer 4:39
4. Boogie Man 4:47
5. The Honey Roll 4:20
6. Burnin' Alive 5:06
7. Hail Caesar 4:24
8. Love Bomb 4:14
9. Caught With Your Pants Down 4:24
10. Whiskey On The Rocks 4:31
11. Ballbreaker 4:31

All songs written by A. Young, W. Young  
All songs published by E. Albert & Son/Platino

**ANGUS YOUNG:**  
Lead Guitar

**MALCOLM YOUNG:**  
Rhythm Guitar

**BRIAN JOHNSON:**  
Vocals

**CLIFF WILLIAMS:**  
Bass Guitar

**PHIL RUDD:**  
Drums

Produced by Rick Rubin

Co-Produced by Mike Stone

Engineered and Mixed by Mike Stone

Additional Engineering: Steve Hobbitt and Mark Swartz

Assistant Engineers: Steve Hobbitt, Brandon Marks, Kyle Bass and Tony Romano

Equipment Technicians: Mike Soggin and Richard Jones

Pre-Production Engineer by Neal Rafferty

Mastered by George Marino at Sterling Sound, New York

Manufacturing Supervisor: Mike Finner and A-Douglass

Digital Assembly: 00 Studios

Covers art provided by World

Digital cover illustration: Paul Hoffmann, Copenhagen

Cover background illustration: David McManus

Cover photo of Angus Young: Robert Ditz

Digital album art direction: Bob Debra Design Inc., New York

Reverse booklet design: S&B Studio

Photography: Justin Dugan, Jeffrey Wilson, Markie; pages 2, 3, 5, 6 & 11

Todd Kaplan, Markie; pages 4, 6, 10 & back of booklet; George Cole; pages 10 &

11; Patrick Ford, Markie, Wilson; page 12; Markie, Phillip, Markie, Wilson

Additional artwork courtesy Albert Productions and Arnold Dolson

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