



**KISS**

**GOLD**







GENE SIMMONS   PAUL STANLEY   PETER CRISS   ACE FREHLEY

**KISS**'S CULTURAL IMPACT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND ITS MUSICAL OUTPUT.

The band's over-the-top theatrics and aggressive, glam-inspired hard rock were a decisive response to the ascetic seriousness that crept into rock in the second half of the 1960s.

The flamboyant foursome's fist-pumping rock anthems were matched by its horror-kabuki facial makeup and fire-breathing, blood-spitting live shows, which set a standard of outrageousness that other '70s arena rock acts would be hard-pressed to equal.

The band's founders and main songwriters, bassist/vocalist Gene Simmons and guitarist/vocalist Paul Stanley, were both young veterans of the New York scene when they launched the memorably monickered Wicked Lester at the dawn of the 1970s. After recruiting guitarist Ace Frehley and drummer Peter Criss through ads in *The Village Voice* and *Rolling Stone*, respectively, Wicked Lester officially became KISS in January 1973.

By the time KISS made its Manhattan debut six months later, they'd already developed an elaborate stage show that impressed manager Bill Aucoin, who signed on shortly after attending the quartet's July showcase. Within a month, they had a deal with music-industry vet Neil Bogart's new label, Casablanca.

KISS's self-titled first LP was recorded in October 1973 and released the following February, and showed the group's punchy persona to already be in place on such enduring anthems in "Strutter," "Deuce" and "Black Diamond." The debut sold respectably, and the band built upon that foundation by spending the next couple of years recording and touring relentlessly. That period yielded a pair of much-loved albums in *Hotter Than Hell*, whose highlights included the fearsome title track and the in-your-face "Got to Choose"; and *Dressed to Kill*, co-produced by KISS and Neil Bogart, and featuring "C'mon and Love Me," which became a regional radio hit in the Detroit area, and "She," a song rescued from Wicked Lester's old repertoire.

Their intensive touring schedule helped KISS expand its audience and develop its stage chops, and the hard work paid off handsomely with 1975's in-concert extravaganza *Alive!* The double LP—recorded in Detroit, Cleveland and Wildwood, New Jersey, and produced by noted studio vet Eddie Kramer, who'd produced the group's first demo a couple of years earlier—marked KISS's graduation from underground phenomenon to superstar attraction. In addition to becoming the band's first Top 10 album, the quadruple-platinum *Alive!* spawned a Top 20 single in a pummeling reading of *Dressed to Kill*'s "Rock 'n' Roll All Nite." Other *Alive!* standouts included "Rock Bottom" (also from *Dressed to Kill*), "Let Me Go, Rock 'n' Roll" (from *Hotter Than Hell*) and Frehley's "Cold Gin" (from the debut album).



KISS's next studio effort *Destroyer*—which teamed the band with Alice Cooper/Lou Reed producer Bob Ezrin— followed in March of 1976 and quickly went platinum, spawning their first Top Ten single in Peter Criss's tender power ballad "Beth." While Criss's bittersweet ode to a neglected girlfriend made female fans swoon, "Detroit Rock City" "Shout It Out Loud," "King of the Night Time World" and "Do You Love Me?" rocked as hard as ever.

In addition to introducing some interesting experimental elements, *Destroyer* sealed KISS's new superstardom with America's teenagers. The band's canny marketing sense manifested itself in the appearance of all manner of KISS-related merchandise, including comic books, pinball machines, Halloween masks and the TV-movie *KISS Meet the Phantom of the Park*. These products were eagerly snapped up by the group's young fan base, whose rabid devotion justified the designation of its fan club as the KISS Army.

For 1976's Kramer-produced *Rock and Roll Over*, KISS bypassed the standard studio situation, renting out the Star Theater in upstate Nanuet, New York and cutting live tracks on the venue's stage. In keeping with that approach, the album largely returned KISS to hard-rock fundamentals on such tunes as the Simmons screamer "Calling Dr. Love" and Stanley's acoustic ballad "Hard Luck Woman," both of which became Top 20 singles. 1977's *Love Gun* found the band back in a conventional recording studio, but continued its predecessor's no-frills approach on such tunes as "Christine Sixteen," "I Stole Your Love" and "Shock Me," the latter featuring Ace Frehley's first lead vocal.

Multi-platinum lightning struck a second time with the 1977 release of *Alive II*, which matched a side of new studio tracks with concert renditions of such fan favorites as the *Rock and Roll Over* favorite "Makin' Love" and *Destroyer's* "God of Thunder."

Perhaps there was no more potent demonstration of KISS's superstar clout than 1978's simultaneous release of solo albums by all four band members. Despite the flood of product, all four solo discs went Gold and made the Top 50. Frehley even scored a Top 20 pop hit in the infectious "New York Groove," a remake of a tune by the British group Hello. Stanley, meanwhile, stuck fairly close to KISS's rock sound on his "Tonight You Belong to Me," while Criss again explored his ballad side with "Don't You Let Me Down." Simmons, meanwhile, took advantage of the opportunity to break away from his band's established sound, delving into an eclectic assortment of styles, as he does on the infectious glam-pop number "Radioactive."

KISS was back on more familiar Platinum turf with 1979's *Dynasty*, which nonetheless included unexpected detours into less-familiar territory on the danceable "I Was Made for Loving You" and the tuneful pop-rocker "Sure Know Something." *Dynasty* would also prove to be the last album recorded by the original KISS lineup. Peter Criss officially left in May 1980, by which time the band had already recorded *Unmasked* with session ace Anton Fig (who'd previously subbed for Criss on a few *Dynasty* tracks) manning the drum kit.

Criss's replacement, Eric Carr, joined in time for 1981's Ezrin-produced *Music from "The Elder,"* an ambitious conceptual effort that polarized fans and critics more than anything the band had previously released. The original KISS lineup further splintered with Ace Frehley's 1982 departure.

KISS capped its first decade of recording with the 1982 best-of collection *Killers*, which included the newly recorded tunes "Nowhere to Run" and "I'm A Legend Tonight," on which guitarist Bob Kulick—who'd played on some of *Alive II's* studio tracks, and whose brother Bruce would join the band a few years later—filled in for Frehley.

The 1980s would see KISS reclaiming its commercial supremacy—not to mention dropping the makeup, an idea that would have been unthinkable a few years earlier. In 1996, Frehley and Criss surprised the rock world by returning to the fold to reconstitute the classic KISS lineup—reviving the greasepaint and theatrics in the process—for a series of rapturously received tours and the 1998 album *Psycho Circus*.

Although it was stated at the time that the reunion would also be KISS's farewell, it wasn't long before Simmons and Stanley announced that they'd reconsidered that decision. Although Criss dropped out early in 2001 and Frehley exited a year later, the band has continued into the 21st century. Indeed, after three decades of shouting it out loud and rock 'n' rolling all nite, it's hard to imagine a world without KISS.

Scott Schinder  
New York City  
June 2004





## DISC ONE

1. STRUTTER 3.10

(Gene Simmons / Paul Stanley)

2. NOTHIN' TO LOSE 3.26

(Gene Simmons)

3. FIREHOUSE 3.17

(Paul Stanley)

4. DEUCE 3.05

(Gene Simmons)

5. BLACK DIAMOND 5.13

(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced by Kenny Kerner and Richie Wise

Engineered by Warren Dewey

Recorded October 1973 at Bell Sound Studios, New York, New York

Taken from KISS, released February 1974.

6. GOT TO CHOOSE 3.54

(Paul Stanley)

7. PARASITE 3.02

(Ace Frehley)

8. HOTTER THAN HELL 3.31

(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced by Kenny Kerner and Richie Wise

Engineered by Warren Dewey

Recorded Summer 1974 at the Village Recorder, Los Angeles, California

Taken from HOTTER THAN HELL, released October 1974.

9. C'MON AND LOVE ME 2.57

(Paul Stanley)

10. SHE 4.08

(Gene Simmons / Steve Coronel)

11. ANYTHING FOR MY BABY 2.35

(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, rhythm guitar, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced by Neil Bogart and KISS

Engineered by Dave Wittman

Recorded February 1975 at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York

Taken from DRESSED TO KILL, released March 1975.

12. ROCK BOTTOM live 3.47

(Paul Stanley / Ace Frehley)

13. COLD GIN live 6.59

(Ace Frehley)

14. ROCK AND ROLL ALL NITE live 4.18

(Gene Simmons / Paul Stanley)

15. LET ME GO, ROCK 'N ROLL live 5.46

(Gene Simmons / Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced and engineered by Eddie Kramer for Remarkable Productions, Inc.

Recorded March 27, 1975 at Cobo Hall, Detroit, Michigan

Mixed at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York

Taken from ALIVE!, released September 1975.



16. DETROIT ROCK CITY 5.18

(Paul Stanley / Bob Ezrin)

17. KING OF THE NIGHT TIME WORLD 3.19

(Paul Stanley / Bob Ezrin / Mark Anthony / Kim Fowley)

18. SHOUT IT OUT LOUD 2.49

(Gene Simmons / Paul Stanley / Bob Ezrin)

19. BETH 2.45

(Peter Criss / Stan Penridge / Bob Ezrin)

20. DO YOU LOVE ME? 3.35

(Kim Fowley / Bob Ezrin / Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, lead guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Bob Ezrin - piano

Orchestration by Bob Ezrin and H.A. Macmillan

Produced by Bob Ezrin for Migration Records, Inc.

Engineered by Jay Messina and Corky Stasiak

Recorded and mixed January/February 1976 at Record Plant Studios,

New York, New York

Taken from DESTROYER, released March 1976.







## DISC TWO

1. I WANT YOU 3.05  
(Paul Stanley)

2. CALLING DR. LOVE 3.44  
(Gene Simmons)

3. HARD LUCK WOMAN 3.34  
(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals  
Gene Simmons - bass, vocals  
Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals  
Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced and engineered by Eddie Kramer  
Recorded on location at the Nanuet Star Theatre, Nanuet, New York  
with the Record Plant Mobile  
Mixed at Record Plant Recording Studios, New York, New York  
and Los Angeles, California  
Taken from ROCK N ROLL OVER, released November 1976.

4. I STOLE YOUR LOVE 3.04  
(Paul Stanley)

5. LOVE GUN 3.17  
(Paul Stanley)

6. CHRISTINE SIXTEEN 3.13  
(Gene Simmons)

7. SHOCK ME 3.46  
(Ace Frehley)

Gene Simmons - bass, rhythm guitar, piano, vocals  
Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals  
Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals  
Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced by KISS and Eddie Kramer  
Engineered by Eddie Kramer and Corky Stasiak for Remarkable Productions, Inc.  
Recorded at Record Plant Recording Studios, New York, New York  
Mixed at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York  
Taken from LOVE GUN, released June 1977.

8. MAKIN' LOVE live 3.15  
(Paul Stanley / Sean Delaney)

9. GOD OF THUNDER live 5.18  
(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals  
Gene Simmons - bass, vocals  
Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals  
Peter Criss - drums, vocals

Produced by KISS and Eddie Kramer  
Engineered by Eddie Kramer for Remarkable Productions, Inc.  
Recorded August 1977 at the L.A. Forum, Los Angeles, California  
with the Filmways Heider Mobile.  
Mixed at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York  
Taken from ALIVE II, released November 1977.



10. TONIGHT YOU BELONG TO ME 4.40

(Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - lead vocals, rhythm guitar, acoustic guitar  
Bob Kalick - lead guitar, acoustic guitar  
Steve Buslowe - bass guitar  
Richie Fontana - drums

Produced by Paul Stanley  
Recorded at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York  
Engineered by Dave Wittman; assistant engineer Michael Frondelli  
Mixed at Trident Studios, London, England by Mike Stone and Paul Stanley  
Taken from PAUL STANLEY, released September 1978.

11. NEW YORK GROOVE 3.02

(Russ Ballard)

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, lead vocals  
Anton Fig - drums  
Larry Kelly - background vocals

Produced by Eddie Kramer and Ace Frehley  
Recorded by Eddie Kramer at the "Mansion" in Sharon, Connecticut  
Additional recording and remixing at Plaza Sound, New York, New York  
Engineers: Eddie Kramer and Rob Freeman  
Taken from ACE FREHLEY, released September 1978.

12. RADIOACTIVE 2.57

(Gene Simmons)

Gene Simmons - lead vocals, electric & acoustic guitars  
Elliot Randall - guitar  
Neil Jason - bass  
Allen Schwartzberg - drums  
Sean Delaney - percussion  
Steve Lacy - guitar  
Eric tryer - piano, vocals

Special guests: Bob Seger, Joe Perry

Produced by Sean Delaney and Gene Simmons  
Executive engineer: Mike Stone  
Assistant engineers: John Brand, Allen Douglas and Frank "Cheech" D'Amico  
Recorded at The Manor, Oxfordshire, England; Cherokee Studios, Los Angeles, California; Blue Rock Studios, New York, New York  
Mixed at Trident Studios, London, England  
Taken from GENE SIMMONS, released September 1978.

13. DON'T YOU LET ME DOWN 3.43

(Peter Criss / Stan Penridge)

Peter Criss - drums, lead vocals  
Bill Bodine - bass  
Art Munson - guitar  
Stan Penridge - guitar, vocals  
Bill Cuomo - keyboards, synthesizer  
Lenny Castro - percussion  
Vini Poncia - vocals

Produced by Vini Poncia for Mad Vincent Productions  
Basic tracks recorded at Electric Lady Studios, New York, New York  
Engineer: Mike Stone  
Recorded at Sunset Sound, Hollywood, California, Sound Labs, Inc. and The Burbank Studios, Burbank, California.  
Taken from PETER CRISS, released September 1978.





14. I WAS MADE FOR LOVING YOU 4.30

(Paul Stanley / Vincent Poncia / Desmond Child)

15. SURE KNOW SOMETHING 4.00

(Paul Stanley / Vincent Poncia)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, lead vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar

Anton Fig - drums

Vini Poncia - vocals

Produced by Vini Poncia for Mad Vincent Productions

Recorded and Mixed by Jay Messina

Recorded January/February 1979 at Electric Lady Studios and

Record Plant Recording Studios, New York, NY

Taken from DYNASTY, released May 1979.

16. SHANDI 3.37

(Paul Stanley / Vincent Poncia)

17. TALK TO ME 4.03

(Ace Frehley)

Paul Stanley - guitars, lead vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Ace Frehley - lead guitar, vocals

Anton Fig - drums

Tom Harper - bass on SHANDI

Holly Knight - keyboards on SHANDI

Produced by Vini Poncia for Mad Vincent Productions

Recorded and Mixed by Jay Messina

Recorded and mixed at Record Plant Recording Studios, New York, New York

Taken from UNMASKED, released May 1980.







## 18. A WORLD WITHOUT HEROES 2:41

(Gene Simmons / Paul Stanley / Bob Ezrin / Lou Reed)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, lead guitar

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Eric Carr - drums

Bob Ezrin - electric piano

Orchestration - The American Symphony Orchestra by Michael Kamen and Bob Ezrin

Produced by Bob Ezrin for Migration Records, Inc.

Associate producer: Brian Christian

Recorded at Ace In The Hole Studios, AGR Studios, New York, New York,

Record Plant Studios, New York, NY,

Sounds Interchange Ltd., Toronto, Canada, Ezrin Farms, King Ontario with

Record Plant Studios Mobile

Engineers: Brian Christian, Rick Hart, Robert "Ringo" Hryeyna, David Brown,

Bob Freeman, Corky Stasiak, Kevin Doyle

Taken from (MUSIC FROM) THE ELDER, November 1981.

## 19. NOWHERE TO RUN 4:31

(Paul Stanley)

## 20. I'M A LEGEND TONIGHT 3:59

(Adam Mitchell / Paul Stanley)

Paul Stanley - rhythm guitar, vocals

Gene Simmons - bass, vocals

Eric Carr - drums, vocals

Bob Kulick - lead guitar

Produced by Michael James Jackson

Recorded at The Record Plant, Los Angeles, California

Engineered by Dave Thoener

Taken from KISS KILLERS, released May 1982.

Compilation produced by Bill Levenson

Mastered by Suha Gur at Universal Mastering Studios, New York

Art Direction: Vartan

Design: t42design

Photo Coordination: Ryan Noll

Photo Credits: Andrew Kent, Howard Marks, Bob Gruen, Fin Costello,

Neal Preston, Barry Levine

Product Manager: Ramon Gilbert

Licensing: Kelly Martinez

Production Manager: Shannon Steckloff



Also Available from KISS on CD:

Kiss  
Hotter Than Hell  
Dressed To Kill  
Alive!  
Destroyer  
Rock And Roll All Over  
Love Gun  
Alive II  
Dynasty  
Unmasked  
Music From The Elder  
Creatures Of The Night  
Lick It Up  
Animalize  
Asylum  
Crazy Nights  
Hot In the Shade  
Revenge  
Alive III  
MTV Unplugged  
Psycho Circus  
Box Set (5 CD)

Also Available from KISS on DVD:

Exposed  
20th Century Masters Millennium Collection

