

Def Leppard

“Hysteria”

By: Kyle Harman



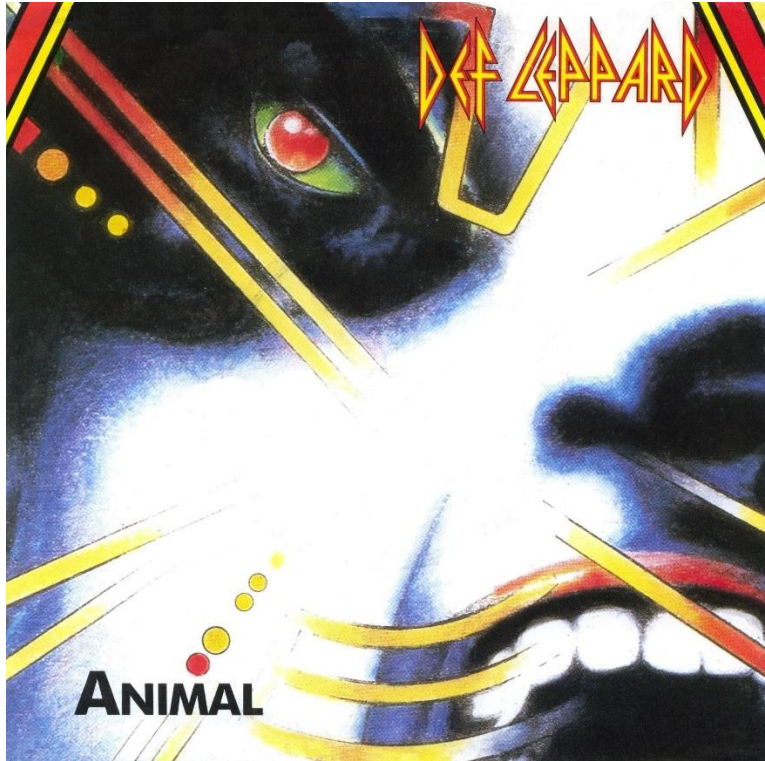
Hysteria would be a fitting name for the album thought Def Leppard drummer Rick Allen, following his 1984 injury from a horrific car accident that resulted in the loss of his left arm, Hysteria was the perfect title to describe the worldwide media coverage that followed the band between the years of 1984 and 1987. The album was the last to feature the late Steve Clark and his role of lead guitarist due to an overdose in the year of 1992. In the very prime years of glam metal in the late 80's at the dawn of grunge genre about to begin, Def Leppard delivered the bands

bestselling album to date with selling 25 million copies worldwide and 12 million in the US alone.

The three year recording process of Hysteria was painstaking with the accident of drummer Rick Allen, and with producers coming and going left the band with the perfect example of sometimes patience truly does pay off. A unique recording process took place where each member recorded their own recordings at separate times, allowing each member to focus on their own performance on the album.

The original intent of the album was to be a rock version of Michael Jackson's Thriller, with the desire of having every song off the album as a possible hit single. The end result of the album was impressive to say the least with 7 singles released off the single album alone.

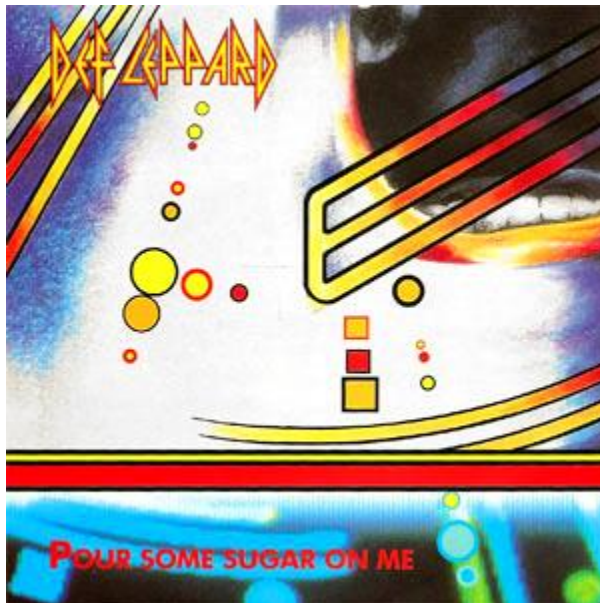
The album recording sessions were painstaking at times, "Animal" consisted of 2 and a half years to produce its final product, where "Pour Some Sugar On Me" was finished within two weeks.



“Animal”

“A wild ride, over stony ground” reflects the rough years prior to the release of *Hysteria* in 1987, the first line pays great tribute to what the band has overcome. Often noted as the most difficult song to record on the *Hysteria* album, the start from finish of the song defines Def Leppard’s new sound and the painstaking time it took to record the song, most definitely shows. “The circus comes to town” serves as a slight bit of humor towards fans making fun of Rick Allen’s disability following his accident. Rick Allen’s new electric drum kit sound is evident throughout the song. Thanks to *Animal*, Def Leppard broke into the UK mainstream, where previous in the 1983 release of *Pyromania* they were almost ignored by their homeland. The band pays tribute to Neil Young’s album “*Rust Never Sleeps*” in the second verse of the song with the line “Like the restless rust, I never sleep”. The song was quite the contrast in popularity compared to “Women”

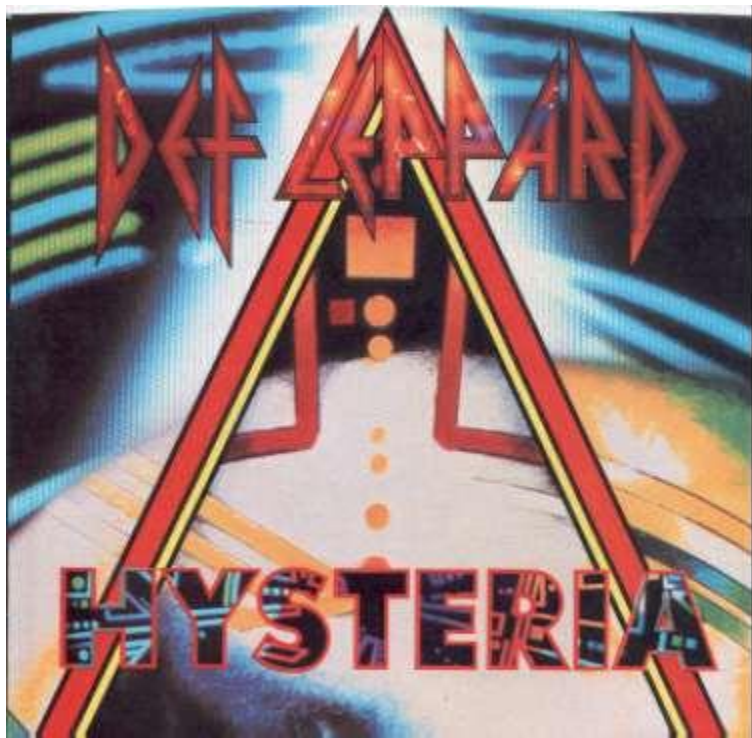
which was the first single released in the U.S. If there is one thing that people will remember from July 20th, 1987, It would be Def Leppard is back and with a brand new sound. "The best is yet to come" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecFPU--vzf0>



“Pour Some Sugar On Me”

"Step inside, walk this way, you and me babe, hey hey!" If there is one most recognizable or anthem for Def Leppard, majority of people would say this is it. What started with lead singer Joe Elliott playing a riff on his acoustic guitar, eventually ended up as arguably one of the best songs of the 80's. Reaching #2 on the Billboard Hot 100 on July 23rd, 1988, the song was undoubtable a powerhouse of a single. The name of the song originated between lead singer Joe Elliott and producer Mutt lange in the

basement of a London residence. Lange asked Joe Elliott if he wanted “one lump or two” in his coffee, Elliott replied with “I don’t care, just pour some sugar on me”. The band felt that they were still missing a single, and did they sure pick the right one to finish off and to solidify the album. The combo of Guitarists Steve Clark and Phil Collen combine to perform a strong and excellent sounding guitar riff and solo. “You got the peaches I’ve got the cream” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UIB9Y4OFPs>

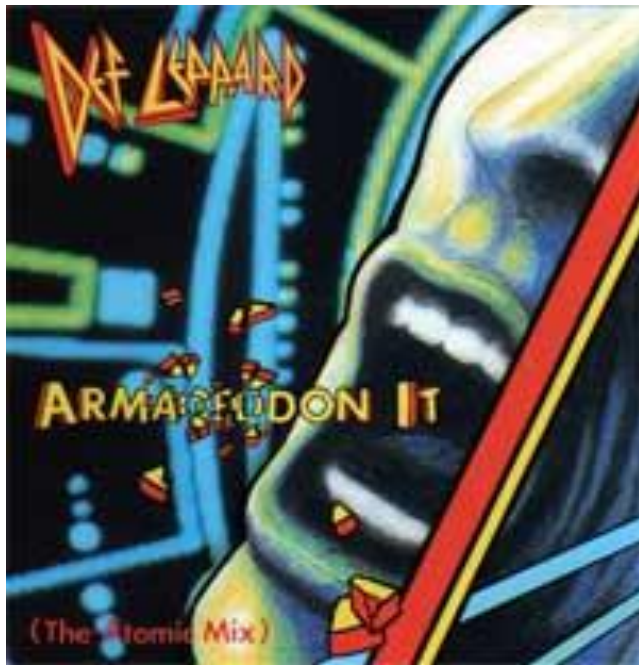


“Hysteria”

If there is one song that symbols and exemplifies producer Mutt Lange’s classic multi-tracked vocals this would be the song. The Love Ballad features a clean guitar ballad by Steve Clark and Phil Collen “Can’t stop this feeling, can’t stop this fight” which leads into a powerful chorus sung by Joe Elliott “Oh can you feel it, do you believe it?” The title track off the album is nothing short of exceptional and one of Def Leppard’s most notable songs. The song title was thought of by Drummer Rick Allen, following his tragic accident. The most notable part of the

song would be the guitar. Originally bass player Rick Savage went to Phil Collen with an idea for the guitar in the song, Collen had his own also and they combined what they had. The title track does not disappoint with its emotional and love driven lyrics “I gotta know tonight, if you’re alone tonight”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdXdSL8xNYg>



“Armageddon It”

“Are you getting it? Armageddon It was another single and hit off the 1987 album. Joe Elliot’s vocals are strong throughout the verses but what makes the song is the chorus. “Gimme all of you lovin’” the background vocals represent the bands signature sound. The song features one of the best and last guitar solos by lead guitarist Steve Clark, “C’mon Steve get it” remains in the original recording of the song prior to his death in the year of 1992, but the line has now been changed to while performing live to “C’mon boys get it” Def Leppard’s pop metal, radio friendly sound is very evident in this one song without a doubt. “Oh are you

getting it? Every bit of your lovin”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urNFQw8VIvA>



“Love Bites”

“If you’ve got love in your sights watch out, love bites” Arguably one of the best ballads of all time, and without a doubt at the top of best power ballads of the 80’s. Most notable as the band’s only #1 single on the Billboard Hot 100 to date. What started as producer Mutt Lange bringing attention to the band of a recently written country song. Def Leppard added power rock vocals and their signature emotional background vocals into the mix, and you get Def Leppard’s most successful song of all time. The song experienced strong airwave play during the summer of 1988, only to fall to second spot behind UB-40’s “Red Red Wine” If this song is a shadow of any other song off the album, it would be the title track Hysteria. The emotional vocals and powerful singing of Joe Elliot is what makes the song “Love begs, love pleads, it’s what I need”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T1IVyXBGjM>



“Rocket”

“Countdown commencing, fire one” What do you get when you put together considered experimental rock at the time as the last single off of the album. “Five, four, three, two, one, zero, we have lift off” You get “Rocket” The song is heavily edited featuring “Love bites” vocals with a sonic effect, added to resemble rocket launch sounds. Vocals from “Gods of War” off the album were also put into the song and sung backwards. The song also plays great tribute to many artists lyrics such as “Jet Black, Johnny Be, Jean Genie, Killer Queen” As the last single off the album, the music video featured the last appearance of the late Steve Clark.

“Rocket, yeah!” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWg_g7-sIn0



Def Leppard would produce their bestselling album of all time in the year of 1987. But they would return in the year of 1992, following the end of glam metal, Def Leppard would return still strong. A new member, Vivian Campbell took over as rhythm guitarist as if he had been there all along. Def Leppard would be back, but with one question, “Do you wanna get rocked?”