



Near the end of the musically brilliant psychedelic era, Pink Floyd released their tenth studio album; *Animals*. A very controversial album at the time, this album was an attack on the British government. With United Kingdom's political system revolving around conservatism, Pink Floyd saw the crushing thumb of anti-freedom politicians coming. Instead of cowering, they released *Animals*; their greatest statement album.

This album had everyone shaken up, many of England's workers realized it was time to rise up against 'the man'. The summer of 1976 was not beneficial, economy was crumbling down, high unemployment, struggling to receive proper rights, crop failure and more. This album is an indirect (more direct in some songs) lashing on how people support capitalism. Punk had arrived, and upper class civilians were shocked at the 'phase'; however, when the one and only Pink Floyd was partaking in the movement, with left-wing 'anarchist' views in their lyrics, some people did not know how to handle this album. This is exactly what Pink Floyd was prepared to happen with this album though. They didn't exactly release it for everyone to love, just for those who would understand the message behind the 'farm sounds'. These 'farm sounds' were not just tossed into the album for fun though, oh no, everything in this album is placed there for a reason! Every animal has their own class – similar to humans. The pigs are at the top of the 'chain' (politicians), dogs in the middle (security guards/those who carry out the

Politicians orders), and finally, sheep (those who are viewed as followers). For those of you who have read the satire fable, *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, this may seem familiar, because when writing this album, Roger Waters alluded to the novel *Animal Farm*. (PS, if you have not read *Animal Farm*, you should. Especially if you enjoy this album, it will help to put the idea of animal hierarchy in context.)

Pink Floyd – *Animals*

Track Listing:

Side one:

1. Pigs on the Wing, Pt. 1
2. Dogs

Side two:

3. Pigs (Three Different Ones)
4. Sheep
5. Pigs on the Wing, Pt. 2

Animals was received better than everyone in the band thought it could (and would) be. With the album charting at second on UK's Official Charts Company, and third on US's Billboard 200, the band was slightly surprised by all of its success. Most people see this album as a "child of Waters concept", even though the band a few tussles over who should receive more rights on the album. With the exception of "Dogs", Roger Waters had written the whole album. However, David Gilmour was not going to allow him to have all of the fame, as David Gilmour stated "Ninety per cent of the song "Dogs" was mine. That song was almost the whole of one side, so that's [my] half of *Animals*." When it came down to the dispute over the album, Gilmour did get his half of "Dogs", and they continued to tour. *Animals* was not a simple album to plan a tour for due to the animal noises; how could they turn down preforming though? Don't worry, they didn't. The album released the day they started a tour titled *In the Flesh*. The tour was booming from 23 January 1977 till 6 July 1977. It consisted of their two albums *Animals* (obviously), and *Wish You Were Here*. While preforming the *Animal* half of the performance they had inflatable animals, mainly pigs, floating around the stadium, creating quite a different feel in the audience compared to many other performances. Waters proved to be very hostile during this tour, yelling at tech people and audiences when they wouldn't quiet down for the softer pieces such as "Pigs on the Wing", parts 1 and 2, as well as the beginning of "Sheep". Funnily enough, they ended the tour in Canada. Waters wouldn't let the tour go out without proving a point, so in the last show of the tour (Montreal, Quebec), he spat on a disrespectful fan in the front row.

With Pink Floyd being one of my dad's favorite bands, I was raised on bands like Pink Floyd. The reason this album is so valuable to me is because this was the first Floyd album that I discovered on my own, and it was also one of the first Pink Floyd cover band concerts I remember (I have been attending Floyd cover

bands since such a young age, age 7 I believe). I love this album because of its political views and aspects; the connection to Orwell's book is just a cherry on top in my opinion. From the album artwork, experimental sound, to the track listing, this album, to me, is a work of art. The album cover is a photo of Battersea Power Station in London with a superimposed flying chubby pig in the back ground (view album cover at the top). Pink Floyd artwork always stands out, but this one is simply unique. The artwork is so simple, but it has detail at the same time. My favorite song on this album is "Pigs (Three Different Ones)" due to the obvious left-wing ideology. Waters wrote it to 'point-fingers' at those people whom he considered to be pigs; those who took too much, and those who had too much power. With the line "Ha, ha, charade you are" being repeated many of times in the song, it distinctly points out the false front these sorts of people would address society with; a façade so to say. I don't believe times have changed that substantially considering this song was written in 1976, and it is now 2014 (soon to be 2015) and I see that this line is very relevant in today's worldwide politics.

Altogether, Pink Floyd *Animals* is a, creative, left-wing piece of artwork that is very musically appealing. I think this album will cause you to smile, tear up, and feel an anger you didn't know existed in you. *Animals* is unlike any other Pink Floyd album they released. I hope you are inspired to go listen to this album, even a song or two, because it may change your views on some of the world around you. Over all, I rate Pink Floyd *Animals* a 9/10 – based off creativity, personal connection, the tour, artwork, and everything else.

Review by Dayna Beckman. Grade 12.

12/5/2014.