



BACK IN BLACK

Back in Black by AC/DC Reviewed by Allie Cramp

AC/DC originated in Sydney, Australia in 1973. The band's peak was early - mid 1980s. The original members included; Bon Scott- vocalist, Angus Young- lead guitarist, Cliff Williams- Bass, Phil Rudd- Drums, and Malcolm Young- rhythm guitar. The album was released only 5 months after Bon Scott passed and was created as a tribute to him.

Back In Black was their 8th album released as well as their first album to hit #1 on the billboard 200. It ended up becoming the 3rd best selling album in the U.S. They sold over 25 million copies/ 50 million units. It reached #1 in 5 countries; Australia, Canada, France, Switzerland, and the U.K. They had their first headline just 5 years before the release of this album.

Bon Scott was born in Forfar, UK. He moved to Australia at the age of 6 in 1952. Angus and Malcolm Young were born in Cranhill, Glasgow. Cliff Williams was born in Romford, UK. Phil Rudd was born in Melbourne, Australia.



Back In Black

[The Making of Back in Black](#)

“Back In Black” is the album's 6th song. Before the main guitar riff was put into a song, it was used as a warm up for Malcolm Young. The album has inspired many bands such as Def Leppard, Metallica, Guns N' Roses, and The Darkness. The song is #2 on VH1's list of greatest hard rock songs of all time. 'Back In Black' was released as a single.

2 days after Bon Scott's funeral they got back to working on 'Back In Black'. Malcolm Young said “ With Bon's death we wanted to put everything down right, we were really focused on that album and it turned out to be timeless and I think it'll stay that way. I think maybe AC/DC had come to a peak at that point.”

At the end of the 'Back In Black' tour, Bon Scott's mom, Isa Scott, said to Brian "Are son would have been proud of you"

This whole album reminds me of my dad but especially this song because it reminds me of waking up early and driving to his work while it was still dark out.



You Shook Me All Night Long

[The Story of Back in Black](#)
[Power trip Festival \(Oct. 7, 2023\)](#)

Brian Johnson had joined the band just after Bon's death. The band told him they had a song called 'You Shook Me All Night Long' and it needed lyrics. He wanted to impress his new band members so he wrote up the lyrics that night.

The opening line, "She was a fast machine / She kept her motor clean" was Johnson exploring the similarities between cars and women. The song has sexual innuendos all throughout it. It's one of Johnson's favorite songs. He said he thinks it one of the best riffs of all time.

It's one of AC/DC's best known songs to this day.



Hells Bells

Hells Bells is the second single released from the album, it was released October 31, 1980. It is the first track on the album. The song was number 7 in Australia in 1981.

The song was written as another tribute to Bon Scott. They wanted to add a tolling bell into the opening of the song. The term "Hells bells" is an exclamation of anger. In the song it was written to be like someone raising hell, which was what Scott had been known for.

Johnson said he was stuck on writing Hells Bells until there was a tropical storm in the Bahamas where they were recording.

Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution

[Live at Entertainment Center, Sydney, November 1996](#)

Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution is their 10th and last track on the album. Initially Back in Black only had 9 tracks on it but their management recommended they add one

more song. Malcolm explained the origin of the song, "We were in London at the time and there were all those problems with the old Marquee Club because it was in a built-up area and there was this whole thing about noise pollution in the news, the environmental health thing that you couldn't have your stereo up loud after 11 at night, it all came from that."

The song reached #7 in Australia between 1980-1981. The song reached number 15 on the UK singles charts.





Shoot to Thrill

The song 'Shoot to Thrill' is a play on the phrase "shoot to kill". Lead singer Brian Johnson is playing as "a bad boy" with too many ladies and too many pills.

The song was used in 2010 Iron Man 2 when he made a grand entrance. It was used in a later movie as well, 2012's Avengers when Iron Man appears again.

Bon Scott joined the group in October of 74'. Bon had a huge influence on the group.

They were the ones that laid down a new sound and blueprint for hard rock. They influenced Guns N Roses, Metallica, Foo Fighters, Van Halen, Motley Crue and many other bands. They've been nominated for 30 awards and won 19. They've won Grammys, Echo awards, iHeart radio awards and others. They've had 7 grammy nominations but have only won 1.

I discovered AC/DC because of my dad when I was younger and then started listening again to them more recently because my brother loves AC/DC and listened to them in the car a lot.

I would personally rate the album a 4.5/5 stars.

[AC/DC on the creation of 'Back in Black'](#)
[AC/DC interview- Angus Young and Brian Johnson](#)