

high voltage rock and roll

High Voltage Rock and Roll: The Electric Pulse of Music History

high voltage rock and roll is more than just a phrase—it's a sonic declaration that captures the raw energy, rebellious spirit, and electrifying sound that define a pivotal era of music. This genre and style have powered countless stages, inspired generations, and continue to influence musicians worldwide. But what exactly makes rock and roll “high voltage”? Let's dive deep into the electrifying world of high voltage rock and roll and explore its origins, impact, and lasting legacy.

The Origins of High Voltage Rock and Roll

The term “high voltage” evokes images of powerful electric currents and unstoppable force, which perfectly mirrors the essence of rock and roll when it surged into the mainstream. The roots of this energetic music go back to the 1950s and 1960s when electric guitars, amplified sound, and rebellious attitudes converged to create a genre that was loud, fast, and unapologetically bold.

Electric guitar pioneers like Chuck Berry and Little Richard laid the groundwork by delivering blazing riffs and electrifying performances. Yet, the phrase “high voltage rock and roll” gained iconic status largely through bands that amped up the sound and spectacle even further in the 1970s, with artists who embraced heavy distortion, powerful vocals, and explosive stage shows.

AC/DC and the Birth of High Voltage Rock

No discussion about high voltage rock and roll is complete without mentioning AC/DC, the Australian band whose very first album was titled **High Voltage**. This album and the band's signature sound—a perfect blend of gritty guitar riffs, pounding drums, and electrifying energy—became synonymous with

the phrase.

AC/DC's music embodies the spirit of high voltage rock and roll through:

- **Raw, powerful guitar riffs** that drive every track.
- **Energetic vocals** that command attention.
- **Simple yet explosive rhythms** that make you want to move.
- **Electrifying live performances** featuring pyrotechnics and high-energy antics.

Their approach showed that rock and roll wasn't just music—it was an experience charged with the intensity of electricity.

The Sound That Defines High Voltage Rock and Roll

High voltage rock and roll carries a distinctive sound that immediately sets it apart from other music styles. From distorted electric guitars to thunderous drums and commanding vocals, the soundscape is designed to captivate and energize audiences.

Electric Guitar and Amplification

At the heart of high voltage rock and roll is the electric guitar, often played with high gain and distortion to create a thick, crunchy tone. Guitarists use techniques like palm muting, power chords, and fast solos to build that electrifying atmosphere. Amplifiers are pushed to their limits, sometimes even cranked beyond what's considered safe, to achieve the iconic "wall of sound" effect.

Driving Rhythms and Powerful Vocals

The rhythm section—bass and drums—provides the steady, pounding backbone that keeps the music moving at a relentless pace. Drummers often employ double bass pedals, heavy snare hits, and dynamic fills to add intensity. Meanwhile, vocalists deliver impassioned, often gritty performances that cut through the instrumentation with sheer force.

This combination creates a sound that feels alive, urgent, and impossible to ignore—hence the “high voltage” descriptor.

The Cultural Impact of High Voltage Rock and Roll

Beyond the music itself, high voltage rock and roll has had a profound cultural impact. It’s a symbol of rebellion, youthful energy, and freedom, impacting fashion, attitudes, and social movements.

Rebellion and Youth Culture

From its early days, rock and roll challenged societal norms and conventions. The “high voltage” aspect amplified this rebellion, representing a break from the quiet, conservative expectations of previous generations. Young people saw this music as a way to express themselves, push boundaries, and connect with a broader community.

Influence on Fashion and Lifestyle

The high energy and boldness of high voltage rock and roll also influenced fashion trends—think leather jackets, ripped jeans, band t-shirts, and iconic hairstyles. These visual elements became synonymous with the rock and roll lifestyle, emphasizing confidence, edge, and nonconformity.

How High Voltage Rock and Roll Continues to Inspire Musicians Today

Though its peak might be associated with the mid-20th century, the spirit of high voltage rock and roll lives on in modern music. Many contemporary bands draw inspiration from its raw power and simplicity.

Modern Bands Keeping the Flame Alive

Bands like The White Stripes, Royal Blood, and Greta Van Fleet have taken cues from high voltage rock and roll by incorporating distorted riffs, energetic drumming, and powerful vocals into their sound. They demonstrate how the core elements of high voltage rock can be adapted to new contexts while maintaining that electrifying energy.

Tips for Musicians Wanting to Capture High Voltage Rock and Roll Energy

If you're a musician aiming to capture the essence of high voltage rock and roll, here are some tips:

1. ****Focus on raw emotion over perfection:**** The power of high voltage rock comes from its passion and intensity, not flawless execution.
2. ****Use distortion and effects wisely:**** Experiment with guitar pedals and amplifiers to find that crunchy, energetic tone.
3. ****Keep rhythms driving and simple:**** A solid, pounding beat forms the backbone of the sound.
4. ****Engage with your audience:**** High voltage rock and roll is as much about performance as it is about sound, so bring energy to the stage.
5. ****Embrace rebellion:**** Let your music challenge norms and express individuality.

High Voltage Rock and Roll in Live Performances

One of the defining characteristics of high voltage rock and roll is its electrifying live presence.

Concerts and festivals become arenas of high energy, where the music's power is amplified by the crowd's enthusiasm.

Stage Presence and Showmanship

Performers in this genre often rely on dynamic stage presence to complement their music.

Pyrotechnics, powerful lighting, and theatrical movements all contribute to creating an immersive experience. The connection between band and audience is visceral, with each feeding off the other's energy.

Sound Engineering for Maximum Impact

Achieving that "high voltage" sound live requires skilled sound engineering. Balancing distortion, volume, and clarity ensures that the music hits hard without losing its nuance. Engineers often employ specific microphone placements, speaker arrangements, and effects processing to recreate the studio sound's intensity on stage.

The Legacy and Evolution of High Voltage Rock and Roll

From its birth in smoky clubs to stadium-filling tours, high voltage rock and roll has evolved but never lost its core identity. It's a testament to the enduring appeal of music that's loud, proud, and charged with emotion.

Today, this genre's influence can be heard not only in rock but across other music styles that embrace intensity—like punk, metal, and even some electronic music. The “high voltage” concept represents music that refuses to be passive, demanding attention and participation.

Whether you're a fan, a musician, or simply curious about music history, exploring high voltage rock and roll reveals a rich tapestry of sound, culture, and human expression that continues to resonate through the decades.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning of 'High Voltage' in rock and roll?

In rock and roll, 'High Voltage' refers to the intense energy, electrifying performance style, and powerful sound that characterize the genre, often associated with dynamic guitar riffs and energetic vocals.

Which band is famously associated with the album 'High Voltage'?

AC/DC is famously associated with the album 'High Voltage,' which was their debut studio album and helped establish their signature hard rock sound.

When was AC/DC's 'High Voltage' album released?

AC/DC's 'High Voltage' album was originally released in Australia in 1975, with an international version released in 1976.

What are some iconic tracks from AC/DC's 'High Voltage'?

Some iconic tracks from AC/DC's 'High Voltage' include 'It's a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock 'n' Roll),' 'T.N.T.,' and 'High Voltage.'

How did 'High Voltage' influence the rock and roll genre?

'High Voltage' helped popularize hard rock and heavy metal with its raw sound, powerful guitar riffs, and energetic performances, influencing countless bands and shaping the rock music landscape.

What elements define the 'High Voltage' rock and roll style?

The 'High Voltage' rock and roll style is defined by distorted electric guitars, strong backbeat rhythms, high-energy vocals, and charismatic stage presence, creating an electrifying live experience.

Are there other artists or bands known for 'high voltage' rock and roll performances?

Yes, besides AC/DC, bands like Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, and Guns N' Roses are also known for their high-energy, electrifying rock and roll performances that embody the 'high voltage' spirit.

Additional Resources

High Voltage Rock and Roll: An Electrifying Journey Through the Genre's Power and Legacy

high voltage rock and roll is more than just a phrase; it encapsulates a raw, electrifying energy that has defined rock music since its inception. This term, often associated with high-energy performances, powerful guitar riffs, and a rebellious spirit, reflects a cornerstone of rock music's enduring appeal. Exploring the essence of high voltage rock and roll involves understanding its musical characteristics, cultural impact, and the artists who have embodied this electrifying sound.

The Origins and Evolution of High Voltage Rock and Roll

High voltage rock and roll traces its roots back to the mid-20th century when rock music began to

emerge as a dominant cultural force. The term “high voltage” metaphorically suggests intense energy and electrifying performance—qualities that became synonymous with rock and roll acts who pushed the boundaries of sound and stage presence.

Initially influenced by blues, rhythm and blues, and country music, rock and roll evolved with an emphasis on amplified instruments, particularly the electric guitar. This shift led to a more aggressive sound, characterized by distorted guitar tones, frenetic drum patterns, and powerful vocals. The "high voltage" descriptor perfectly captured the surge of energy these elements produced, setting the stage for rock music's transition into a genre known for its intensity and showmanship.

The Sound Characteristics Defining High Voltage Rock and Roll

At its core, high voltage rock and roll is distinguished by several key musical features:

- **Electric Guitar Dominance:** The electric guitar, often played with distortion and overdrive effects, drives the melody and creates the signature "high voltage" sound.
- **Energetic Rhythms:** Fast-paced drum beats and bass lines establish a relentless momentum that propels the music forward.
- **Vocal Power:** Vocals in high voltage rock and roll tend to be forceful and emotive, often with a raw edge to complement the intense instrumentation.
- **Dynamic Stage Presence:** Live performances are charged with theatricality and vigor, emphasizing the "high voltage" experience for audiences.

These elements combined create a sonic environment that is both electrifying and immersive, engaging listeners not just audibly but viscerally.

Iconic Artists and Albums that Defined the High Voltage Era

Several artists and albums have been pivotal in shaping the identity of high voltage rock and roll.

These musicians not only embraced the energetic sound but also influenced generations of rock artists who followed.

AC/DC and the “High Voltage” Legacy

No exploration of high voltage rock and roll is complete without mentioning AC/DC, the Australian rock band whose very name conjures images of electric power and raw rock energy. Their debut album, “High Voltage,” released in 1975, set a new standard for the genre. Featuring tracks like “It’s a Long Way to the Top (If You Wanna Rock ’n’ Roll),” the album showcased driving guitar riffs and pounding rhythms that epitomized the high voltage spirit.

AC/DC’s music is often cited as a textbook example of high voltage rock and roll due to its simplicity, intensity, and unwavering energy. The band’s ability to maintain this electric atmosphere over decades has cemented their place as quintessential ambassadors of the genre.

Comparative Analysis: High Voltage Rock and Roll vs. Other Rock Subgenres

While high voltage rock and roll shares common roots with other rock subgenres, its defining characteristics set it apart:

- **Compared to Classic Rock:** While classic rock encompasses a broader range of tones and moods, high voltage rock and roll consistently emphasizes high energy and aggressive

soundscapes.

- **Compared to Punk Rock:** Both genres share intensity, but punk rock often integrates political and social commentary with a rawer, more stripped-down sound. High voltage rock and roll leans towards powerful musicianship and anthemic hooks.
- **Compared to Heavy Metal:** Heavy metal takes the intensity further with complex instrumentation and darker themes. High voltage rock and roll maintains a more straightforward, accessible structure focused on exuberance and vitality.

Understanding these distinctions helps contextualize where high voltage rock and roll fits within the broader rock music ecosystem and how it continues to influence contemporary artists.

The Cultural Impact and Enduring Appeal of High Voltage Rock and Roll

High voltage rock and roll has transcended music to become a cultural symbol of rebellion, freedom, and youthful exuberance. Its impact is evident not only in music but also in fashion, film, and popular culture at large.

Live Performances and Audience Engagement

One of the defining attributes of high voltage rock and roll is its emphasis on electrifying live performances. Concerts become immersive experiences where the energy of the band and the crowd feed off each other, creating a communal atmosphere charged with excitement. This interactive dynamic is a significant reason why the genre maintains a loyal fan base decades after its inception.

Influence on Modern Rock and Popular Music

Contemporary rock and even genres like pop and electronic music have drawn elements from the high voltage rock and roll template. The emphasis on high-energy beats, catchy hooks, and anthemic choruses can be traced back to this powerful style. Bands today often cite high voltage rock and roll pioneers as major influences, underlining the genre's lasting relevance.

Challenges and Criticisms Within the High Voltage Rock and Roll Sphere

Despite its strengths, high voltage rock and roll is not without criticism. Some argue that the genre's focus on energy and simplicity can sometimes lead to repetitiveness or lack of innovation. The reliance on certain musical formulas might limit artistic exploration, resulting in music that some perceive as formulaic or predictable.

Furthermore, the intense performance style can be physically demanding for artists, occasionally leading to burnout or health issues. However, many musicians have navigated these challenges successfully, contributing to the genre's ongoing vitality.

Pros and Cons of High Voltage Rock and Roll

1. Pros:

- High entertainment value with engaging live shows
- Strong emotional connection through powerful music

- Wide influence on multiple music genres

2. Cons:

- Potential for musical repetitiveness
- Physical demands on performers
- Sometimes viewed as lacking lyrical depth

These considerations offer a balanced perspective on the genre's place within the music industry.

High voltage rock and roll remains a dynamic and influential force, continuously evolving while preserving its core essence of electrifying energy and raw musical power. Its ability to captivate audiences and inspire artists highlights a genre that is as vital today as it was at its inception.

High Voltage Rock And Roll

high voltage rock and roll: *AC DC* , 2011

high voltage rock and roll: *AC/DC Chord Songbook* Wise Publications, 2000-06-01 Now you can play your favourite hits by AC/DC on guitar in no time... This chord songbook allows the beginner guitarist to build a repertoire with just a handful of easy chords, perfect for building confidence and rhythmic skills, as well as for reference while performing. Each piece has been specially arranged by Rob Smith in the original keys from the actual hit recordings. Songlist: - Back In Black - Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap - For Those About To Rock (We Salute You) - Hard As A Rock - Heatseeker - Hells Bells - High Voltage - Highway To Hell - If You Want Blood (You Got It) - Moneytalks - Rock'n'roll Damnation - Stiff Upper Lip - Touch Too Much - Who Lotta Rosie - Who Made Who - You Shook Me All Night Long

high voltage rock and roll: *The Little Black Songbook: AC/DC* Wise Publications, 2012-08-13 This edition of The Little Black Songbook presents the complete lyrics and chords to over 90 classics

by AC/DC! This handy chord songbook is perfect for any aspiring guitarist, ideal for group singalongs, a spot of busking or simply to rock out with the Aussie legends. This little book includes: - Back In Black - Can't Stop Rock 'N' Roll - Caught With Your Pants Down - Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap - For Those About To Rock (We Salute You) - Girls Got Rhythm - Given The Dog A Bone - Have A Drink On Me - Heatseeker - Hells Bells - High Voltage - Highway To Hell - It's A Long Way To The Top (If You Wanna Rock 'N' Roll) - Jailbreak - Let There Be Rock - Shake A Leg - She's Got Balls - Shoot To Thrill - Stiff Upper Lip - T.N.T. - Thunderstruck - Touch Too Much - Whole Lotta Rosie - You Shook Me All Night Long And many more!

high voltage rock and roll: AC / DC - Uncensored on the Record Jeff Perkins, 2011-10 This is the ultimate critical review of a legendary band, from the early days playing obscure clubs to conquering the world. For many fans, Bon Scott was a legendary front man without equal, and his powerful voice was the key to a host of classic hits from Whole Lotta Rosie to Let There Be Rock. After his tragic death, the virtually unknown Brian Johnson stepped into the breach, and AC/DC came storming back with the classic album Back In Black. This unique eBook draws together a team of AC/DC insiders to review the legacy of probably the best hard rock band the world has ever seen. With interviews from Bon Scott and Angus Young, plus the inside story from Pete Way of UFO who toured with the band, this is essential for all AC/DC fans. This eBook also features an in-depth biography of the band, a chronology and a track-by-track analysis of AC/DC's studio albums.

high voltage rock and roll: The Youngs Jesse Fink, 2024-03-26 The Youngs: The Brothers Who Built AC/DC is unlike any AC/DC book you've read before. Less a biography, more a critical appreciation, it tells the story of the trio through 11 classic rock songs and reveals some of the personal and creative secrets that went into their making. Important figures from AC/DC's long way to the top open up for the very first time, while unsung heroes behind the band's success are given the credit they are due. Accepted accounts of events are challenged while sensational new details emerge to cast a whole new light on the band's history—especially their early years with Atlantic Records in the United States. Former AC/DC members and musicians from bands such as Guns N' Roses, Dropkick Murphys, Airbourne and Rose Tattoo also give their take on the Youngs' brand of magic. Their music has never pulled its punches. Neither does The Youngs. After 40 years, AC/DC might just have gotten the serious book it deserves.

high voltage rock and roll: Highway to Hell Clinton Walker, 2011-11-01 The definitive account of AC/DC's rise to fame, when the ribald lyrics and charismatic stage presence of singer Bon Scott, along with the guitar work of Angus and Malcolm Young, defined a new, highly influential brand of rock and roll. Drawing on many interviews and featuring a gallery of rare photos, Clinton Walker traces the band's career through the life of their original front man, from small-time gigs to international success, up to Scott's shocking death in 1980. AC/DC's undiminished superstar status (they're the fourth-best-selling band of all time), and their indelible influence on a succession of genres from metal to grunge to rap, ensure that Bon Scott's presence continues to be felt strongly. HIGHWAY TO HELL offers the full story of this seminal rock figure. A consistent seller since it was first published here in 2001, HIGHWAY TO HELL has been updated for this edition. New details that have come to light in recent years about the last hours of Scott's life have been added, enabling the author to dispel persistent rumors and myths and once more set the record straight.

high voltage rock and roll: Bon: The Last Highway Jesse Fink, 2017-11-07 The death of Bon Scott is the Da Vinci Code of rock. In death, AC/DC's trailblazing frontman has become a rock icon, and the legend of the man known around the world simply as 'Bon' grows with each passing year. But how much of it is myth? At the heart of Bon: The Last Highway is a special and unlikely friendship between an Australian rock star and an alcoholic Texan troublemaker. Jesse Fink, author of the critically acclaimed international bestseller The Youngs: The Brothers Who Built AC/DC, reveals its importance for the first time. Leaving no stone unturned in a three-year journey that begins in Austin and ends in London, Fink takes the reader back to a legendary era for music that saw the relentless AC/DC machine achieve its commercial breakthrough but also threaten to come apart. With unprecedented access to Bon's lovers, newly unearthed documents, and a trove of

never-before-seen photos, Fink divulges startling new information about BonŌs last hours to solve the mystery of how he died. Music fans around the world have been waiting for the original, forensic, unflinching, and masterful biography Bon Scott so richly deserves Ñ and now, finally, itŌs here.

high voltage rock and roll: *Rock N Roll Gold Rush* Maury Dean, 2003 This monster Rock-n-Roll survey focuses on the songs and the vibrant personalities who create them, for college audiences and the general public. Dean published the world's first history of Rock in 1966. Here, in his ebullient style, he buzzes through piles of musical singles from the whole last half century, describing what is fun about each major and minor hit, pointing out what elements were exciting or new or significant in the development of musical styles. He relates some tantalizing tidbits about the earlier musical heritage that artists have drawn upon in crafting ever more amazing evolutions of rock music. This snappy, witty and informative album has universal appeal, doubling as a coffee-table trivia treasure and a college-level popular music history text. It includes hundreds of photos, chapter questions, and an extensive index. Reader-friendly and informationally complete, it covers soft rock, heavy metal, rhythm & blues, country rock and classic oldies, all with tender loving care, for the specialist and casual listener alike. Its mini-portraits of the artists who move so many hearts (and feet), the photos and the insightful sound bites get to the essence of each song and each musician's contribution to the music of our age. The single-song focus makes the book unique. It's a playlist for R'n'R professors and the general public, written with a collegiate vocabulary, tight organization and a respect for all. Hearing Elvis for the first time was like busting out of jail. - Bob Dylan That being said, no one is being incited, here, to bust out of jail or to emulate the quixotic habits of rock stars. There's nothing in here to hide from the kids, the clergy or grandma. Gold Rush can be used as a university or community college text, but most people will grab it for the sheer pleasure of reading about everyone's favorites. Great gift for Rock enthusiasts. Gold Rush is the first book of its kind to feature a celebration of the great single songs of the rock era and beyond. Gold Rush takes thousands of songs, spanning three centuries, and brings them back uniquely as if they came out just yesterday. Gold Rush unites the Anglo-American and later worldwide spirit of Rock and Roll in a tapestry of interconnected melodies and adventures. As Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide helps you select videos at Blockbuster, so Gold Rush is a powerful playlist for your music collection, with many new and fascinating photos of favorite stars. Gold Rush explains the most important stories behind the songs you picked to be played, the songs that 'went gold,' from the 1897 Alaska/Klondike Gold Rush to the #1 songs of today and beyond.

high voltage rock and roll: *AC/DC* Phil Sutcliffe, 2010-10-14 Formed in 1973 by brothers Angus and Malcolm Young, AC/DC has become one of the most popular rock 'n' roll bands in history. This massive new title follows the band from its roots in Sydney, Australia, to its most recent releases and sold-out world tours. No stone is left unturned, from the AC/DC's formation and early club gigs to its astounding worldwide success. A special cover incorporating Angus on a spinning disc gives way to more than 400 illustrations include handbills, posters, backstage passes, and vinyl from around the globe, as well as rare candid and performance photography. Sidebars from top rock scribes examine all studio releases and delve into the guitar gear of the Young brothers. The result is an awesome tribute to the band renowned for a live-wire stage show and a sonic attack that have attracted fans from all rock camps Contributors include: Phil Sutcliffe Joe Bonomo Danie Bukszpan Jen Jewel Brown Anthony Bozza Garth Cartwright Ian Christie David Dunlap Andrew Earles Dave Hunter James McNair Martin Popoff Sylvie Simmons Bill Voccia

high voltage rock and roll: *Hot Hits, Cheap Demos* Nadine Condon, 2003-10 If you are a musician, you need this book, which is rooted in real-life music business experience, not classroom theory. It reveals the secrets of artist development using the creative process as the foundation for success, and provides solid direction for you to plan and evaluate your path to success. Hot Hits, Cheap Demos shows you how to: jumpstart your career * create a press kit and develop sure-fire marketing strategies * contact clubs and alternative venues * produce and promote your own shows * make an eye-catching web site * create a standout song, find a producer, and even package a CD.

Written by Nadine Condon, a 20-year music industry veteran who's been instrumental in the success of such acts as Smash Mouth, Stroke 9, Third Eye Blind and Train.

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high voltage rock and roll: *Zoë of a Thousand Smiles* Michael Nardella, 2019-01-02 Traumatized by the mysterious departure of her father, young Zoë closes herself off from the outside world. Only later does she find the courage to claw back her life by trying to find him. On reaching puberty, Zoë runs away to find her father, Peter, who lost his job and then disappeared. Before leaving, Peter gave Zoë a cryptic message, which eventually leads her to follow his trail. In hot pursuit of Zoë is Choppy, her de facto stepfather and a former work colleague and friend of Peter's. Ostensibly he sets off to save her, but his real motive is to make sure she doesn't divulge his dark secret about a hit-and-run death. Armed with only a vague idea of where Peter might be living, Zoë is befriended by a street-smart runaway known as Little Diva, because of her propensity to break into song. Together the girls survive a string of adventures before Little Diva is forcibly taken back by her family. Zoë then turns the tables on Choppy and follows him to where Peter is staying. There she witnesses a fiery confrontation between the two men.

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high voltage rock and roll: *Rock Legends: Icons of the Music Industry* Harry Tekell, *Rock Legends: Icons of the Music Industry* takes readers on an electrifying journey through the evolution of rock music, celebrating the lives and legacies of the genre's most influential artists. From the birth of rock 'n' roll with pioneers like Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry to the revolutionary sounds of the British Invasion, the counterculture explosion of psychedelic rock, and the raw power of punk, this book explores every major era and movement. Discover the stories behind iconic bands and solo artists, delve into the cultural impact of their music, and understand how rock has continuously evolved, influencing and reflecting societal changes. Perfect for music enthusiasts and rock aficionados, this comprehensive guide captures the spirit and essence of rock 'n' roll, honoring the legends who made it all possible.

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high voltage rock and roll: Gudinski Stuart Coupe, 2015-07-28 The real story of the man behind the bands - and a backstage pass to forty years of Australian rock music. Known to many as GODinski, Michael Gudinski is unquestionably the most powerful and influential figure in the Australian rock'n'roll music business - and has been for the last four decades. Often referred to as 'the father of the Australian music industry', he has nurtured the careers of many artists - Kylie Minogue, Jimmy Barnes, Paul Kelly, Skyhooks, Split Enz, Yothu Yindi, to name just a few. But his reach isn't limited to Australian artists. With his Frontier Touring Company, Gudinski has toured The Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Sting ... pretty much a who's who of the arena level international music scene. A self-made multi-millionaire, Gudinski is the Australian equivalent of Richard Branson or David Geffen, but who is this tough, inspired, flamboyant and impassioned businessman who has shaped Australian popular culture? Where did he come from, and how has he stayed relevant for so long in an industry notorious for its fickleness? Rock journalist Stuart Coupe delves into Gudinski's life to find the answers - and in doing so gives us a backstage pass to forty years of Australian rock.

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