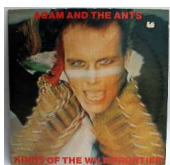


Adam And The Ants - Kings Of The Wild Frontier (1980)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 13 June 2014 16:14 - Last Updated Wednesday, 27 September 2017 20:17

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A1 Dog Eat Dog A2 "Antmusic" A3 Feed Me To The Lions A4 Los Rancheros A5 Ants Invasion A6 Killer In The Home B1 Kings Of The Wild Frontier B2 The Magnificent Five B3 Don't Be Square (Be There) B4 Jolly Roger B5 Making History B6 The Human Beings Adam Ant – vocals Marco Pirroni – guitar Kevin Mooney – bass Terry Lee Miall – drums Chris Hughes – drums, producer

Hooking up with Malcolm McLaren was a pivotal moment for Adam Ant, since the manager not only introduced Ant to the thundering, infectious Burundi drum beat that became his signature, he stole his band, too. Adam and the rest of the Ants had just worked up how to exploit the Burundi style when McLaren pirated the boys off to support Annabella Lwin in Bow Wow Wow -- using the very same sound they had developed with Adam Ant. It was now a race to get that sound into the stores first, and Adam lucked out when he joined forces with guitarist Marco Pirroni, who quickly proved to be invaluable. Adam and Marco knocked out a bunch of songs that retained some of the dark artiness of Dirk Wears White Sox, largely anchored by those enormous Burundi beats and given great, irresistible pop hooks -- plus a flash sense of style, as the new Ants dressed up in something that looked like American Indians with a velveteen touch of a dandy fop. It was a brilliant, gonzo move -- something that quickly overshadowed Bow Wow Wow -- and the resulting record, Kings of the Wild Frontier, is one of the great defining albums of its time. There's simply nothing else like it, nothing else that has the same bravado, the same swagger, the same gleeful self-aggrandizement and sense of camp. This walked a brilliant line between campiness and art-house chutzpah, and it arrived at precisely the right time -- at the forefront of new wave, so Adam & the Ants exploded into the British popular consciousness. If image was all that they had, they would've remained a fad, but Kings of the Wild Frontier remains a terrific album because it not only has some tremendous songs -- the title track and "Antmusic" are classic hits, while "Killer in the Home" and "Physical (You're So)" are every bit their equal -- but because it fearlessly, imperceptibly switches gears between giddy and ominous, providing nothing short of a thrill ride in its 13 songs. That's why it still sounds like nothing else years after its release. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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