

Def Leppard - Hysteria Deluxe Edition (2006)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Women* 2. *Rocket* 3. *Animal* 4. *Love Bites* 5. *Pour Some Sugar On Me* 6. *Armageddon* 7. *Gods Of War* 8. *Don't Shoot Shotgun* 9. *Run Riot* 10. *Hysteria* 11. *Excitable* 12. *Love & Affection* 13. *Tear It Down* 14. *Ride Into The Sun (1987 Re-Recording)* 15. *I Wanna Be Your Hero* 16. *Ring Of Fire* 17. *Elected (Live July 1987 In Tilburg, Holland)* 18. *Love & Affection (Live July 1987 In Tilburg, Holland)* 19. *Billy's Got A Gun (Live July 1987 In Tilburg, Holland)* 20. *Rock Af Ages (Medley) (Live July 1987 In Tilburg, Holland)* 21. *Women (Live In Denver 1988)* 22. *Animal (Extended Version)* 23. *Pour Some Sugar On Me (Extended Version)* 24. *Armageddon It (The Nuclear Mix)* 25. *Excitable (Orgasmic Mix)* 26. *Rocket (The Lunar Mix)* 27. *Release Me (Performed By Stumpus Maximus & The Good Ol' Boys)* Rick Allen Drums Phil Collen Guitar Def Leppard Mixing, Primary Artist, Producer Joe Elliott Vocals Rick Savage Bass Bankrupt Brothers Vocals (Background)

The emo kids who keep bands such as My Chemical Romance in business are probably barely aware of Def Leppard, but it was with the release of this album in 1987 that the Sheffield fashion disasters won the right to be counted among the seminal bands of metal. Idiotic as some of it was (opening track *Women* conveys the flavour of things: "One part love, one part wild/ One part lady, one part child/ I give you Women! Women!"), *Hysteria* contended that commercial tunefulness and bludgeoning riffs did not have to be mutually exclusive propositions. With 18m sold already, it has been remastered, and some makeweight B-sides and live versions added, both to capitalise on a surge of popularity in the US, where the Lep are currently on an arena tour, and to induce UK Lep-heads to buy it again. Nineteen years on, it still rocks - loudly and euphorically. ---Caroline Sullivan, theguardian.com

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Where Pyromania had set the standard for polished, catchy pop-metal, Hysteria only upped the ante. Pyromania's slick, layered Mutt Lange production turned into a painstaking obsession with dense sonic detail on Hysteria, with the result that some critics dismissed the record as a stiff, mechanized pop sell-out (perhaps due in part to Rick Allen's new, partially electronic drum kit). But Def Leppard's music had always employed big, anthemic hooks, and few of the pop-metal bands who had hit the charts in the wake of Pyromania could compete with Leppard's sense of craft; certainly none had the pop songwriting savvy to produce seven chart singles from the same album, as the stunningly consistent Hysteria did. Joe Elliott's lyrics owe an obvious debt to his obsession with T. Rex, particularly on the playfully silly anthem "Pour Some Sugar on Me," and the British glam rock tribute "Rocket," while power ballads like "Love Bites" and the title track lack the histrionics or gooey sentimentality of many similar offerings. The strong pop hooks and "perfect"-sounding production of Hysteria may not appeal to die-hard heavy metal fans, but it isn't heavy metal -- it's pop-metal, and arguably the best pop-metal ever recorded. Its blockbuster success helped pave the way for a whole new second wave of hair metal bands, while proving that the late-'80s musical climate could also be very friendly to veteran hard rock acts, a lead many would follow in the next few years. ---Steve Huey, AllMusic Review

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