



Jorgen Angel / Redferns

Rolling Stones

Bad boys of British rock set the tone for on-stage excellence and off-stage excess

Before Mick Jagger began regularly prostituting himself to underage, vacuous chicks with longer hair and a shorter ego than his, before Keith Richards hung up his last needle and left a worldwide party of fans in his wake, before Brian Jones became a memory in the memories of die hard fans the world over, there was the Rolling Stones.

Of course, there still is the Rolling Stones, although the present incarnation of the original five young men is more of a commercialised shadow of their former selves. But we forgive them, because after surviving birth and death and everything in between they still manage to capture the ears of 13 year-olds, their older brothers, their parents and their grannies.

"Time Is On My Side" was their first big hit; "Satisfaction" in the summer of 1965 grew them bigger, and novelist Tom Wolfe concluded that "The Beatles want to hold your hand, but The Stones want to burn

your town". As the Stones pranced their way through the British Invasion with frenetic covers of rhythm and blues songs such as "I Wanna Be Your Man", "Not Fade Away" and "Ain't Too Proud To Beg", Mick Jagger left a trail of effeminate fire that spawned an entire generation of glam rockers that would carry legions of star-dusted hippies into a new decade.

Playing the perfect bad boys to the Beatles' more nerdy musical iconography, the Rolling Stones shocked their audiences, and traumatised the parents of their audiences, with such classics as "Let's Spend the Night Together", "Sympathy for the Devil", "You Can't Always Get What You Want", "Street Fighting Man", "Jumpin' Jack Flash", and "Monkey Man".

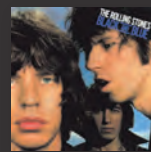
But no matter how outrageous the show, their real strength lay in the music – their melodies, and their lyrics, most of which were written by Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. The prolific

duo, who often referred to their relationship as that of an old married couple, wrote some of what many people still consider to be the most profound poetry ever in the history of ever. And when Jagger put that poetry into motion, prancing his puff-painted lips around a stage set with inflatable engorged penises, he licked an entire generation into a satisfactory frenzy of glam rocked rebellion.

As the band's popularity increased, so did turmoil between Jagger and Richards, the group's two most visibly prominent members. Richards was, and continues to be, faithful to the music while Jagger, always the shrewd businessman, tends to pay exaggerated attention to the packaging of the band and its music. But their disparate approaches only benefited the band in the end, who continue to play sold out tours even now, over 40 years after they first began.

Jackie Oweis Sawiris

3 essential CDs



Black and Blue

(Rolling Stones Records) 1976

Key tracks:

"Hand of Fate"
"Crazy Mama"

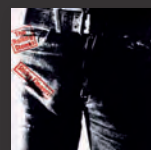


Exile on Main Street

(Rolling Stones Records) 1972

Key tracks:

"Tumbling Dice"
"All Down the Line"



Sticky Fingers

(Rolling Stones Records) 1971

Key tracks:

"Can't You Hear Me Knocking"
"Moonlight Mile"