

**Slade - Slayed? (1972/1993)**

1 *How D'You Ride* 2 *The Whole World's Goin' Crazee* 3 *Look At Last Nite* 4 *I Won't Let It 'Appen Agen* 5 *Move Over* 6 *Gudbuy T'Jane* 7 *Gudbuy Gudbuy* 8 *Mama Weer All Crazee Now* 9 *I Don't Mind* 10 *Let The Good Time Roll - Feel So Fine*      Dave Hill - Guitar, Vocals Noddy Holder - Guitar, Vocals Jim Lea - Bass, Keyboards, Violin, Vocals Don Powell - Drums

Slade might have built its everywhere-but-America fame upon a succession of gut-tearing hit singles, but the band's true rocking credentials were on display elsewhere, in the second to none stage show that had already been preserved on the epochal *Slade Alive!* earlier in 1972 and across the chain of storming B-sides that had accompanied the smashes so far. *Slayed?* may have been only the band's second studio album in four years, but it reinforced that barrage with enough mighty stompers that the band could have taken the next year off and still not run out of steam. Even if one excises past hits "Gudbuy t' Jane" and "Mama Weer All Crazee Now" from the equation, *Slayed?* is a nonstop party, from the riotously self-fulfilling prophecy of "The Whole World's Goin' Crazee" to the down-key but still eminently stompalong-able "Look at Last Nite," the latter a reminder that, even at its loudest, Slade was still capable of some fetching balladry. Or should that be the other way around? The tomahawk riffing of "I Won't Let It 'Appen Again" is another highlight -- a similar arrangement was later borrowed, to excellent effect, for sometime support band Blue Öyster Cult's version of another Slade favorite, the rocker anthem "Born to Be Wild," while "Gudbuy Gudbuy" lurches like a battalion of tanks and matches a stirring Dave Hill guitar break to one of Noddy Holder's coolest-ever vocals. A couple of covers break the Holder/Lea songwriting domination. A bass-heavy blues boogie through Janis Joplin's "Move Over" had graced a Slade BBC session earlier in the year, and provoked such a great response that they had no option but to re-record it, while the closing medley of "Let the Good Times Roll" and "Feel So Fine" was the closest you could come to the mania of a Slade live show without actually going out and buying a ticket. Of course, listeners don't have that option today. But stick on *Slayed?*, crank the volume well up -- and the whole world will be going crazee all over again. ---Dave Thompson, AllMusic Review

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