

Def Leppard – Pyromania (1983)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Rock Rock (Till You Drop)* 3:52 2 *Photograph* 4:12 3 *Stagefright* 3:46 4 *Too Late For Love* 4:30 5 *Die Hard The Hunter* 6:17 6 *Foolin'* 4:32 7 *Rock Of Ages* 4:09 8 *Comin' Under Fire* 4:20 9 *Action! Not Words* 3:52 10 *Billy's Got A Gun* 5:27
Bass – Rick Savage
Drums – Rick Allen
Guitar – Phil Collen, Steve "Steamin" Clark
Guitar [Backing Track] – Pete Willis
Keyboards [Other] – Booker T. Boffin
Lead Vocals – Joe Elliott
Backing Vocals – The Leppardettes

While Def Leppard had obviously wanted to write big-sounding anthems on their previous records, *Pyromania* was where the band's vision coalesced and gelled into something more. More than ever before, the band's songs on *Pyromania* are driven by catchy, shiny melodic hooks instead of heavy guitar riffs, although the latter do pop up once in a while. But it wasn't just this newly intensified focus on melody and consistent songwriting (and heavy MTV exposure) that made *Pyromania* a massive success -- and the catalyst for the '80s pop-metal movement. Robert John "Mutt" Lange's buffed-to-a-sheen production -- polished drum and guitar sounds, multi-tracked layers of vocal harmonies, a general sanding of any and all musical rough edges, and a perfectionistic attention to detail -- set the style for much of the melodic hard rock that followed. It wasn't a raw or spontaneous sound, but the performances were still energetic and committed. Leppard's quest for huge, transcendent hard rock perfection on *Pyromania* was surprisingly successful; their reach never exceeded their grasp, which makes the album an enduring (and massively influential) classic. ---Steve Huey, AllMusic Review

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