Bon Jovi Encyclopedia Article

Bon Jovi

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Bon Jovi Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Bon Jovi.....3

Bon Jovi

Slippery When Wet, Bon Jovi's 1986 break-out album, brought "metal" inspired pop music to the forefront of American popular culture. The album was Bon Jovi's third effort for Mercury Records, which had gone through a bidding war to get the group in 1984. *Slippery When Wet* was different from Bon Jovi's earlier albums, the self-titled *Bon Jovi* and *7800 Fahrenheit,* because the group hired a professional songwriter to work on the project. Mercury Records also invested an unprecedented amount of marketing research into the album. The group recorded about 30 songs, which were played for focus groups of teenagers, and the resulting album spawned two number one singles, sold more than 10 million copies, and established Bon Jovi as the premier "hair metal" band of the 1980s.

The band had humble beginnings. New Jersey rocker Jon Bongiovi had recorded a single called "Runaway" with a group of local notables, and when the single received good radio play he decided to get a more permanent group together for local performances. Along with Bongiovi, who changed his last name to Bon Jovi, guitarist Richie Sambora, bassist Alec John Such, keyboardist David Rashbaum (changed to Bryan), and drummer Tico Torres were the members of a the new group Bon Jovi. Alec John Such eventually left the group in the early 1990s, and after that time no other members have officially been added to Bon Jovi.

Jon Bon Jovi

After the success of *Slippery When Wet,* the group came back with *New Jersey* in 1988. The album was a big commercial success, selling 8 million copies, but after the *New Jersey* tour the group took some time apart for solo projects. Jon Bon Jovi found success working on the soundtrack to *Young Guns II* in 1990, and guitarist Sambora released *Stranger in this Town* in 1991.

Bon Jovi reunited to release *Keep the Faith* in the midst of the Seattle-based grunge rock movement. Its sales were lower than previous Bon Jovi efforts, but their tenth anniversary hits collection, *Crossroads,* went multi-platinum. The release of *These Days* in 1994 was a departure from their rock-pop roots and had a more contemporary sound. In the late 1990s, Jon Bon Jovi worked on solo projects and an acting career. His first solo album, *Destination Anywhere,* was released in 1997. It was accompanied by a mini-movie that got exposure on MTV.

Further Reading:

Jeffries, Neil. *Bon Jovi: A Biography.* Philadelphia, Trans-Atlantic Publications, Inc., 1997.