

where to start with... **HAIR METAL**



THE LOWDOWN: Before grunge turned up like a sour-faced killjoy, rock music was about nothin' but a good time, to quote chicks-with-dicks Poison. Raised in Sunset Strip clubs and dressed like a Hollywood hooker, hair metal was loud, dumb, obnoxious and unapologetically sexist. Now, thanks to the success of The Darkness and Velvet Revolver, it's back. Wanna rock out with your cock out? Walk this way...

FIVE ESSENTIAL HAIR METAL ALBUMS



MÖTLEY CRÜE

'SHOUT AT THE DEVIL'
(ELECTRA, 1983)

The blueprint. The Crüe honed their influences - girls, drugs, partying - and chucked in cod-Satanism just for fun.

DOWNLOAD: 'Shout At The Devil'.



BON JOVI

'SLIPPERY WHEN WET'
(MERCURY, 1986)

The soundtrack to a million prom nights - fist-pumping blue collar anthems delivered by toothy all-American boys.

DOWNLOAD: 'Livin' On A Prayer'.



POISON

'LOOK WHAT THE CAT DRAGGED IN'
(MERCURY, 1986)

The cover caused involuntary hard-ons, the bubblegum riffs got chicks dancing, and the single 'Talk Dirty To Me' stormed MTV.

DOWNLOAD: 'Talk Dirty To Me'.



GUNS N'ROSES

'APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION'
(Geffen, 1987)

They may have breathed the same air as LA's dumbest, but GN'R's feral rock'n'roll was closer to punk than poodle rock.

DOWNLOAD: Welcome To The Jungle'.

LOST CLASSIC



VAIN

'NO RESPECT'
(ISLAND, 1989)

Vain had it all - great pouts, great songs, a frontman to rival Axl. They cannot fail to become stars," said K! Grunge fucked that.

DOWNLOAD: 'Beat The Bullet'.