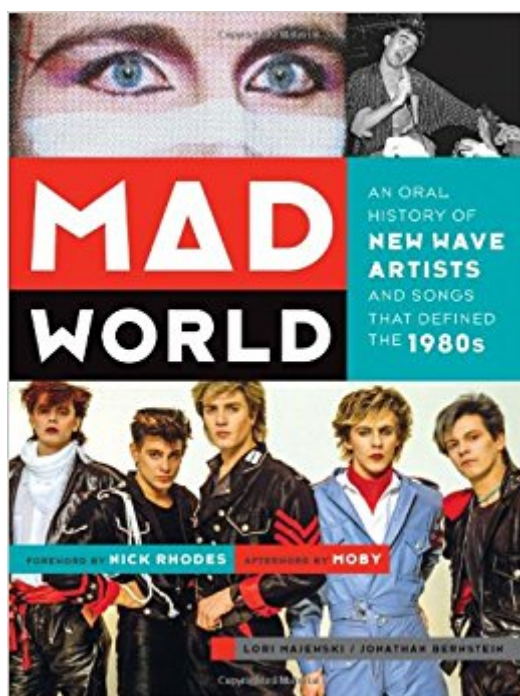


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Mad World: An Oral History Of New Wave Artists And Songs That Defined The 1980s



Synopsis

Mad World is a highly entertaining oral history that celebrates the New Wave music phenomenon of the 1980s via new interviews with 35 of the most notable artists of the period. Each chapter begins with a discussion of their most popular song but leads to stories of their history and place in the scene, ultimately painting a vivid picture of this colorful, idiosyncratic time. Mixtape suggestions, fashion sidebars, and quotes from famous contemporary admirers help fill out the fun. Participants include members of Duran Duran, New Order, The Smiths, Tears for Fears, Adam Ant, Echo and the Bunnymen, Devo, ABC, Spandau Ballet, A Flock of Seagulls, Thompson Twins, and INXS.

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Customer Reviews

"Holy Human League! Mad World professes to not be a definitive history of New Wave, but its authors couldn't fool me. Every fantastic detail of the era pops back to life via the vivid tales of its top titans, from Adam Ant to Kajagoogoo (that's right! Kajagoogoo!). Getting lost in story after story made me never want to return to the world of twerking, texting and soy lattes. Come on, Eileen, can't we just whip it good forever?" (Ian Drew, Entertainment Director, Us Weekly) "Mad World is an exhaustive, revelatory history of one of the most important eras of modern pop music. Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein lived it, breathed it, and loved it and make you want to relive it all over again. In a word: awesome." (Shirley Halperin, Music Editor, The Hollywood Reporter) "Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein take us behind the hairspray and eyeliner to reveal the inside stories of the songs that defined an

often-overlooked era — tales of inspiration, ambition, tension, and, of course, hairspray and eyeliner. (Alan Light, former Editor-in-Chief, Spin and VIBE magazines) — “Here it is — the whole glossy, gory, glorious story of the 1980s new wave revolution, in one addictive chapter after another. These are the artists who lived it all out, whether it’s Duran Duran making the “Girls on Film” video or Kim Wilde finally explaining the “East California” enigma. Mad World captures the wild enthusiasm of the moment, evoking a time of perfect songs, innovative style, and lipstick cherry all over the lens. (Rob Sheffield contributing editor to Rolling Stone and author of Talking to Girls About Duran Duran) — “If you thrill to the sight of the MTV flag waving on the moon, if camera-click sounds make your heart skip a beat in anticipation of Duran Duran’s “Girls On Film,” and you know precisely what killed the radio star, then — you’ll melt — with Mad World! Interviews with artists (Adam Ant, Kim Wilde, Howard Jones, Morrissey!) provide inside scoop on the MTV Generation hits we love. (Martha Quinn co-author of VJ: The Unplugged Adventures of MTV’s First Wave and DJ, SiriusXM) — “Remember the feeling you had in your youth, when you’d meet a stranger who had your obscure favorite band’s pin on their jacket? Reading Mad World feels exactly like that, except your new friend is charming, much smarter than you, shockingly well connected, and ready to dish. My one problem with the book is my one problem with the New Wave era: that it had to end. — (Dave Holmes New York Magazine’s Vulture and former MTV VJ) — “Mad World is an exhaustive, revelatory history of one of the most important eras of modern pop music. Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein lived it, breathed it, and loved it — and make you want to relive it all over again. In a word: awesome. (Shirley Halperin Music Editor, Billboard and The Hollywood Reporter) — “Co-authors Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein interviewed all of the bands and uncovered many tidbits that blew my mind. I called Lori to reminisce about the ’80s — and dang, I’d love to have 12 more conversations with her, — because we didn’t even touch upon INXS or Depeche Mode. (USA Today’s Pop Candy Blog) — “The book tells the tale of some of the decade’s most unforgettable songs . . . in fascinating detail, letting the architects of these memorable records shine a light on how the sound of a generation came to be. (The Hollywood Reporter Online) — “In the book Mad World: An Oral History of New Wave Artists and Songs That Defined the 1980s, journalists Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein interviewed some of the most memorable musicians of the genre to find out how it came to be. (New York Post) — “Many tomes about Rock and Roll exist, but — Mad World — is one of the first to

give artists from the 1980s another day in the sun. (The Huffington Post) “If you miss the days when the world was made of mesh and lace, you’ll want to check out Mad World . . . hugely entertaining. (RollingStone.com) “While Mad World is a must-have for the formerly frosted bangs set, it serves as a useful primer for anyone curious about the oft-maligned new wave era. (The Los Angeles Review of Books) “A really informative and insightful read. (People.com) “It’s a book that pays due to an overlooked generation. (Adam Ant) “I want to plug a book that I have nothing to do with but that I’m reading and loving and recommending to friends. It’s called Mad World. If you’re a big fan of 80s new wave music, they take all of those songs, and each chapter is a behind-the-scenes about the song, like “Come On Eileen,” “Take on Me,” [“True” by] Spandau Ballet. I am fascinated by this book. (Gary Dell’Abate, aka Baba Booey executive producer of the Howard Stern Show, on the post-Stern Wrap Up show) “As a good overview of new wave, this title should appeal to a wide audience of pop music lovers. (Library Journal) “There aren’t many books where you find The Smiths sharing cover space with Adam Ant, or Echo & The Bunnymen considered peers of Duran Duran. But that’s Mad World for you. “An Oral History of New Wave Artists and Songs That Defined the 1980s, in which all manner of unlikely bedfellows are assigned equal space and glory in a very American perspective on that early 1980s period of big hair, big mouths, and, in far too many cases, very bad trousers. (Or pants, if you’re a Yank.) In gathering up copious first-person interviews—including, to their enormous credit, a certain Morrissey—the American-born Majewski and Scots-raised Bernstein have assembled a thorough, and thoroughly entertaining, oral history of a vital period in popular music. (Tony Fletcher) “The new wave era is often dismissed for its one-hit wonders and silly haircuts, but Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein’s book examines the period with a great deal of love and reverence. (Buzzfeed)

Lori Majewski was a cofounder and editor-in-chief of Teen People. She was also an executive editor of Entertainment Weekly and Us Weekly. She lives in Weehawken, New Jersey. Jonathan Bernstein is a Los Angeles-based writer. He is the author of, among other titles, Pretty In Pink: The Golden Age of Teenage Movies, and has contributed to publications such as The Guardian, Spin, Rolling Stone, and The Face.

Mad World is a fine book about the new wave era, mostly told from the viewpoint of some of the artists who defined the style and the era. Certainly, the insights of these artists are valuable in gaining a better understanding of some of the iconic songs, their inspirations, and their recording. The authors also include updates on what happened to the bands after the era. The one odd feature is that although one of the authors is American, the only American artists are those that rose to prominence in northeastern Ohio (e.g., the Waitresses, Devo). The new wave and no Cars? No Blondie? No B-52's? No, they're not here. One major "oops" in an otherwise very intriguing book.

With that one line, I was sold. I was expecting to relive certain formative moments of my youth. I wasn't expecting it to be so funny. There's a ton of insight here, both from the interviews with the musicians involved, and from two fans with very different perspectives, and wide ranging opinions. And a lot of it really hit home (Five Stages of Duran Duran, amirite?), but I also gained background info which, quite frankly, explained a lot. I'd recommend this both for nostalgic Gen X'ers, and for younger generations who have no frame of reference for Cold War ennui. And it made me laugh.

I was honored to be given an advanced copy of MAD WORLD, and I wasn't disappointed. MAD WORLD is more than a mixtape for a generation—it's the story of a period of musical innovation, told by the musicians themselves and put into perspective by two of many whose lives were set to its soundtrack. Lori Majewski and Jonathan Bernstein perfectly blend credibility, humor, style, and nostalgia as they present over thirty songs that changed the pop musical landscape in the early-mid 1980s. Each song is accompanied by first-person reflections from the artists who made them, including their origins, triumphs and tragedies, and present-day contexts. Better yet, Majewski and Bernstein provide the reader with recommended playlists to accompany each song (like pairing the best wines with each course of a meal), which will have readers scrambling to their iTunes or dusting off their vinyl records. By the end of each chapter of MAD WORLD, the songs stuck in my head, and in a good way. One mention of WLIR (from Duran Duran—Nick Rhodes, no less!) sent me back to my bedroom on Long Island, where I had kept my stereo programmed to the radio station mostly responsible for introducing me to many of these bands (MTV and my friends did the rest). As the sister of professional musicians, I appreciate the elite production, the breakthrough synthesizer technology, and the musical influences that proceeded them, ranging from the Beatles to Bowie to Chic to the Sex Pistols. They still serve as the soundtrack to my life, and especially to my writing. The visual presentation of MAD WORLD is just as appealing as its textual content. Complete with classic photos and bold colors

representative of the times, readers will feel like they are flipping through a scrapbook, and they will happily reminisce as they read. MAD WORLD is also a terrific conversation piece. Readers may not agree with Majewski's and Bernstein's song selections. They may argue over which artists were more (or less) influential. But that's all part of the book's appeal — there's something for everyone: music lovers, musicians, pop culture historians, and, undoubtedly, Generation X. And what better way to pass down our favorite songs for the new generation, who, undoubtedly, will incorporate these songs into their lives and their world as their predecessors did. I love this book. It's the kind of book I'll pore over again and again, and get something new out of it each time. It's also the next best thing to being fourteen and listening to WLIR again. (Plus, no teenage angst or acne!) Seriously, though. You'll love it. ~Elisa Lorello Author of *Friends of Mine: Thirty Years in the Life of a Duran Duran Fan* (a memoir) and the best-selling novels *Faking It* and *Ordinary World*

I received the book yesterday and ended up losing sleep last night due to reading half the book. i.e. I couldn't put it down. It's an interesting read and well done. Great job to the authors! It is not sugarcoated and full of self-deprecating and sarcastic comments, along with praise to the artist as well. I like it. I'm in a 80s New Wave cover band (velcrolove.com) and it was interesting to see the original artist comments on the songs. We all have our own interpretations of the music of 80s new wave and those who were in the dance clubs and listened to college radio during that time knew this style of music has staying power. Great job again on publishing this book. I recommend it.

Reading the history and personal anecdotes behind some of my favorite songs growing up was very enjoyable. I was just a kid in the 80's, but reading this painted a vivid picture of what music, and art, and life was all about when my favorite genre was created! The only drawbacks were learning that a few of my favorite artists are kind of awful people, and having to read through the authors' opinions on every song and artist (it's their book though, I guess). To their credit, the authors seemed to get separate interviews from each member of a group, which allowed them to be fairly candid, but also seemed to disclose what each member said regarding what happened, to each other. This added a flair of drama to some stories, and just goes to show how different people's perspective and perception can be! I think my favorite stories, though, are the ones where all of the members had the same memory of that particular time. Worth the read if you're a new wave fan, for sure!

This book is a well written "compilation" of some of the best 80's new wave singles. The authors made a smart decision to avoid a broad history of new wave, and instead provided "snapshots" of some of the best songs of its genre. Some of the songs were one-hit wonders, others were the most recognizable tracks in the artist's careers. Although there were a few questionable song choices ("Being Boiled" instead of "Don't You want Me",, and Depeche Mode's "New Life"), this was obviously due to certain artists being unavailable (or declining) to be interviewed. There were also some notable absences like The Cure, Alphaville, and Siouxsie & the Banshees. With that said, the book brought back many fond memories for this former WLIR listener. I'm hoping that this is the first book in a series!

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