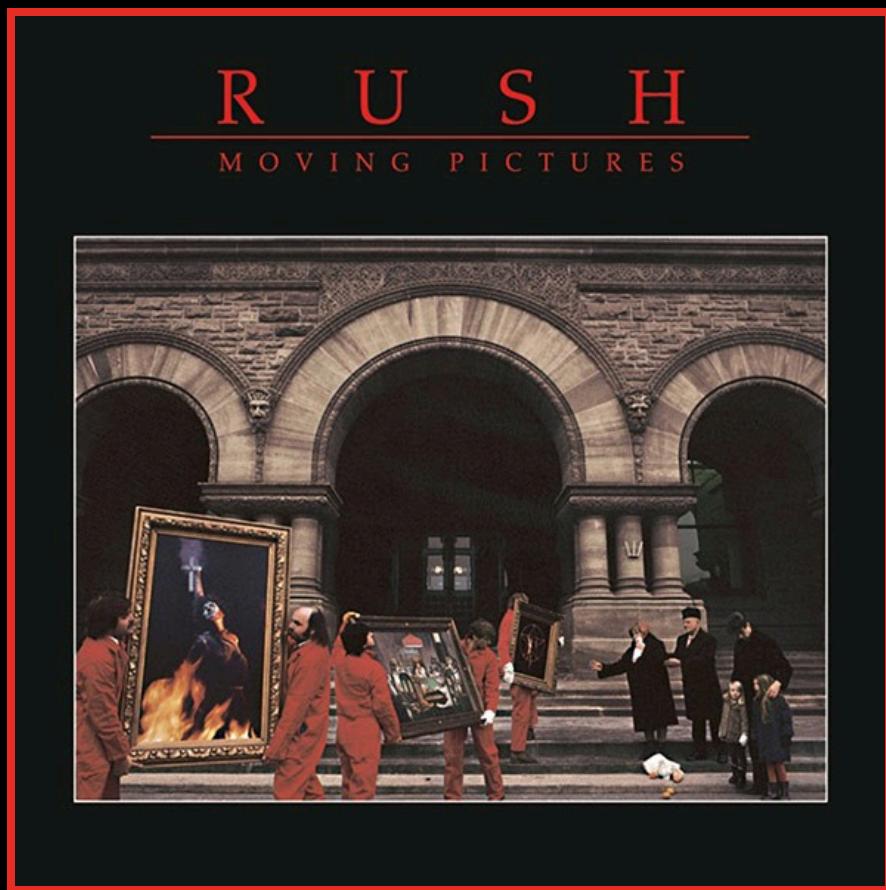


ALBUM REVIEW: RUSH'S "MOVING PICTURES"

FEBRUARY 1981



MOVING PICTURES IS THE EIGHTH STUDIO ALBUM BY THE TORONTO ROCK BAND RUSH. IT WAS RELEASED IN 1981 AND IS OFTEN SEEN AS THE BAND'S BEST ALBUM. THE RECORD MIXES RUSH'S PROGRESSIVE ROCK STYLE WITH A MORE RADIO FRIENDLY SOUND, WHICH HELPED THEM REACH A

MUCH BIGGER AUDIENCE. IT BECAME THEIR BEST-SELLING ALBUM AND IS STILL CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT PART OF ROCK MUSIC HISTORY.

EVEN THOUGH RUSH WAS ONLY A THREE PIECE BAND, THEY WERE KNOWN FOR MAKING A BIG AND POWERFUL SOUND. BY THE TIME MOVING PICTURES WAS RECORDED, **THE BAND WAS AT THE TOP OF THEIR GAME**, BOTH CREATIVELY AND MUSICALLY, MAKING AN ALBUM FULL OF STRONG PLAYING, WELL WRITTEN SONGS, AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS THAT **STILL HOLD UP** OVER FORTY YEARS LATER.



BAND MEMBERS

GEDDY LEE (BASS, VOCALS, KEYBOARDS)

BORN JULY 29, 1953, GEDDY ACTED AS THE BAND'S FRONTRMAN AND ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE ELEMENTS OF RUSH'S SOUND. HIS HIGH-ENERGY VOCALS, COMPLEX BASS LINES, AND INCREASING USE OF SYNTHESIZERS HELPED SHAPE THE DIRECTION OF MOVING PICTURES. GEDDY WAS KNOWN FOR JUGGLING BASS, KEYBOARDS, AND FOOT PEDALS ALL AT ONCE DURING LIVE SHOWS, WHICH MADE THE BAND'S THREE-MEMBER SETUP FEEL MUCH BIGGER.



ALEX LIFESON (GUITAR)

BORN AUGUST 27, 1953, ALEX PROVIDED THE MELODIC AND ATMOSPHERIC GUITAR WORK THAT DEFINED THE BAND'S SOUND. ON MOVING PICTURES, HE BLENDED SHARP RIFFS WITH TEXTURED CHORDS, ESPECIALLY ON TRACKS LIKE "LIMELIGHT" AND "RED BARCHETTA." LIFESON'S PLAYING BROUGHT BOTH POWER AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH, MAKING HIM ONE OF ROCK'S MOST UNDERRATED GUITARISTS.



NEIL PEART (DRUMS, LYRICS)

BORN SEPTEMBER 12, 1952, NEIL JOINED THE BAND IN 1974 AND QUICKLY BECAME KNOWN AS ONE OF THE GREATEST DRUMMERS OF ALL TIME. HIS DRUMMING ON MOVING PICTURES IS WIDELY REGARDED AS SOME OF HIS BEST WORK, ESPECIALLY ON "TOM SAWYER" AND THE INSTRUMENTAL

“YYZ.” NEIL ALSO SERVED AS THE BAND’S LYRICIST, BRINGING THEMES OF INDIVIDUALITY, PHILOSOPHY, AND PERSONAL STRUGGLE INTO THE SONGS. HIS TECHNICAL ABILITY AND WRITING PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN THE BAND’S SUCCESS.



JOHN RUTSEY (ORIGINAL DRUMMER)

BEFORE NEIL PEART BECAME KNOWN AS RUSH’S LEGENDARY DRUMMER, THE BAND’S ORIGINAL LINEUP INCLUDED JOHN RUTSEY. HE CO-FOUNDED RUSH WITH ALEX LIFESON AND GEDDY LEE AND PLAYED DRUMS ON THEIR 1974 SELF-TITLED DEBUT ALBUM. RUTSEY’S PLAYING LEANED MORE TOWARD STRAIGHTFORWARD HARD ROCK, GIVING THE EARLY VERSION OF RUSH A DIFFERENT FEEL COMPARED TO THE COMPLEX, PROGRESSIVE STYLE THEY LATER BECAME KNOWN FOR. HE LEFT THE BAND SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST ALBUM DUE TO HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO DIABETES AND BECAUSE HE WASN’T INTERESTED IN THE LONG TOURING LIFESTYLE RUSH WAS HEADING TOWARD. HIS DEPARTURE OPENED THE DOOR FOR NEIL PEART TO JOIN, WHICH ENDED UP TRANSFORMING THE BAND’S ENTIRE SOUND AND DIRECTION.

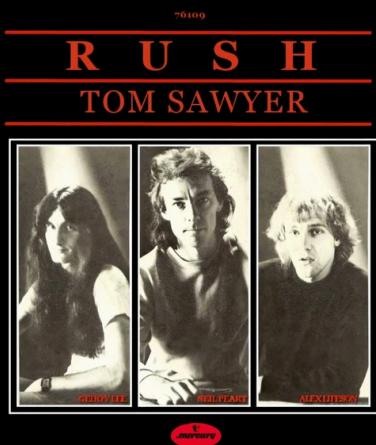


TRACK-BY-TRACK ANALYSIS

1. TOM SAWYER 10/10

THE ALBUM OPENS WITH "TOM SAWYER," AN ICONIC TRACK THAT HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH RUSH'S IDENTITY. THE SONG FEATURES GEDDY LEE'S DISTINCTIVE SYNTHESIZER WORK, NEIL PEART'S COMPLEX DRUMMING PATTERNS, AND ALEX LIFESON'S POWERFUL GUITAR RIFFS. THE LYRICS, CO WRITTEN BY PEART AND PYE DUBOIS, EXPLORE THEMES OF INDIVIDUALITY AND REBELLION, ENCAPSULATING THE SPIRIT OF THE ALBUM.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auLBLk4ibAk>



2. RED BARCHETTA 100/10

"RED BARCHETTA" IS A VIVID NARRATIVE PIECE, INSPIRED BY A SHORT STORY CALLED "A NICE MORNING DRIVE" BY RICHARD S. FOSTER. THE SONG'S DRIVING RHYTHM AND POWERFUL LYRICS PAINT A PICTURE OF A DYSTOPIAN FUTURE WHERE CARS ARE OUTLAWED, AND A YOUNG MAN TAKES HIS UNCLE'S RED BARCHETTA FOR A THRILLING RIDE. ALEX'S SOARING GUITAR WORK COMPLEMENTS THE STORYTELLING, MAKING IT A FAN FAVORITE.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMqMMRVW-EE&list=RDGMqMMRVW-EE&start_radio=1



3. YYZ 10/10

AN INSTRUMENTAL TRACK, "YYZ" SHOWCASES RUSH'S SKILL AND TECHNICAL WORK. NAMED AFTER THE TORONTO PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S IDENTIFICATION CODE, THE SONG USES A TRICKY RHYTHM AND THE INSTRUMENTS WORK TOGETHER IN A REALLY DETAILED WAY. BETWEEN THE BAND MEMBERS. THIS SONG REALLY SHOWS WHAT THEY CAN DO, HIGHLIGHTING EACH MEMBER'S MUSICAL ABILITIES AND THEIR ABILITY TO CREATE A COHESIVE SOUND.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftVTWDrtrlc>



4. LIMELIGHT 10/10

"LIMELIGHT" TALKS HONESTLY ABOUT HOW FAME CAN BE STRESSFUL AND LONELY. THE LYRICS, WRITTEN BY NEIL PEART, FOCUS ON WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ALWAYS BE WATCHED BY THE PUBLIC. THE SONG ALSO HAS A GREAT GUITAR SOLO BY ALEX LIFESON AND A CATCHY CHORUS, WHICH IS WHY IT'S STILL ONE OF RUSH'S MOST POPULAR SONGS.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiRuj2_czzw&list=RDZiRuj2_czzw&start_radio=1

5. THE CAMERA EYE 10/10

THE LONGEST SONG ON THE ALBUM, “THE CAMERA EYE,” IS SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS. IT FOCUSES ON THE BUSY FEELING OF NEW YORK CITY AND LONDON. THE SONG USES DIFFERENT SOUNDS AND MOODS TO PAINT A CLEAR PICTURE, AND ITS LONGER STRUCTURE LETS THE BAND EXPLORE MORE COMPLEX IDEAS WHILE SHOWING HOW TIGHT AND PRECISE THEY ARE AS MUSICIANS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o4AQe4BJr0>



6. WITCH HUNT 10/10

“WITCH HUNT” FOCUSES ON FEAR AND PARANOIA, AND HOW PEOPLE CAN TURN ON EACH OTHER WHEN THEY FOLLOW THE CROWD. THE SONG HAS A DARK AND TENSE MOOD, HELPED BY EERIE SYNTH SOUNDS AND STRONG DRUMMING. NEIL PEART’S LYRICS MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT HOW DANGEROUS MASS PANIC AND HYSTERIA CAN BE, WHICH MAKES THE SONG STAND OUT ON THE ALBUM.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4DwbkdxQpE&list=RD-4DwbkdxQpE&start_radio=1

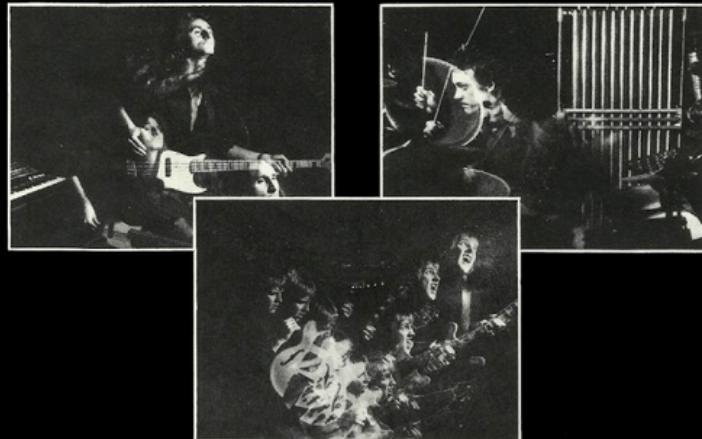
7. VITAL SIGNS 9/10

CLOSING THE ALBUM, “VITAL SIGNS” BRINGS IN REGGAE AND NEW WAVE INFLUENCES, SHOWING THAT RUSH WASN’T AFRAID TO TRY NEW SOUNDS. THE LYRICS REFLECT ON HUMAN NATURE AND BEING TRUE TO YOURSELF. WITH ITS STRONG RHYTHM AND CATCHY MELODY, IT WORKS WELL AS THE FINAL TRACK ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT ALBUM..

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DmaK1OG1Fc&list=RD9DmaK1OG1Fc&start_radio=1



VITAL SIGNS



IN THE MOOD

CONCLUSION

“MOVING PICTURES” IS A STRONG EXAMPLE OF RUSH’S CREATIVITY AND SKILL AS A BAND. EVERY SONG BRINGS SOMETHING DIFFERENT, FROM POWERFUL, HIGH-ENERGY TRACKS TO MORE THOUGHTFUL AND PERSONAL ONES. THE ALBUM HELPED SECURE RUSH’S PLACE IN ROCK HISTORY AND CONTINUES TO INSPIRE MUSICIANS AND FANS TODAY. WHETHER YOU’VE BEEN LISTENING TO RUSH FOR YEARS OR ARE JUST DISCOVERING THEM, MOVING PICTURES IS AN ESSENTIAL ALBUM THAT SHOWS WHY THEY ARE ONE OF ROCK’S MOST LEGENDARY BANDS.