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# J I M S T E I N M A N

Jim Steinman wrote and arranged all the songs on Meat Loaf's debut LP, *Bat Out of Hell*, which has sold over eight million copies since its release.

Steinman first met Meat Loaf when he auditioned Meat for a part in his show "More Than You Deserve." Meat got the part and they began working together. After a short tour for both with the National Lampoon Show, Steinman and Meat Loaf got right down to doing *Bat Out of Hell*.

Now, Jim Steinman has just released his first solo album for Cleveland International/Epic Records. Entitled *BAD FOR GOOD* the album was co-produced by Steinman and Todd Rundgren (who also produced *Bat Out of Hell*). In line with its lyrical imagery, the LP utilizes every recording technique possible in an attempt to create a sweeping cinematic impact via the style of writing, performances and production. *BAD FOR GOOD* contains almost 65 minutes of music. There are ten selections on the album, all exploring the outer reaches of soaring rock & roll, with dramatic and virtuosic performances from Steinman and a spellbinding group of musicians. The cast of

characters include Todd Rundgren on guitars and background vocals, Roy Bittan and Max Weinberg of Bruce Springsteen's "E Street Band" on piano and drums, Ellen Foley (who performed "Paradise By the Dashboard Light" with Meat Loaf on *Bat Out of Hell*), Rory Dodd, singing several featured vocals, Karla DeVito (who performed "Paradise By the Dashboard Light" and many other Steinman songs on tour with Meat Loaf), the Blues Brothers' horn section and the entire New York Philharmonic Orchestra. The famed orchestra is featured in a stunning instrumental prologue to the album, "The Storm," which was recorded at Lincoln Center in New York with 105 musicians.

(Steinman got along so well with the Philharmonic that they expressed a strong interest in going out on tour with him, but he decided against it after discovering that they had a terrible reputation for trashing hotel rooms and picking up wayward high school kids whenever they went out on the road).

The lyrics of all the songs are rich and vivid, and are often chillingly explicit, in terms of their mythic power, relentless drive, humor, visual imagery and unrestrained romantic and/or sexual passion. As he puts it, "It is a very *unleashed* record!" It is ultimately an album of anthems — these songs are calls to action, cries against passivity, initiations by fire, doorways flung open, altars uncovered. . .

Jim Steinman was born in New York but spent a lot of his early life in Claremont, California, near Los Angeles. An avid, though not very accomplished surfer, he remembers dying his hair blond one summer, "It was some product Clairol put out once, designed for men. My hair turned a bizarre yellow-orange. It looked a little like W.C. Fields' liver."

He moved to New York right before entering high school, and then enrolled in Amherst College in Massachusetts. While still in college, Steinman wrote the book, music and lyrics for a spectacular play, "The Dream Engine." He also starred in the show, which was seen by Joseph Papp, the head of the New York Shakespeare Festival. During intermission Papp bought the rights to "The Dream Engine," and planned to open it in New York at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park, later moving it to Broadway. But city officials advised him that it was "far too raunchy, sexually explicit and violent to be performed in an open public place, owned by the city."

Steinman claims to have blotted out most of his college days. He remembers being kicked

out four times and talking his way back in each time. And he also remembers the following conversation, which actually took place:

*Scene (Amherst College)*

*Dean of Students:* "Jim, I see here on your record that you received a mark of 33 in Physics and a 17 in Calculus. Now how do you explain that?"

*Steinman:* "Well, I guess I've always been better in Science than Math."

Ever the creative individual, Steinman is currently working on developing film projects from many of the songs on *BAD FOR GOOD*. "Love and Death and An American Guitar" provides the opening sequence of "GUITAR," a film being produced for Warner Brothers by Steinman and David Sonenberg, his manager. The film is the life story of one Fender electric guitar, spanning the years 1954-1986. It is narrated by the guitar.

"The Storm," "Lost Boys and Golden Girls," "Bad for Good" and "Surf's Up" are all part of "Neverland," Steinman's dream-project—a massive science-fiction/rock & roll musical suggested by "Peter Pan." He is just beginning to write the screenplay now.

In addition to all this, Steinman wrote all the songs on Meat Loaf's forthcoming new album, which he also co-produced with Meat, Jimmy Iovine and Stephan Galfas.



("Steinman" is a name derived from the German. . . In that language the name "Steinman" is literally translated as "Rock Man.")