



Performing Glam Rock: Gender and Theatricality in Popular Music

Philip Auslander

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When it first appeared in the early 1970s, glam rock not only caused a stir among audiences and performers, it also stood counter to culture and psychedelic rock on their heads. Glam rock was outrageous and overtly theatrical, and its unforgettable characters—adorned with flamboyant costumes and heavy makeup and accompanied by elaborately constructed sets—were personified by performers such as Marc Bolan, David Bowie, Bryan Ferry, and Suzi Quatro. A sea change in rock performance had occurred.

Yet glam was as much about substance as style, and *Performing Glam Rock* delves into the many ways glam paved the way for new explorations of identity in terms of gender, sexuality, and performance. Philip Auslander positions glam historically and examines it as a set of performance strategies, exploring the ways in which glam rock—while celebrating the showmanship of 1950s rock and roll—began to undermine rock's adherence to the ideology of authenticity in the late 1960s.

In this important study of a too-often-overlooked phenomenon, Auslander takes a fresh look at the genius of the glam movement and introduces glam to a new generation of performance enthusiasts and scholars alike.

Philip Auslander is Professor in the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture at the Georgia Institute of Technology and author of numerous books, including *Liveness: Performance in a Mediatized Culture* and *Presence and Resistance: Postmodernism and Cultural Politics in Contemporary American Performance*. He is editor of the major reference work *Performance: Critical Concepts* and coeditor, with Carrie Sandahl, of *Bodies in Commotion: Disability and Performance*.

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