

## Bryan Adams

b. Bryan Adams, 5th November 1959, Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The unpretentious Adams developed into the most popular Canadian artist of the late 80s and 90s, and remains known for many romantic ballads and classic rock songs like 'Summer of '69' and 'Cuts Like A Knife'. Born in Canada of English parents, the young Adams grew up in a variety of countries as the son of a diplomat, mostly in Europe and the Middle East.

His self-titled debut album was released in 1980, and was basically the launching pad for his second album, 1981's "You Want It, You Got It" which scraped into the lower regions of the US charts and garnered one FM radio hit "Lonely Nights". He spent most of 1982 on tour supporting the album with Foreigner (whose Lou Gramm guested on the forthcoming album), the Kinks, Ozzy Osbourne and Journey.

A third album, "Cuts Like A Knife" released in 1983, was Adams' breakthrough, reaching number eight and going platinum in the USA (although it did not chart in the UK until three years later). Adams had Bob Clearmountain co-producing with him and the two of them had assembled a great band, with Mickey Curry on Drums and Keith Scott on lead guitar (they are all still working together today). The first single from the album, "Straight From The Heart", also made the US Top 10 and with the help of a new cable TV station called MTV, his two follow-up singles, "Cuts Like A Knife" and "This Time", reached the Top 20 and Top 30 respectively.

Adams' fourth album, "Reckless", was issued towards the end of 1984 and reached number one in the Billboard album chart. It also gave him his first major UK chart placing; reaching number seven, while the singles "Run To You" (US number six/UK number 11) and "Somebody" (US number 11/UK number 35) further established Adams as a hit maker. He enjoyed a US number one in mid-1985 with "Heaven". Adams was introduced by actor Jack Nicholson at the July 1985 Live Aid concert in Philadelphia, and he also co-wrote (with Vallance) and helped to perform the Canadian benefit record for Ethiopia, "Tears Are Not Enough".

The defiant and celebratory "Summer Of 69" returned him to the Top 10 in the US and he ended a successful year by duetting with Tina Turner on "It's Only Love" (though there was one further, release in December, when he coupled the festive "Christmas Time" with "Reggae Christmas").

His fifth album, "Into the Fire", released in March 1987, became a Top 10 hit in both the US and UK, boasting songs of a more political nature. It also saw the final effort of the Adams/Vallance songwriting partnership. "Heat Of The Night" provided Adams with his fifth US Top 10 hit. Indeed, the late 80s proved a comparatively tranquil time for the artist, as he wrote and prepared songs with his new co-producer and co-songwriter Mutt Lange. He did, however, contribute to records by Motley Crue, Belinda Carlisle, Charlie Sexton and others and in 1988 performed at the Nelson Mandela birthday party concert at Wembley Stadium in London, and at the 1990 special Berlin performance of Pink Floyd's: The Wall with Roger Waters.

All this was eclipsed, however, by the hugely successful 1991 album, “Waking Up The Neighbours” that included the hit “(Everything I Do) I Do It For You”. It was a phenomenal chart success, topping the UK Chart for an incredible 16 weeks, which to this day is still the longest continued number one single in British history; it also sold three million copies and hit the number one position in practically every country in the world, thus becoming the bestselling single of that year and garnered Adams his first Oscar nomination.

The follow-up, “Can’t Stop This Thing We Started” (US number two/UK number 11) and “Thought I’d Died And Gone To Heaven” (US number 13/UK number eight), were also commercial successes. “Waking Up the Neighbours” underwent no less than 18 months in production before topping the UK charts.

“Please Forgive Me” extended Adams’ run of UK/US Top 10 successes in late 1993 from the hits album entitled “So Far So Good”. It was followed by “All For Love”, a collaboration with Sting and Rod Stewart for the 1993 movie *The Three Musketeers*, which became another major hit on both sides of the Atlantic (US number one/UK number two). In 1994, he undertook a major tour of South-East Asia (in the process, becoming the first Western rock artist to visit Vietnam since the end of the war).

The album “18 ‘Til I Die” was released in 1995 and featured the perplexing Spanish waltz, “Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman?” written by Lange/Adams/Kamen (from the Johnny Depp movie *Don Juan de Marco*), which went to the number one position for two weeks in the US and a number of charts around the world in the summer of 1995, garnering Adams his second Oscar® nomination. The follow-up “Let’s Make A Night To Remember” and the provocatively titled “The Only Thing That Looks Good On Me Is You” proved to do well outside of the US.

“On A Day Like Today” was released in 1998 with “When You’re Gone”, (featuring Melanie C.) which reached UK number three in December of 1998 and spent 10 weeks in the Top 10. This was followed by the Top 10 dance re-mix of “Cloud Number Nine”.

An “MTV Unplugged” album was released in 1999, recorded at the Hammerstein Ballroom in NYC and spawned two Top 10 singles in Europe, the Beatlesque “Back to You” and the re-recording of 1983’s “I’m Ready” (originally from the “Cuts Like A Knife” album).

A recording hiatus followed, during which time Adams enjoyed success as a photographer. In 2002 he photographed Queen Elizabeth II for her Golden Jubilee (which has since become a postage stamp).

Later in the year, he released his first album since the greatest hits collection “Best of Me” in 2000, collaborating with composer Hans Zimmer on the Golden Globe-nominated soundtrack to the animated film *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*.