

= Animals (Pink Floyd album) =

Animals is the tenth studio album by English progressive rock group Pink Floyd , released in January 1977 . A concept album , it provides a scathing critique of the social @-@ political conditions of late 1970s Britain , and presents a marked change in musical style from their earlier work . Animals was recorded at the band 's studio , Britannia Row , in London , but its production was punctuated by the early signs of discord that three years later would culminate in keyboardist Richard Wright leaving the band . The album 's cover image , a pig floating between two chimneys on Battersea Power Station , was conceived by bassist and writer Roger Waters , and photographed by long @-@ time collaborators Hipgnosis .

The album was released to generally positive reviews in the United Kingdom , where it reached number 2 . It was also a success in the United States , reaching number 3 on the Billboard 200 , and although it scored on the American charts for only six months , steady sales have resulted in its certification by the RIAA at four times platinum . The size of the venues on the band 's In the Flesh Tour , and an incident in which Waters spat at a fan , prompted him to conceive the band 's subsequent album , The Wall .

= = Background = =

In 1975 Pink Floyd bought a three @-@ story block of church halls at 35 Britannia Row in Islington , north London . Their deal with record company EMI , for unlimited studio time in return for a reduced percentage of sales , had expired , and they converted the building into a recording studio and storage facility . Its construction took up most of 1975 , and in April 1976 the band started work on their tenth studio album , Animals , at the new facility .

= = Concept = =

Loosely based on George Orwell 's political fable Animal Farm , the album 's lyrics describe various classes in society as different kinds of animals : the combative dogs , despotic ruthless pigs , and the " mindless and unquestioning herd " of sheep . Whereas the novella focuses on Stalinism , the album is a critique of capitalism and differs again in that the sheep eventually rise up to overpower the dogs . The album was developed from a collection of unrelated songs into a concept which , in the words of author Glenn Povey , " described the apparent social and moral decay of society , likening the human condition to that of mere animals " .

Apart from its critique of society , the album is also a part @-@ response to the punk rock movement , which grew in popularity as a nihilistic statement against the prevailing social and political conditions , and also a reaction to the general complacency and nostalgia that appeared to surround rock music . Pink Floyd were an obvious target for punk musicians , notably Johnny Rotten of The Sex Pistols , who wore a Pink Floyd T @-@ shirt on which the words " I hate " had been written in ink ; Lydon , however , has constantly said it was done for a laugh (he was a fan of several progressive rock bands of the era , including Magma and Van Der Graaf Generator) . Drummer Nick Mason later stated that he welcomed the " Punk Rock insurrection " and viewed it as a welcome return to the underground scene from which Pink Floyd had grown . In 1977 he produced The Damned 's second album , Music for Pleasure , at Britannia Row .

In his 2008 book Comfortably Numb , author Mark Blake argues that " Dogs " contains some of David Gilmour 's finest work ; although the guitarist sings only one lead vocal , his performance is " explosive " . The song also contains notable contributions from keyboardist Richard Wright , which echo the funereal synthesizer sounds used on the band 's previous album , Wish You Were Here . " Pigs (Three Different Ones) " is audibly similar to " Have a Cigar " , with bluesy guitar fills and elaborate bass lines . Of the song 's three pigs , the only one directly identified is morality campaigner Mary Whitehouse , who amongst other things is described as a " house @-@ proud town mouse " . " Sheep " contains a modified version of Psalm 23 , which continues the traditional " The Lord is my shepherd " with words like " he maketh me to hang on hooks in high places and

converteth me to lamb cutlets " (referring to the sheep of the title) . Towards the end of the song , the eponymous sheep rise up and kill the dogs , but later retire back to their homes . The album is book @-@ ended by each half of " Pigs on the Wing " , a simple love song in which a glimmer of hope is offered despite the anger expressed in the album 's three other songs . Described by author Andy Mabbett as " [sitting] in stark contrast to the heavyweight material between them " , the two halves of the song were heavily influenced by Waters ' relationship with his then @-@ wife .

= = Recording = =

Animals was engineered by a previous Floyd collaborator , Brian Humphries , and recording took place at Britannia Row from April to December 1976 , continuing into early 1977 . " Raving and Drooling " and " You 've Got to Be Crazy " , two songs previously performed live and considered for Wish You Were Here , reappeared as " Sheep " and " Dogs " respectively . They were reworked to fit the new concept , and separated by a Waters @-@ penned composition , " Pigs (Three Different Ones) " . With the exception of " Dogs " (co @-@ written by Gilmour) the album 's five tracks were written by Waters . The song contains references to Waters ' private life ; his new romantic interest was Carlyne Anne Christie (married to Rock Scully , manager of the Grateful Dead) . Gilmour was distracted by the birth of his first child , and contributed little else towards the album . Similarly , neither Mason nor Wright contributed as much as they had on previous albums , and Animals was the first Pink Floyd album not to contain a composer 's credit for Wright .

The band had discussed employing another guitarist for future tours , and Snowy White was therefore invited into the studio . When Waters and Mason inadvertently erased one of Gilmour 's completed guitar solos , White was asked to record a solo on " Pigs on the Wing " . Although his performance was omitted from the vinyl release , it was included on the eight @-@ track cartridge version . White later performed on the Animals tour . Mason recalled that he enjoyed working on Animals more than he had working on Wish You Were Here .

= = Packaging = =

Once the album was complete , work began on its cover . Hipgnosis , designer of the band 's previous album covers , offered three ideas , one of which was a small child entering his parents ' bedroom to find them having sex : " copulating , like animals ! " The final concept was , unusually , designed by Waters . At the time he lived near Clapham Common , and regularly drove past Battersea Power Station , which was by then approaching the end of its useful life . A view of the building was chosen for the cover image , and the band commissioned German company Ballon Fabrik (who had previously constructed Zeppelin airships) and Australian artist Jeffrey Shaw to build a 30 feet (9 @.@ 1 m) porcine balloon (known as Algie) . The balloon was inflated with helium and maneuvered into position on 2 December 1976 , with a marksman ready to fire if it escaped . Unfortunately inclement weather delayed work , and the band 's manager Steve O 'Rourke neglected to book the marksman for a second day ; the balloon broke free of its moorings and disappeared from view . It eventually landed in Kent and was recovered by a local farmer , who was apparently furious that it had " scared his cows " . The balloon was recovered and filming continued for a third day , but as the early photographs of the power station were considered better , the image of the pig was later superimposed onto one of those .

During the " Isles of Wonder " short film shot by Danny Boyle and shown as part of the Opening Ceremonies of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London , the camera zooms down the length of the River Thames , from a small spring in the countryside all the way to the Olympic venue . During the fly @-@ by , a pig can be seen floating above Battersea Power Station .

The album 's theme continues onto the record 's picture labels . Side one 's label shows a fisheye lens view of a dog and the English countryside , and side two features a pig and sheep , in the same setting . Mason 's handwriting is used as a typeface throughout the packaging . The gatefold features monochrome photographs of the dereliction around the power station .

= = Release = =

The album 's release followed Capital Radio 's broadcast two days earlier of The Pink Floyd Story , and an evening press conference held at the power station two days before that . The broadcast was originally to have been an exclusive for the London @-@ based station , who since mid @-@ December had been broadcasting The Pink Floyd Story , but a copy was given to John Peel , who played side one of the album in its entirety a day earlier .

Animals was released in the UK on 23 January 1977 , and in the US on 12 February . It reached number two in the UK , and three in the US . Thanks to the album and the band 's back catalogue , noted The Guinness Book of British Hit Albums , " Pink Floyd bested Abba for most weeks on chart (in 1977) , 108 to 106 . "

NME called Animals " one of the most extreme , relentless , harrowing and downright iconoclastic hunks of music to have been made available this side of the sun " , and Melody Maker 's Karl Dallas described it as " [an] uncomfortable taste of reality in a medium that has become in recent years , increasingly soporific " . Rolling Stone 's Frank Rose was unimpressed , writing : " The 1977 Floyd has turned bitter and morose . They complain about the duplicity of human behavior (and then title their songs after animals ? get it ?) . They sound like they 've just discovered this ? their message has become pointless and tedious . " Robert Christgau of The Village Voice gave the album a " B + " rating and found the negative reaction overly cynical , reasoning that the album functions simply as " a piece of well @-@ constructed political program music ... lyrical , ugly , and rousing , all in the right places " .

In his 2004 autobiography Inside Out , Nick Mason suggests that the album 's perceived harshness , when compared to previous Floyd releases , may be a result of a " workman @-@ like mood in the studio " , and an unconscious reaction to the accusations from the aforementioned punk genre that bands like Pink Floyd represented " dinosaur rock " . Animals was certified by the RIAA as 4 x Platinum on 31 January 1995 .

= = = Reissues = = =

Originally released on Harvest Records in the UK and Columbia Records in the US , Animals was issued on Compact Disc (CD) in 1985 , and in the US in 1987 . It was reissued as a digitally remastered CD with new artwork in 1994 , and as a digitally remastered limited @-@ edition vinyl album in 1997 . An anniversary edition was released in the US in the same year , followed in 2000 by a reissue from Capitol Records . The album was also included in the Shine On box set .

= = = Tour = = =

The album became the subject material for the band 's In the Flesh Tour , which began in Dortmund on the same day the album was released . The tour continued through continental Europe in February , the UK in March , the US for three weeks in April and May , and another three weeks in the US in June and July . Algie became the inspiration for a number of pig themes used throughout . An inflatable pig was floated over the audience , and during each performance was replaced with a cheaper , but explosive version . On one occasion the mild propane gas was replaced with an oxygen @-@ acetylene mixture , producing a massive (and dangerous) explosion . German promoter Marcel Avram presented the band with a piglet in Munich , only for it to leave a trail of broken mirrors and excrement across its mirrored hotel room , leaving manager O 'Rourke to deal with the resulting fallout .

The band were joined by familiar figures such as Dick Parry and Snowy White , but relations within the band became fraught . Waters took to arriving at the venues alone , departing as soon as each performance was over . On one occasion , Wright flew back to England , threatening to leave the band . The size of the venues was also an issue ; in Chicago , the promoters claimed to have sold out the 67 @,@ 000 person regular capacity of the Soldier Field stadium (after which ticket sales should have been ended) , but Waters and O 'Rourke were suspicious . They hired a helicopter ,

photographer and attorney , and discovered that the actual attendance was 95 @, @ 000 ; a shortfall to the band of \$ 640 @, @ 000 . The end of the tour was a low point for Gilmour , who felt that they had by now achieved the success they originally sought , and that there was nothing else they could look forward to . In July 1977 ? on the final date at the Montreal Olympic Stadium ? a small group of noisy and excited fans in the front row of the audience irritated Waters to such an extent that he spat at one of them . He was not the only person who felt depressed about playing to such large audiences , as Gilmour refused to perform a third encore . Waters later spoke with producer Bob Ezrin and told him of his sense of alienation on the tour , and how he sometimes felt like building a wall to separate himself from the audience . The spitting incident would later form the basis of a new concept , which would eventually become one of the band 's most successful album releases , The Wall .

= = Track listing = =

All lead vocals performed by Roger Waters , except where noted

All songs written and composed by Roger Waters , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =