

= Slash 's Snakepit =

Slash 's Snakepit was an American rock supergroup from Los Angeles , California , formed by then @-@ Guns N ' Roses guitarist Slash in 1993 . Though often described as a solo or side project , Slash stated that Snakepit was a band with equal contributions by all members . The first lineup of the band consisted of Slash , two of his Guns N ' Roses band mates ? drummer Matt Sorum and guitarist Gilby Clarke ? as well as Alice in Chains bassist Mike Inez and former Jellyfish live guitarist Eric Dover on lead vocals .

Their debut album , It 's Five O 'Clock Somewhere , was released in 1995 . For the supporting tour , Slash enlisted James LoMenzo and Brian Tichy , of Pride and Glory , in place of Inez and Sorum who had other commitments . They played shows in the US , Europe , Japan and Australia before Geffen Records pulled their financial support for the tour , with Slash returning to Guns N ' Roses and Slash 's Snakepit disbanding .

Following his departure from Guns N ' Roses in 1996 , Slash formed the cover band Slash 's Blues Ball . After a tour in 1997 , Slash approached Blues Ball bassist Johnny Griparic about forming a new lineup of Slash 's Snakepit . The new lineup consisted of Slash , Griparic , singer Rod Jackson , guitarist Ryan Roxie and drummer Matt Laug (Roxie and Laug were both former members of Alice Cooper 's solo band) . They recorded and released their second album entitled Ain 't Life Grand in 2000 , which was preceded by a tour supporting AC / DC and followed by their own headlining tour . For the tour , Keri Kelli joined the group in place of Ryan Roxie , who departed following the completion of the album . However , after the final show , Slash disbanded Slash 's Snakepit due to a lack of commitment from his band members .

= = History = =

= = = Formation (1993 ? 1994) = = =

Following the two and a half year world tour in support of the albums Use Your Illusion I and Use Your Illusion II , Guns N ' Roses guitarist Slash returned to Los Angeles . He soon sold his home , the Walnut House , and moved to Mulholland Drive . He built a small home studio , nicknamed The Snakepit , over his garage and began working on demos for songs he had written during the tour . Slash worked on the demos with Guns N ' Roses band mate and drummer Matt Sorum . They were later joined by guitarist Gilby Clarke and Alice in Chains bassist Mike Inez , jamming and recording most nights . Slash played the demos for Guns N ' Roses singer Axl Rose who rejected the material , though he would later want to use them for the next Guns N ' Roses album . They had recorded twelve songs by 1994 , the same year that Guns N ' Roses went on hiatus .

Slash decided to record the Snakepit demos with Sorum , Clarke and Inez , later adding former Jellyfish live guitarist Eric Dover as lead vocalist . The decision to record with Dover led to a disagreement between Slash and Sorum , due to Slash not seeking Sorum 's approval before hiring Dover .

= = = It 's Five O 'Clock Somewhere and breakup (1994 ? 1996) = = =

Slash and Dover wrote the lyrics to all twelve songs with Slash using the songwriting to vent his frustrations at Guns N ' Roses singer Rose . Clarke contributed the song " Monkey Chow " to the album while " Jizz da Pit " is an instrumental by Slash and Inez . They recorded the album at Conway Recording Studios and The Record Plant with Mike Clink and Slash co @-@ producing and Steven Thompson and Michael Barbiero mixing , all of whom had worked with Guns N ' Roses on their debut album Appetite for Destruction . The album featured contributions by Duff McKagan (who co @-@ wrote " Beggars & Hangers @-@ On ") , Dizzy Reed on keyboards , Teddy Andreadis on harmonica , and Paulinho da Costa on percussion . Slash 's brother , Ash Hudson , designed the album 's cover .

The resulting album , titled It 's Five O 'Clock Somewhere , was released in February 1995 through Geffen Records . The album 's title was taken from a phrase Slash overheard at an airport . At the insistence of the record label , the album was released under the name Slash 's Snakepit , instead of The Snakepit , despite Slash not wanting his name used . Upon release , the album charted at number 70 on the Billboard 200 and number 15 on the UK Albums Chart . It 's Five O 'Clock Somewhere went on to sell over a million copies and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . " Beggars & Hangers @-@ On " was released as the first , and only , single from the album ; while a music video was also shot for " Good to Be Alive " , directed by August Jakobsson .

Critically , the album received mainly positive reviews . Metal Hammer stated that " the sleazy , downtrodden blues hard rock [...] breaks new ground . " AllMusic reviewer Stephen Thomas Erlewine called Slash 's contributions " quite amazing " , though criticised the song @-@ writing , stating " it 's too bad that nobody in the band bothered to write any songs . " Devon Jackson of Entertainment Weekly described the album as " relaxed headbanging and Southern @-@ tinged blues @-@ rock " while Classic Rock reviewer Malcolm Dome stated " musically , it 's a loose @-@ limbed record that has a lot of heavy guitar @-@ led punk @-@ style pop @-@ rock . " Slash 's Snakepit toured in support of the album , with bassist James LoMenzo and drummer Brian Tichy , of Pride and Glory , replacing Inez and Sorum , who had opted out of touring , with Sorum returning to Guns N ' Roses . They toured the US , Europe , Japan and Australia with Slash stating that " for the first time in years , touring was easy , [his] band mates were loads of fun and low on drama , and every gig was about playing rock and roll . " While booking another leg of the tour , Slash was informed by Geffen that Rose was ready to begin work on the new Guns N ' Roses album and that he was to return to Los Angeles . Geffen pulled financial support for the band 's tour with Slash 's Snakepit disbanding soon after .

= = = Slash 's Blues Ball and reformation (1996 ? 1999) = = =

Slash departed Guns N ' Roses in 1996 , due to musical differences between himself and singer Axl Rose . Following his departure , Slash toured Japan for two weeks with Chic , and worked on the soundtrack to the film Curdled . He later began touring in a cover band that eventually became Slash 's Blues Ball . Aside from Slash , the band consisted of Teddy Andreadis , guitarist Bobby Schneck , bassist Johnny Griparic , saxophonist Dave McClarem and drummer Alvino Bennett . The band toured on and off until 1998 , which included a headline slot at a jazz festival in Budapest . They covered various artists and bands such as B.B. King , Steppenwolf , Otis Redding , as well as Guns N ' Roses and Slash 's Snakepit material .

Following a tour in 1997 , Slash approached Griparic about forming a new lineup of Slash 's Snakepit They began looking for a singer , receiving over 300 audition tapes from mostly unknown singers . Jon Stevens of Noiseworks , who had been recording with Slash , was seen as a potential singer in early 1998 . However , he returned to Australia to continue his solo career . They eventually added singer Rod Jackson to the group after Griparic played a tape of him for Slash . Completing the lineup were guitarist Ryan Roxie , formerly of Alice Cooper , and drummer Matt Laug , also from Alice Cooper and the band Venice . They began rehearsing at Mates Studio before rehearsing and recording in Slash 's new home studio in Beverly Hills .

= = = Ain 't Life Grand and second breakup (1999 ? 2002) = = =

The band began recording material with producer Jack Douglas at Slash 's home studio as well as Ocean Way Studios . The recording featured contributions by Teddy Andreadis , Jimmy Zavala and Lee Thornburg , amongst others . Initially , the label was positive about the album , setting a release date for February 22 , 2000 . However , when Slash was informed by Geffen , who had folded into Interscope Records , that the album was not the type of music the label produced , he bought the album back and signed a deal with Koch Records . Following the completion of the album , Roxie departed the band with former Big Bang Babies , Warrant and Ratt guitarist Keri Kelli joining in his

place .

Ain 't Life Grand was released on October 20 , 2000 through Koch with " Mean Bone " released as the first single . The album did not sell as well as its predecessor , and critical reception to it was mixed . Entertainment Weekly reviewer Tony Scherman stated that " Slash 's playing is as flashily incendiary as ever , but the songs and arrangements recycle hard @-@ rock cliches worthier of Ratt than of a bona fide guitar god " . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone noted that " great guitarists need great bands , and the Snakepit dudes are barely functional backup peons " . Steve Huey of Allmusic noted that " the new Snakepit does kick up a lot of noise as the album rushes by , and the strong chemistry between the members is immediately obvious " . However , he stated that songwriting was the main problem , and that " it never rises above the level of solid , and too many tracks are by @-@ the @-@ numbers hard rock at best (and pedestrian at worst) " . The band were dropped by Koch two months following the album 's release .

Prior to the album 's release , Slash 's Snakepit supported AC / DC on their Stiff Upper Lip tour from August to September , followed by their own headlining tour of theatres . They played only the first two shows on the winter leg of AC / DC 's tour . After falling ill and checking into a hospital in Pittsburgh , Slash was ordered by his doctor to stay at home to recuperate , reportedly from pneumonia . Due to this , Slash 's Snakepit pulled out of supporting AC / DC in early 2001 . Slash later revealed in his self @-@ titled biography that he had actually suffered cardiac myopathy caused by years of alcohol and drug abuse , with his heart swelling to the point of rupture . After being fitted with a defibrillator and undergoing physical therapy , Slash returned to the group to continue touring . They later rescheduled their US tour , performing shows from June 16 ? July 6 , co @-@ headlining three shows with Billy Idol . Following the tour , feeling that his band was unprofessional and his band mates were not fully committed , Slash disbanded Slash 's Snakepit in an announcement made in early 2002 .

= = = Post ? breakup activities = = =

Following the breakup of Slash 's Snakepit , Slash announced he was to begin working on a solo album . Instead he later worked with The Black Crowes drummer Steve Gorman and an unnamed bassist on a new project . Together with his former Guns N ' Roses band mates Duff McKagan and Matt Sorum , they formed The Project , that eventually became the hard rock supergroup Velvet Revolver following the addition of former Wasted Youth guitarist Dave Kushner , and then @-@ former Stone Temple Pilots singer Scott Weiland . They released their debut album Contraband , in 2004 , followed by Libertad in 2007 , before they parted ways with Weiland and went on hiatus in 2008 . With Velvet Revolver on hiatus , Slash began work on his debut solo album . Slash was released on March 31 , 2010 , and featured a number of guests such as Andrew Stockdale of Wolfmother , M. Shadows of Avenged Sevenfold , Kid Rock , Ozzy Osbourne , Myles Kennedy of Alter Bridge , and Fergie . His band for the tour in support of the album consisted of Kennedy , bassist Todd Kerns , and drummer Brent Fitz . It also included guitarist Bobby Schneck , formerly of Slash 's Blues Ball .

= = Musical style = =

Slash 's Snakepit 's music was often described as hard rock and blues rock with elements of southern rock . The band were also often described as Slash 's solo or side project though Slash maintained that they were a band , stating " everybody wrote , everybody had equal input even though I had my name on it . " Rolling Stone reviewer J.D. Considine noted the differences between Guns N ' Roses and Slash 's Snakepit on their first album , stating that " Guns [N] ' Roses typically treat the melody as the most important part of the song , most of what slithers out of the Snakepit emphasizes the playing . " He noted that singer Eric Dover " conveys the raw @-@ throated intensity of a hard @-@ rock frontman " and " he avoids the genre 's most obvious excesses . " The riff to " Good to Be Alive " drew a comparison to Chuck Berry while the musicianship on the album was praised . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic stated that " there 's little argument that Slash is

a great guitarist " who is " capable of making rock and blues clichés sound fresh " . Reviewing Ain 't Life Grand for Allmusic , Steve Huey described second singer Rod Jackson as " a combination of ' 80s pop @-@ metal bluster and Faces @-@ era Rod Stewart " with a " touch of Aerosmith " , a description that he felt also fitted the band as a whole . He noted , though , that Slash 's guitar playing was " tame " and stated that the main problem of the album was the songwriting , though it was " still a passable , workmanlike record that will definitely appeal to fans of grimy , old @-@ school hard rock . " Malcolm Dome of Classic Rock stated that " from the moment that " Been There Lately " opens , there 's a vibe here that was missing before " and that Ain 't Life Grand showed " purpose , direction and individuality . "

= = Personnel = =

Slash ? lead guitar , backing vocals (1994 ? 1995 , 1998 ? 2002)
Gilby Clarke ? rhythm guitar , backing vocals (1994 ? 1995)
Eric Dover ? vocals (1994 ? 1995)
Mike Inez ? bass , backing vocals (1994 ? 1995)
Matt Sorum ? drums , percussion (1994 ? 1995)
James LoMenzo ? bass (1995)
Brian Tichy ? drums (1995)
Johnny Griparic ? bass (1998 ? 2002)
Rod Jackson ? vocals (1999 ? 2002)
Matt Laug ? drums , percussion (1999 ? 2002)
Ryan Roxie ? rhythm guitar , backing vocals (1999 ? 2000)
Keri Kelli ? rhythm guitar (2000 ? 2002)

= = = Timeline = = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

It 's Five O 'Clock Somewhere (1995)
Ain 't Life Grand (2000)

Singles

" Beggars & Hangers @-@ On " (1995)
" Mean Bone " (2001)