

= All Hands on the Bad One =

All Hands on the Bad One is the fifth studio album by the American rock band Sleater @-@ Kinney , released on May 2 , 2000 by Kill Rock Stars . The album was produced by John Goodmanson and recorded from December 1999 to January 2000 at Jackpot ! Studio in Portland , Oregon and John & Stu 's Place in Seattle , Washington . The music on the record ranges from soft melodies to fast punk rock guitar work , while the lyrics address multiple media issues , such as the image of women in rock , music journalism , and violence as entertainment , among others .

Upon release , All Hands on the Bad One reached number 177 on the US Billboard Top 200 chart and number 12 on the Heatseekers Albums chart . One song from the album , " You 're No Rock n ' Roll Fun " , was released as a single . The album received positive reviews from critics , with an aggregate review score of 86 out of 100 at Metacritic . Critics generally praised the album 's consistency and Corin Tucker 's vocals . All Hands on the Bad One appeared in several end @-@ of @-@ year lists and received a nomination for Outstanding Music Album at the 12th Annual Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Awards .

= = Background and recording = =

All Hands on the Bad One is the follow @-@ up to Sleater @-@ Kinney 's highly acclaimed fourth album The Hot Rock , released in 1999 . The Hot Rock marked a considerable change in the band 's sound , veering into a more relaxed and gloomy direction than the raucous punk rock style of its predecessors . It was also the first Sleater @-@ Kinney album that entered the US Billboard Top 200 chart , peaking at number 181 . Some fans , however , dismissed the album , claiming that the band had sold out and that it was a commercial album . This criticism was something that singer and guitarist Corin Tucker strongly disagreed with , claiming that The Hot Rock was their least commercial album due to its longer and intricate pieces . According to Tucker , " we wanted to be doing difficult work . We wanted to be expanding as musicians and people didn 't want that from us . They wanted us to jump around and yell . "

After expanding their musical boundaries with The Hot Rock , the band decided not to worry about what their next album was going to sound like . Tucker explained , " It was so spontaneous [...] The songs just kept popping up one after another . We didn 't really talk about anything . It just kind of happened . " She also said that they wanted to write songs that were " really straightforward but also a bit more mature in their structure and delivery than [their] earlier songs . " All Hands on the Bad One is also the first Sleater @-@ Kinney album where drummer Janet Weiss provides backing vocals on some tracks . Tucker remarked that they initially wanted her to sing on The Hot Rock , but the idea was ultimately rejected due to the album 's complex melodies . All Hands on the Bad One was produced by John Goodmanson , who previously produced the band 's third studio album , Dig Me Out . The band decided to work with him again because , according to Weiss , Goodmanson " has the incredible ability of capturing our live sound and heightening it , so we sound better " . The album was recorded from December 1999 to January 2000 at Jackpot ! Studio in Portland , Oregon and John & Stu 's Place in Seattle , Washington .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Similar to other Sleater @-@ Kinney albums , the lyrics of All hands on the Bad One feature personal , political , and social themes . The first song , " The Ballad of the Ladyman " , is a deliberate attempt to mock those who misunderstand the band . Tucker said that the song is " almost making fun of how people see us , how people see what you 're supposed to be when you 're a woman in rock . " The song was inspired when the band was invited to the Bowlie Weekender music festival in England in 1999 . Tucker explained , " We were all staying in little chalets or whatever and we had our own cabin and we were cabin 216 . Someone wrote this message to us that was like , ' Cabin 216 ladymen . ' And we were like , ' What ? ' It was meant to be a funny thing , but in this other way , it was really this naming of us . It was a subtle way of saying , ' Oh , you 're

different because you 're a woman band and because you 're in some ways political . ' It 's still seen as threatening to people . It 's not like we had this weekend where we just relaxed with everyone and just hung out . " Kat Ludicello , writing for PopMatters , stated that the song " sports sweet harmonies , a slow anger and soft , low bitterness , and driving steady guitars and drums . "

The song " Male Model " targets the male role models for female rock bands , while " Pompeii " explores soul @-@ searching themes such as one 's losses and anxieties . " Youth Decay " was described by PopMatters as a song that " grapples with adult disbelief of the problems of youth and the manifestations of it in terms of eating disorders and silence . " It features fast punk rock guitar work . The lyrics to " # 1 Must @-@ Have " reference images of the riot grrrl scene in the mainstream media . It was written when Tucker was preparing for an interview about the subject , held by the EMP Museum in Olympia , Washington . The song also alludes to the misogyny that took place at the Woodstock music festival in 1999 , where several women were raped . Similarly , the song " Was It a Lie ? " is a protest against how violence is used as entertainment in the media . " The Professional " aims at music journalism and contains heavy drum work , while " Ironclad " features " fuzzed @-@ out riffs and pounding fills " . Other songs such as " Leave You Behind " and " The Swimmer " feature soft melodies and harmonies . " You 're No Rock n ' Roll Fun " was described as " easy moving , beach punk rock music " . " Milkshake n ' Honey " was considered to be the band 's funkiest song . Pitchfork Media commented that the song " spits wit at expatriates in Paris as Corin rolls her eyes at the type of denizens in The Sun Also Rises . "

The song " All Hands on the Bad One " features guitar riffs that are reminiscent of the band 's second album , Call the Doctor . It was chosen as the title track because , according to guitarist Carrie Brownstein , it is the song that best represents the sentiment of the album . Brownstein explained that the song deals with " your relationship to evil and your relationship to the hypocrisy of forcing a morality on someone else when you yourself are no better . " She added , " ' Ballad of the Ladyman ' , for instance ? who is ' the ladyman ' ? Is the person that wants to be on the radio , ' the bad one , ' or is it the fans assuming that they [the artist] want to be on the radio ? are they ' the bad one ' ? Or is ' The Professional , ' the ominous professional figure , ' the bad one ' ? I think all these songs can go into that machine of ' the bad one ' and that mentality and then be spit out in a bunch of different scenarios . So that 's why I think it works as the title . "

= = Release = =

All Hands on the Bad One was released on May 2 , 2000 by the independent record label Kill Rock Stars , which also released the band 's previous two albums . The album cover features a photo of Brownstein being hauled off a dance floor . According to Weiss , " She worked herself into a frenzy and passed out . People are laughing in the background because she 's wearing a bunny suit . " All Hands on the Bad One reached number 177 on the US Billboard Top 200 chart , # 12 on the Heatseekers Albums chart , and # 5 on the KEXP Top 90 @.@ 3 Album Chart for 2000 . The band promoted the album with a tour across North America and England , featuring old and new songs . The band also did the set @-@ up and sold merchandise themselves . As of August 2002 , the album has sold 73 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S. according to Nielsen SoundScan . As of February 2015 , All Hands on the Bad One has sold 98 @,@ 000 copies .

The song " You 're No Rock n ' Roll Fun " was released as a single on the same day as the album , featuring an outtake , " Maraca " , as the B @-@ side . In the United Kingdom , the single was released by Matador Records in both vinyl and compact disc formats . The compact disc version includes a third song , " What If I Was Right " , which is an outtake from the studio sessions for The Hot Rock that was previously released on Kill Rock Stars ' Jackson 's Jukebox compilation album . A music video was made for " You 're No Rock n ' Roll Fun " under the direction of Brett Vapnek , who previously worked on music videos by Helium and Cat Power .

= = Critical reception = =

All Hands on the Bad One received very positive reviews from critics . Pitchfork reviewer Brent

DiCrescenzo described it as the band 's most melodic , playful , sarcastic , and punchy album to date . Similarly , Kat Iudicello of PopMatters felt that the album features " lovely harmonies , brilliant drum work , great punk rock guitar riffs , and super @-@ smart lyrics . " St. Petersburg Times writer Alan Rittner commented , " Sleater @-@ Kinney 's confidence and sense of freedom translate into the most relentless instrumental work of the band 's career , with no loss in its peerless songcraft . " Some critics also praised the album 's consistency . According to The A.V. Club , " what makes All Hands On The Bad One so distinctive is Sleater @-@ Kinney 's dedication to craft as well as spontaneous passion : Song for song , this could be its best album . "

Further praise was given to Tucker 's voice . Pitchfork opined that " Corin reveals greater character depth than ever before " while NME commented that she " is Siouxsie on ' Youth Decay ' , a sassy Francophile lover on ' Milkshake n ' Honey ' and all West Coast beach babe on the immensely pretty ' Leave You Behind ' . " Steve Huey , writing for AllMusic , gave high marks to Tucker and Brownstein 's guitar interplay as well as Weiss ' backing vocals , stating that the band " makes full use of that extra instrument , packing the tracks with lilting three @-@ part harmonies . " The Southland Times notably praised the album 's maturity and assertiveness , commenting that the band " has also created a more melodic sound and tunes are catchier and more accomplished with Tucker 's vocals sounding more confident and tuneful than ever . " The A.V. Club pointed out that " Corin Tucker 's Belinda Carlisle vibrato has never sounded better [...] , while Carrie Brownstein 's straight counterpoint keeps the songs grounded in punk @-@ rock fury . "

In a mixed review , Arion Berger of Rolling Stone magazine noted that Sleater @-@ Kinney " have remade rock aggression as thinking @-@ women 's work and handled punk with finesse " , but also criticized the writing of some tracks for being " awfully self @-@ conscious for a fifth album . " The Village Voice reviewer Howard Hampton compared the album 's music favorably to The Go @-@ Go 's ' Beauty and the Beat , even though he remarked that instead of " [settling] for The Go @-@ Go 's demure ministrations " , All Hands on the Bad One " means to work the whole loving fist all the way up your tight little mind . " In a very favorable review , a writer for The Guardian concluded that the album " explains exactly why one US mag called [Sleater @-@ Kinney] the best rock 'n'roll band in America . "

All Hands on the Bad One appeared in several end @-@ of @-@ year lists . Pitchfork placed the record at number 16 in its list of " Top 20 Albums of 2000 " , commenting " Sleater @-@ Kinney chanced losing some riot [grrrr] cred in favor of writing songs that cover a more diverse spectrum of emotions and themes , and came up their most compelling and political record to date " . Toronto Star rated it the eighth best album of the year , Edmonton Journal named it one of the best album of the year , and The Village Voice placed it # 10 in its 2000 Pazz & Jop Critics ' Poll . All Hands on the Bad One also received a nomination for Outstanding Music Album at the 12th Annual Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Awards , but lost to k.d. lang 's Invincible Summer .

= = Track listing = =

All music composed by Sleater @-@ Kinney .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from All Hands on the Bad One 's album notes .