

SYNTH & SWAGGER SAMPLER PDF

A peek inside the Synth & Swagger music-history library -
articles, visuals, timelines, and more



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FALLOUT & SURVIVAL

(from the Adam Ant vs British Media PDF)

Strip

After the catharsis of Friend or Foe, Ant dialed back the venom in his songs. With the release of the album Strip, Ant (with a wink) cranks up his sexpot image to cartoonish heights. The lead single and video, Puss 'n' Boots, is a lot of fun to my ears and eyes. But in the context of just proving maturity with Friend or Foe, I can see how fans were turned off by its fairy-tale theme (complete with mice!).

And the irreverence and soft, violin-tinged sound of the rest of the album made him cannon fodder (again!) for the British media. The title track was released as the second single, but despite being solid (with cameos by Phil Collins and Anni-Frid from ABBA), Ant lost his luster and it didn't even crack the top 40 in the UK. By 1983, Adam's media war had shifted from confrontation to caricature. The Puss 'n' Boots video leaned on fairy-tale slapstick, which critics seized on to brand him a novelty act. Tabloids zeroed in on his sexpot persona, turning every wink into an invitation for ridicule.



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ALBUM INFOGRAPHICS

Album-by-album visual summaries are included in most PDFs

From the Canadian New Wave PDF



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TIMELINE FEATURE

Example. Many PDFs include timelines that show how albums and scenes evolved.

PRETENDERS

THE GO-GOS

EURYTHMICS

80

Pretenders

PRETENDERS



Pretenders II



81

Beauty and the Beat



Vacation



82

In the Garden



83

Sweet Dreams, Touch



84

Learning to Crawl



Talk Show



85

Be Yourself Tonight

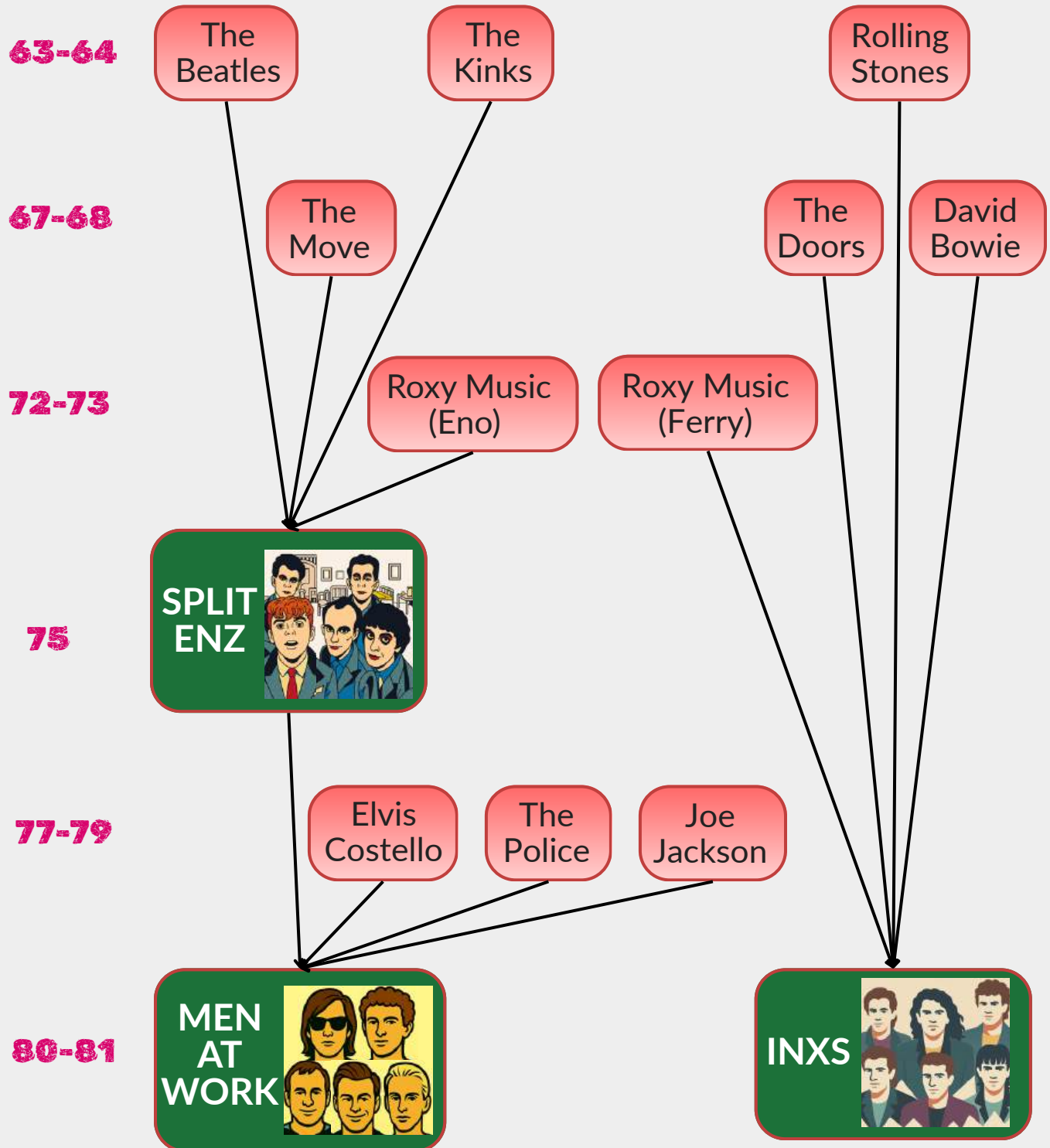


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INFLUENCER FEATURE

Influencer and follower maps visualize artistic DNA across decades
From the Oceania New Wave PDF



Australia & New
Zealand New Wave



Influencers 

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EXTENDED CUTS

Every Synth & Swagger PDF includes at least one exclusive “Extended Cut” — a deeper dive, character spotlight, archival detour, or behind-the-scenes explainer that didn’t fit the main narrative but enriches the story. These vary by PDF. Here are a few examples from across the library:

New Wave Soundalikes

Dua Lipa’s Break My Heart uses the famous guitar riff from INXS’ Need You Tonight

Adam Ant’s Romani Heritage

How it influenced his music and look, and allusions to it in his lyrics.

New Wave Headscratchers

Squeeze’s Wild Sewerage Tickles Brazil - how did that happen?

Collaborations: Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin

In Sisters are Doing it For Themselves, is it more a Eurythmics or Aretha song?

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Each PDF blends storytelling, design, and musicology — written for fans who want more than nostalgia.

Explore the full Synth & Swagger PDF Library

Squeeze 1978 - 1987

Synthpop vs Other New Wave

Oceania New Wave

Postpunk vs New Wave

Canadian New Wave

Adam Ant vs the British Media

Fempowerment featuring the Pretenders, Go-Gos and Eurythmics

Devo vs Oingo Boingo (two paths to the weird)

Halloween and New Wave

New Wave Tackles Work and Labor

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