

Good afternoon. My name is Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson and this is an episode about Pink Floyd.

In 1975, Pink Floyd purchased a three-story building at 35 Britannia Row in the Islington district of London. The purpose was twofold.

First, they planned to rent equipment for concerts to bands because they had at that time more for such use than any other British band. To cut a long story short the demand was much lower than they expected and eventually Mason, who by then had become the only shareholder, sold the company to parties, who, among other things, took care of concert planning for Brian Grant and Robbie Williams. In his book, *Inside Out* since 2004, Mason says that the last he knew, the company was blooming and among others counted Pink Floyd as customers.

Secondly, Pink Floyd members wanted to acquire their own studio, partly because it was becoming fashionable that big bands, such as The Kinks, should have their own recording studio, but primarily the reason was that they spent so much time recording in studios that they thought it would be much better for them financially and furthermore simply to save time and effort. This studio was always called Britannia Row Studios although it had moved away from Britannia Row and was discontinued in 2015. Many artists have recorded albums there, such as Kate Bush and Björk Guðmundsdóttir.

The album "Animals", released in January 1977, was recorded in April to December 1976 at the Britannia Row studio. A large part of the material on the album was already available and had been rehearsed at concerts in 1974 along with material that was approved for "Wish You Were Here". Waters, who by now had more or less taken over all the lyrics and songwriting, had come up with a new theme, loosely based on the book "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, but where Orwell is criticizing Stalinism, Waters is criticizing capitalism and contrary to the book, at the end of the album the sheep, the oppressed people, revolt and come to power. This caused the songs to change names. "You've got to be Crazy" became "Dogs", representing the evil capitalists, and "Raving and Drooling" became "Sheep". Then Waters wrote a new song, "Pigs (Three Different Ones)", in which corrupt officials and religious hypocrites get their share.

I said above that at this point Waters had taken over Pink Floyd, as he had taken over all the writing and most of the songwriting too. He sings almost all the songs on the album although Gilmour who is co-author of the song "Dogs" actually sang a large part of it. In my opinion, the collaboration period ended with the album "Wish You Were Here" and the Waters season took over which lasted until 1983 with the album "The Final Cut". Then it can be said that everything went havoc until the Gilmour season began in 1987 with the album "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" but this is all stuff for later episodes.

Not everyone agrees with this assessment. Wikipedia states that the Waters period only consist of the albums "The Wall" and "The Final Cut". Mason points out in his book that at the last minute Waters added the song "Pigs on the Wing" in two parts, which opened and closed the album. You heard the first part at the beginning of the episode. During these years, many fans believed that it was a kind of Pink Floyd trademark to open and close albums with the same sound, song or rhyme. Examples are the heartbeat of "Dark Side of the Moon", "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" on "Wish You Were Here", "Pigs on the Wing" on "Animals" and just a few tones from the final song "Outside the Wall" at the beginning of the album "The Wall". However, by adding "Pigs on the Wing" in two parts onto "Animals", Waters got the credit for 5 songs on the album but Gilmour only one. Royalties are paid in proportion to the number of songs and not their length. Mason says this was one of the incidents that gradually led to more and more disagreement.

Wright said in an interview in Mark Blake's book, "Comfortably Numb - The Inside Story of Pink Floyd" since 2008 that it had been both difficult and boring to do "Animals". By then

Waters had formed the opinion that he was the sole author of all that the band released and without him there would be no band. Then Wright argued that Waters had let his own narcissism primarily affect him.

Mason does not agree with this at all and says he enjoyed more doing "Animals" than "Wish You Were Here". And he feels that the band put more effort in making "Animals" than "Wish You Were Here", possibly because they felt the Britannia Row studio was all their responsibility.

Then it is worth looking at Gilmour's position. In an interview with Mojo in 2008 he said that although it is Waters' style to rule, he did not experience that he had been pushed aside during the making of "Animals" and pointed out that 90% of the track "Dogs" is by him. Because "Dogs" is the longest track on the album and covers almost all of the first side, it is also half the album. Let us now listen this excellent song, which many consider to be one of the best that Gilmour made in his Pink Floyd career but also emphasizes that the keyboard player's contribution should not be underestimated even though he is not credited for the song.

#### Dogs

As the song "Dogs" implies, "Animals" is a rawer or drier album than both "Dark Side of the Moon" and "Wish You Were Here" although the famous Pink Floyd sound breaks through throughout the album. This is partly because of the ruling of Waters, who always wanted the music to be rougher than Gilmour and Wright but also the album is kind of the band's response to the punk wave, which had then recently made its entrance. Although men like Johnny Rotten from the "Sex Pistols" walked around in a T-shirt that said "I hate Pink Floyd" and that many critics, excited by the new wave, talked about progressive rock bands and especially Pink Floyd as fossil dinosaurs, Pink Floyd members welcomed the punk. Gilmour once said that they would only benefit from being kicked in the ass now and then and Mason said that as with themselves punk had risen from the same underground culture in London. Mason actually released an album for the punk band "The Damned" in 1977 after "Animals" was released. This album, "Music for Pleasure" was recorded in Britannia Row studio and Mason specifically mentions in his book that those boys did not worry too much about little things as sound mixing which probably took about the same time it takes Pink Floyd roadies to set up the microphones before a Pink Floyd concert. Then Mason once said in those years that although we of course did not want the earth to be full of dinosaurs it would still be a very good idea to spare some of them.

Let's now listen to Waters' song "Pigs (Three Different Ones)" In there is, among other things, the text "house proud town mouse", which refers to Mary Whitehouse and her Christian struggle against various social groups like gays and lesbians.

#### Pigs (Three Different Ones)

In my opinion, Waters' lyrics are clearly getting better and better with each album. His critique of society is very left-winged and he especially opposes any kind of warfare which has been obvious throughout almost all of his career. Both he and Mason came from the far left environment but in the immediate family of both were members of the British Communist Party. However, it must be said that as of now from "Animals" to "The Final Cut", the music undeniably develops in a direction where it becomes a kind of framework for the lyrics instead of the lyrics being a filling to the music and Gilmour was very unhappy with this. These long lines of text by Waters are very prominent in the song "Sheep" with a rather free use of Psalm of David no. 23 e.g. "he maketh me to hang on hooks in high places and converteth me to lamb cutlets". This is also the last Pink Floyd song, that is more than 10 minutes long.

## Sheep

When Pink Floyd advertised the album and the consequent tour following the release they made a giant balloon in the shape of a pig, filled it with helium and tied it with strong steel wire over the famous coal-powered power plant in Battersee Park close to Victoria Station in London. The album cover has a picture of the pig, which for some reason they called "Algie" hovering over the long-abandoned power plant. Shortly after the shooting, a blast caused "Algie" to break away and swing over London to the great dismay of air traffic controllers and pilots. "Algie" landed by itself in a field in Kent. There is a story of a pilot who did not dare to report the strange flight for fear of being considered drunk in the cockpit.

The concert tour did not go very well in the opinion of the band members although the reception was very good. They played in big stadiums, often with little time for practice in between. Then they always had the feeling that they were not able to bridge the gap between themselves and the audience and that feeling became gradually stronger. Gilmour himself has said that he likes better to play in smaller venues and according to Mason Gilmour told him once that he felt so bad at the final concert that he got the feeling that this would be the band's endpoint. As with all bands the Pink Floyd members wanted a breakthrough which they did so thoroughly in the first part of the seventies that at the end of the same decade they simply did not know where to go.

However, I suspect that no one felt worse than Roger Waters. At the concert at Montreal's Olympic Stadium was a group of loud fans near the stage. They were acting out to say the least and were constantly asking for special songs. When one of them made eye contact with Waters, he shouted "Play "Careful with that Axe", Roger"! Waters had had enough and spat towards that fan.

Although they probably still do not know to this day whether the spit hit the man, we can imagine the situation. Gilmour felt so bad that he refused to participate in the final song of the concert but by this time they had developed a special finishing style, which was based on them playing while the roadies gradually emptied the stage until the last, instrumentless member left stage. Waters wrote about this incident on his CD, "Flickering Flame", which was published in 2002 and is a kind of an overview of his solo career. There he describes his feelings that fateful day and how he has regretted it ever since. It is a strange coincidence that in the text of "Dogs" is the line "Who was trained not to spit on the fan" as the incident took place after the album was released. Regardless of all the speculation about this incident it led to a part of the theme for the band's next album, which in the opinion of many fans but not mine is Pink Floyd's best work and will be covered in the next two episodes. We however will now listen to the final song from "Animals", the second part of "Pigs on the Wing ", in which Waters hints that, in spite of everything, humanity still has some hope.

Meu nome é Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson e eu sei muito pouco sobre o Pink Floyd. Obrigado e até depois.

## Pigs on the Wing part two