

## PAT BENATAR • BIOGRAPHY •

Pat Benatar: she's always been a rule-breaker and a trail-blazer, she remains a bold and distinctive artist both on stage and on record, and now, after more than three decades in rock 'n' roll, she's a bonafide living legend.

Songs like "Love is a Battlefield", "Hit Me with Your Best Shot", "Heartbreaker", "Promises In The Dark" and "We Belong" are as unforgettable now as they were at the dawn of MTV, when Pat emerged, fearless, fighting and forging a path for other female rock stars around the world.

Born Patricia Andrzejewski in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Lindenhurst, Long Island, Pat started singing in elementary school and never stopped, working on her craft throughout her teens. At just 19 years old, Pat married her high school sweetheart, took his last name, Benatar, and started moonlighting in the clubs by night, while working as a bank clerk by day.

In 1975, Pat took to performing cabaret on Long Island, before being cast in Harry Chapin's off-Broadway, sci-fi musical, *The Zinger*. It was after that, that Pat started hitting Manhattan's cabaret circuit and open-mic nights, and began incorporating the rock and pop she so loved into her repertoire of standards and show tunes.

It was at an open-mic at the legendary Catch a Rising Star club showcase on Halloween, 1977, that Pat's life changed forever. Earlier in the evening, she'd dressed up as a streetwise vampire to party at a Greenwich Village café. When she kept the costume on to do her regular set at Catch a Rising Star, the audience gave her a standing ovation for the very first time. Suddenly, her powerful voice (later to reach a 4 1/2 octave range) had an image to match. And a deal with Chrysalis Records followed shortly afterwards.

Benatar's life was to change dramatically once again in 1979, when she was introduced to a fiery and inspiring guitarist and multi-instrumentalist, named Neil Giraldo, who shared the singer's passions and used his skills as an innovative arranger and producer to help design, from its inception, the now renowned Benatar-sound.

Giraldo and Benatar's vision merged explosively on her 1979 debut album, **In The Heat Of The Night**, which, thanks to the feisty sass of Top 40 hits like "Heartbreaker" and the Giraldo-penned "We Live For Love", ultimately went platinum.

1980's **Crimes Of Passion** album was a Grammy Award-winning, number 2 smash, reaching quadruple platinum and giving Pat her first Top 10 hit - the gold-certified "Hit Me With Your Best Shot". It also spawned "You Better Run", the second ever video to air on MTV.

And that was just the beginning. Benatar's next album, 1981's **Precious Time** went double platinum and outdid its predecessor by hitting #1. Lead single, "Fire and Ice", brought Benatar her second Grammy.

Other platinum albums followed. 1982's **Get Nervous** went Top Five and featured the Grammy-winning "Shadows Of The Night", the same year that Benatar and Giraldo got married. 1983's **Live From Earth** boasted the gold, also Grammy-winning, Top Five hit, "Love Is A Battlefield"; and 1984's **Tropico** shined its spotlight on the Top Five as well, charting the Grammy-nominated "We Belong".

Following 1984's gold **Seven The Hard Way**, whose Top 10 Grammy-nominated "Invincible" became theme song for the film *The Legend of Billie Jean*, Benatar took some well-deserved time out to become a mother. In 1985, she and Giraldo became the proud parents of a baby girl, Haley.

Between 1988 and 1989, Benatar released **Wide Awake in Dreamland** that spun off the Top 20 hit "All Fired Up." The song earned her yet another Grammy nomination for "Let's Stay Together." In 1991 came the blues/swing-inspired **True Love** album, followed in 1993 by the critically-acclaimed **Gravity's Rainbow**. In 1994, she and Giraldo would become proud parents once again with the birth of their 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Hana.

In 1997, Pat released **Innamorata** on the CMC International label. That same year, she performed at Lilith Fair, where she was rightfully celebrated as a pioneer for women in rock. Then in 1998, further celebrating Benatar's live prowess, **8-18-80**, a live recording of a concert at the Old Waldorf in San Francisco, was finally released.

In 1999, Benatar and Giraldo opened their private vaults and compiled an extensive three-CD collection, **Synchronistic Wanderings: Recorded Anthology 1979-1999**. This impressive set includes songs from soundtracks (including *Speed*), contributions to tribute projects and benefits, previously unreleased live recordings, outtakes and demos, B- sides, and rarities never before available on CD.

As if that wasn't enough, in the summer of 2002, Benatar and Giraldo released a thrilling live CD and DVD. The CD, **Summer Vacation Soundtrack Live**, and the DVD, **Summer Vacation Live**, featured a 90-minute concert filmed at the Grove Theatre in Anaheim, California. In addition, they debuted four new songs ("I Won't," "Girl," "Out Of The Ruins," and "Please Don't Leave Me") as well as previously unrecorded acoustic versions of "We Belong" and "Love Is A Battlefield." **Summer Vacation Live DVD** also included behind the scenes footage and exclusive interviews.

In August 2003, Benatar released **Go**, her first album of new songs in seven years. Benatar described the record as a "contemporary guitar-driven record" and "the natural progression of where we should be".

After being inducted into the Long Island Hall of Fame in 2008, Benatar released her long-awaited autobiography in 2010, the appropriately-titled *Between a Heart and a Rock Place* – which allowed the world a fascinating glimpse into the life and times of one of the most beloved female rock 'n' roll icons of all time.

Pat Benatar is acknowledged as the leading female rock vocalist of the '80s – a feat marked by her unprecedented winning of four consecutive Grammy Awards between 1980 and 1983, as well as three American Music Awards – but Benatar and Giraldo remain a rock 'n' roll powerhouse today, selling out concerts and still wowing audiences after over three decades in music together. Theirs is a chemistry that will, undoubtedly, be thrilling music-lovers forever.