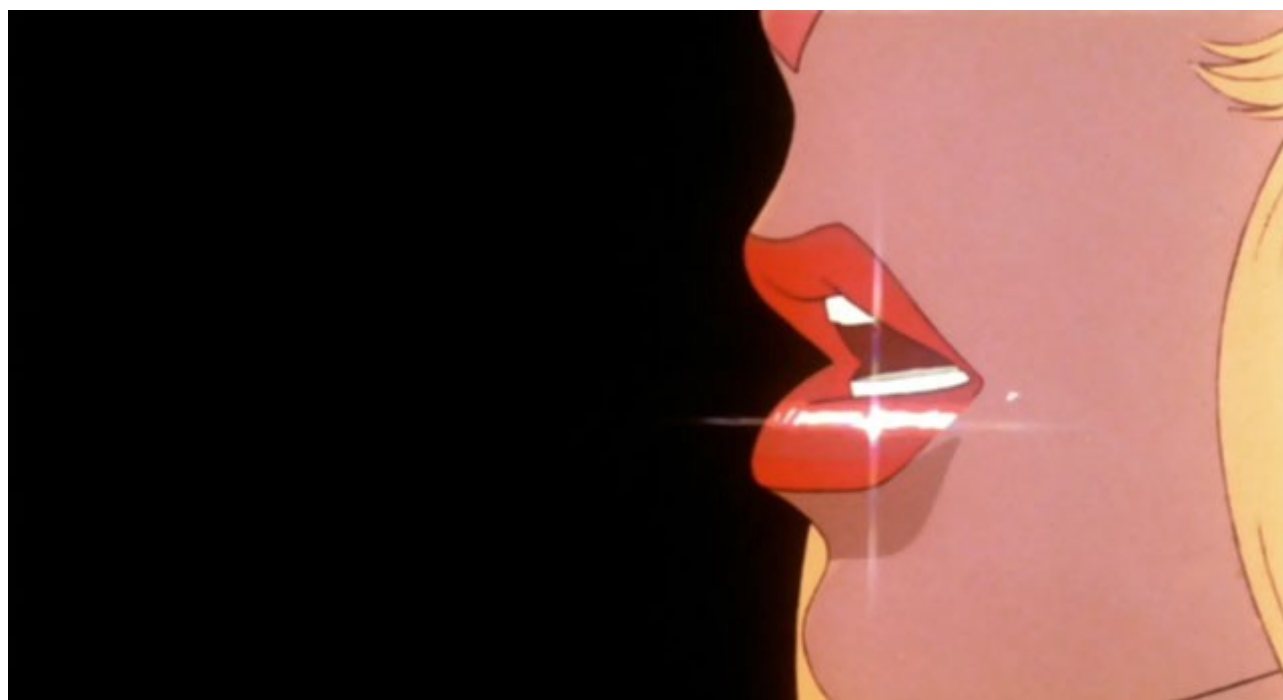


Rock & Rule (1983)



wetcircuit [Follow](#)

Sep 4, 2015 · 4 min read



The Coolest Glam-Rock New Wave Post-Apocalyptic Animated Musical You've Never Seen.

Ever get a song stuck in your head? When **Deborah Harry** supplied her singer/songwriter talents for the animated post-apocalypse musical **Rock & Rule**, she created a melody which, so the plot of the film goes, allows an aging popstar wizard to raise a demon at his farewell concert. The villain Mok, a cross between David Bowie and Mick Jagger, kidnaps ingénue Angel and forces her to sing a lovesong so repetitive, so radio-friendly, that the demon must climb up from the netherhell to silence it. I'm sure you know the feeling....





Rock & Rule is a movie you can't forget, and it actually gets better the more you watch it. At first glance it looks like a **Wizards** ripoff, but the animation is better than most animated indies of the time. The script is certainly more ambitious, mixing dark magic with showbiz personalities and nihilistic rockstar egos. Some brilliant moments with Mok get buried in a confusing script that's pulled in too many directions, but there are visual flashes of brilliance as **Lou Reed's** music videos lets Mok's ego shine. The layered dialog comes fast and clever. **Rock & Rule** holds up where **Wizards** doesn't.



The relationship between Angel and her boyfriend Omar will be painfully familiar to any woman who ever shared a creative relationship with a jealous competitor. Can Angel nurture him into a safe place so he doesn't feel threatened by her career? Puke! That's exactly the kind of UN-feminism that gets you tied to an altar and sacrificed at the mouth of hell. Like the Biblical Eve, Angel is seduced by evil and unleashes disaster on the world..., but with Omar at her side they turn the song into a duet, and their harmony drives the demon back. If only Omar hadn't been such a dick in the firstplace they wouldn't be performing in dives and no one would have to die...!



That's the kind of UN-feminism that gets you tied to an altar and sacrificed at the mouth of hell.

Without the names on the soundtrack **Rock & Rule** might have been forgotten. The Bakshi-wannabe artwork of nuked wastelands and the mutant animal-people was already looking dated by its 1984 release date. To be honest so was the soundtrack which was A-list three years earlier when production started. Animated films take years to complete and pop songs just don't live that long. The film was never released in the US, and the original soundtrack never happened.

Rock & Rule - Angel's song [Blondie/Debbie Harry v...



Angel's Song (Send Love Through) by Deborah Harry

Although the film wasn't distributed outside Canada and almost financially tanked its studio, a circulation of VHS bootlegs and midnight screenings kept **Rock & Rule** an underground cult favorite for years before finally being released on DVD in 2005. Harry had hoped for an original soundtrack album which would have featured her song and launched her solo career outside of **Blondie**. The soundtrack is a veritable who's-who of early 80's recording artists all providing original music. **Earth Wind and Fire** contribute a souldisco track *Dance Dance Dance*. **Lou Reed** has a turn giving Mok a narcissistic power-chord glam sound, and **Iggy Pop** contributes a growling satanic invocation *Pain and Suffering*. Fourteen year old **Melleny Brown** (aka **Melleefresh**) sings her fun and freaky *Hot Dogs and Sushi*.





CheapTrick supplies the male counterpart to Harry as the music and singing voices for Angel's hapless bandmates, who are shoved to the side when she enters Mok's world of rollerskating henchmen, luxury airships, and concert massacres where a supernatural death toll boosts his record sales. Weirdly (or maybe tellingly) neither Harry or CheapTrick were willing to leave their elaborate home studios, and so their duet was recorded separately.



Harry later re-worked Angel's song *Send Love Through* with new lyrics, releasing it as *Maybe for Sure* on her solo album **Deaf Dumb & Blonde**. It's still an infectious anthem of rising chords, a hopeful power ballad that stirs all sorts of "love can be awesome" feelings. A feel-good anthem that you hum for days without knowing any of the words.... Maybe the song got stuck her head.

Debbie Harry - Maybe For Sure



[Animation](#) [Deborah Harry](#) [Cinema](#)

[About](#) [Help](#) [Legal](#)