



*Sinful*

ZEPHERUS



DIGITALLY RE-MASTERED



Angel is:

**FRANK DIMINO** – lead vocals and background vocals

**PUNKY MEADOWS** – lead guitars and acoustic guitars

**FELIX ROBINSON** – bass, six-string bass and background vocals

**GREGG GIUFFRIA** – moog, IIC synthesizer and all keyboards

**BARRY BRANDT** – drums, percussion, syndrum and background vocals

Produced by **Eddie Leonetti** for **327 Productions, Inc.**

All arrangements by **Angel** and **Eddie Leonetti**

Tracks 1 – 5 recorded at **Davlen Studios** and **The Record Plant** in LA

Engineered by **Ed E. Thacker**

Tracks 6 – 10 recorded at **Santa Monica Civic Auditorium** with **Record Plant Mobile** and at **The Record Plant**

Engineered by **Lee DeCarlo** assisted by **Rick Delena**

Mixed at **The Record Plant** by **Eddie Leonetti** and **Ed E. Thacker**

Mastered by **Bernie Grundman** and **Bob Carbone** at **A&M**

Remastered in 2013 by **Andrew Thompson** at **Sound Performance, UK**

Original sleeve graphics: **David Fleming/Gribbitt!**

Original sleeve photography: **Barry Levine**

Reprographics: **Mimeo Limited**

Tour Manager: **Bill Schereck**

Thanx to our hard working crew, Robin Meadows, Mark Baker, Barry Wood, Steve Brooks and A Kimble Ouerbacker III .

Special thanx to Susan Norman for the use of her acoustic guitar  
'Lovers Live On' dedicated to Susan and Punky's guitar

**THE HISTORY OF ANGEL** is the classic "should have been bigger" story. Of course, the annals of rock music is littered with such stories; bands that should have been more popular and never were whilst bands of lesser talent and creativity become huge superstars. It's a fickle industry. And some bands get the brunt end of it.

*Sinful*, Angel's fifth and final studio album before disbanding, was released in 1979 and produced by Eddie Leonetti who had produced the band's previous album. *Sinful* followed hot on the heels of 1978's *White Hot*, which saw Felix Robinson replace the band's original bass player Mickey Jones who left after 1977's *On Heaven As It Is On Earth*. Their fourth album contains the band's only Top 50 American hit single, 'Ain't Gonna Eat My Heart Anymore'. It peaked at Number 44 in the *Billboard* Hot 100 and stayed in the singles charts for two months. However, sales of the album itself were not strong and thus a proposed live album for 1978 was muted. Their fifth album had a lot to live up to.

*Sinful* features the same line-up (singer Frank DiMino, guitarist Punky Meadows, bassist Felix Meadows, drummer Barry Brandt and keyboardist Gregg Giuffria) as *White Hot* and

would remain that way until the band folded in 1981 though they never officially announced a split.

Angel formed in 1975 in Washington, D.C. and brought colour and Styx-style pomp and melody to the state's rock scene. Spotted by Gene Simmons at a club in Maryland, the band was signed to Kiss' label, Casablanca. It would be both a blessing and a curse: it was a record deal at a strong label but it also meant they were held up against rock heavyweights Kiss even though they were seen as exact opposites. Angel's androgynous image and whimpy lyrics were initially derided, with their most fierce critic being none other than leftfield guitar genius Frank Zappa who slammed the band in his song, 'Punky's Whips'. Freddie Mercury was apparently frustrated with Angel because he felt they ripped off Queen's glam image.

Angel looked more like a bunch of chicks than a rock band though, somewhat ironically, they pre-dated the LA hair metal scene when bands such as Mötley Crüe became millionaires despite their effeminate image and poofed-up hairstyles. The 1980s' LA music scene exploded with similar looking bands (most of them went to the same designer, the Australian-born LA-based Ray Brown) which was later ridiculed by the alternative grunge bands of the Seattle/Washington scene; obviously a far cry from Angel's Washington, D.C. roots.

"We were always interested in the entertainment aspect of rock," Meadows told the *Washington City Newspaper's* Michael Little in 2002. "We put together some stage costumes and really went overboard with the flashpots. We were setting off these arena-size explosions in these small clubs. Beer glasses flew off the bar every time we'd set one off. The owners hated us."

They released their self-titled debut album in 1975 and their sophomore opus, *Heiluva Band*, the following year.

*Sinful* is perhaps the band's most obscure album of the original five studio releases. Later reissues of the album would be extended to forty minutes from the original 31 minute length due to the addition of two bonus tracks, '20th Century Foxes' and 'Virginia', which both feature on the Casablanca-released soundtrack to the 1980 teen movie *Foxes*, starring a young Jodie Foster and former Runaways singer Cherie Currie. The band made an appearance in the film during a concert scene with the late English teen idol and heartthrob Adam Faith as their manager, but sadly much of the band's onscreen involvement was left on the editing room floor. The soundtrack is a disco-themed collection featuring the label's disco artists and unfortunately Angel's contribution with '20th Century Foxes' was a failed attempt at jumping on the disco bandwagon. Ironically, Kiss would later do the same with the high successful but derided 'I Was Made For Loving You', which was released in May 1979.

*Foxes* was not the band's first foray into the movies. The band had worked on a film called *Angel Live At Midnight* the previous year, but the

project was put on hold and the footage was subsequently lost. Giuffria even tried to locate the film over a decade later, but it is obviously not meant to be and the film remains unseen and unreleased despite significant fan interest. It would have made for an entertaining slice of the band's history.

Curiously, the initial title was *Bad Publicity*, due in no small part to the band's attempt at freeing themselves of their snazzy clean-cut glam rock pampered image. The original cover featured the band dressed in street clothes whilst being arrested by a cop during a card game, surrounded by women and booze at the iconic Hyatt Hotel where all manner of rock 'n' roll hedonism had previously taken place (mostly by British bands.) Hilariously, the back cover sleeve featured lukewarm reviews the band had received in the past. How many bands would poke fun at themselves in such a fashion?

The band felt that the image was merely a stage persona and that they did not feel tied down to the white clothes the way Kiss are tied down with their shock rock comic book character

image or the way Vincent Furnier can't let go of his alter-ego, Alice Cooper. Casablanca chief Neil Bogart disagreed with Angel despite the band vehemently arguing their point of view.

Bogart withdrew the album before its spring 1979 release, though copies had been sent to the media and radio stations for promotion. Suffice it to say those copies, if they still exist, are extremely rare and sought after by fans of the band and general AOR fans.

DiMino spoke to *Legendary Rock Reviews'* John Parks in 2012: "We would have been much happier as a band had they let us continue with our vision of the album rather than make all this fuss about the cover, so the end result was that we were less invested as a band."

Copies of *Bad Publicity* were withdrawn and subsequently destroyed. Bogart renamed the album *Sinful* and had the front cover sleeve reshot depicting the five members in a simple band pose, dressed in their infamous white costumes with a white background. However, as time was of the essence with the album's

release imminent initial copies of *Sinful* still had *Bad Publicity* stickers on them. "I don't know if they were a mistake or not," said Meadows to *Washington City Newspaper* on the band's stark white image. "It depends how you look at it. At the time it was cool. We were like the opposite of Kiss. But maybe we got typecast."

The album was not a hit and only made it to Number 159 in the American Pop Album Charts. It did, however, garner positive reviews – which was somewhat ironic in hindsight because the

critics had previously lambasted the band. Unfortunately for Angel, they were up against label mates Kiss, who released *Dynasty* which peaked at Number 9 in the *Billboard* 200 album charts. America was undergoing Kiss-fever while many Americans were wondering, "Who the hell are Angel?"

"By the time we got to the fifth album... ugh... I don't know what happened there," DiMino admitted to *Legendary Rock Interviews*. "It was more like a situation of 'here are some songs we

have' and then just throwing them on there... I think that fifth album, *Sinful*, was the only one where we sound sort of disconnected and disjointed as a band. We had a lot more invested in the first four albums."

However, in most fans' eyes Angel never made a bad album and *Sinful* is no exception. Commercially sounding with a set of simple yet catchy melodic rock songs, *Sinful* still has some standout numbers. The opener "Don't Take Your Love" is a snappy radio friendly rocker; "L.A.

Lady" recalls the wonderful backing harmonies of classic Queen; "Just Can't Take It" is simple yet seductive; "You Can't Buy Love" has a superlative melody with a title that is too close to The Beatles' "Can't Buy Me Love"; "Bad Time" is an awesome heavy rocker; "Waited A Long Time" has some standout guitar work; "I'll Bring The Whole World To Your Door" is simply scrumptious with an infectious melody; "I'll Never Fall In Love Again" is a supreme power ballad with some fantastic keyboards; "Wild And Hot" is a cheery, toe-tapping party rocker; and the final track on

7 FT

6

6 FT

6



the original version, 'Lovers Live On', is a superlative glam rocker coated in white gloss. The album seems rather short these days but it remains an excellent release.

Before breaking up in 1981, Angel released *Live Without A Net*, live recordings from two shows (Long Beach and LA) in 1978 – hence the absence of songs from *Sinful*, their most recent studio opus.

Angel owed one more album to Casablanca (which had been sold to PolyGram in early 1980). Instead of releasing new material, Angel hoped to achieve the sort of success given to Kiss with their classic breakthrough live opus *Alive* but it was not meant to be.

Angel later reunited in 1998, albeit with a different line-up, and would alternate the line-up for the next few years. They released *In The Beginning* in 1999 featuring special guest appearances. Sadly, bassist Mickey Jones died on September 5, 2009 after a lengthy battle against cancer. The band still exists, in a different incarnation, and even made an appearance in

Holland for the first time at the 2004 Kiss convention dubbed as "Special Guests".

Angel may have been overshadowed by other bands of the genre and while they never achieved great commercial success, AOR enthusiasts cherish the band's output. *Sinful* is a nifty collection of tunes and though fluffy around the edges, similarly to the band itself, *Sinful* is undervalued and obscure. It's not their best album but the songs are to be appreciated.

*Sinful*, and in fact any Angel album, deserves a place in the collections of any fan of the genre. Oddly, The Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan was an Angel fan growing up in Illinois. Who'd have thought that?

Perhaps had the band formed a decade later, Angel may have been far more successful. Now reissued on CD, rock fans should cherish this minor slice of AOR history.

Neil Daniels, 2013

[www.neildaniels.com](http://www.neildaniels.com)

[neildanielsbooks.wordpress.com](http://neildanielsbooks.wordpress.com)



#### **Don't Take Your Love**

Everyday, I see your face  
From a picture on the wall  
I just sit by the phone  
And hope that someday, maybe you'll call

I remember the days we slept so close  
And it always felt so right  
Night after night  
How we held each other tight  
But morning comes and I'm all alone  
'Cause you're gone  
And you won't be back again

Don't take your love  
Don't take your love away from me  
Don't take your love  
Don't take it, don't take it away  
Don't take your love... no, no

I couldn't keep up the pace  
It seems I lost the race  
And it's really got me down  
'Cause you're trying to run  
To every fancy place in town  
But pretty soon you're gonna realize  
And when you do you're gonna want me  
back again

Don't take your love...etc

#### **L.A. Lady**

Here I come now...  
Flew in from Chicago the other day  
Back where I belong on the beach in L.A.  
Laying around in the noonday sun  
Watching all the girls having so much fun

Up walked this girl with big blue eyes  
Bigger than the sun, bluer than the skies  
She said hello, I said I'm fine  
She's looking so good  
About to lose my mind

You're all right  
You're outta sight  
You're the kind of girl  
That could make me feel right

L.A. lady  
She drives me crazy  
With that look in her eye  
L.A. lady  
She drives me crazy  
When she passes me by

I send her flowers every single day  
Afraid to sign the card  
Afraid of what she might say  
I often wonder who she's thinkin' of  
Is she thinkin' 'bout me and my sweet,  
sweet love

I can't eat, I can't sleep  
My hands begin to shake  
My knees are getting weak

L.A. lady  
She drives me crazy  
With that look in her eye  
L.A. lady  
She drives me crazy  
When she passes me by.

#### **Just Can't Take It**

Baby don't say maybe  
You got a hot New York City style  
With your long blonde hair  
And your street punk stare  
You drive me crazy  
With the way that you smile

I said ooh, ooh  
Well I just can't take it  
Just can't take it  
Ooh, ooh  
No I just can't take it  
Just can't take anymore

Raver, passion craver  
Your nasty habits just drive me wild  
The way you come on flush me  
With that midnight trash  
Ooh, you're a dangerous child

I said ooh, ooh  
Well I just can't take it  
Just can't take it  
Ooh, ooh  
No I just can't take it  
Just can't take anymore

First you say you say you love me  
Then you treat me like a fool  
Run around with other guys  
How could you be so cruel  
Love is so deceiving  
And it's driving me insane  
Just when I'm about to leave you  
You start it all again

Ooooooh – lately, I get crazy  
Your ruby lips just set my heart on fire  
You're a live wire  
Your motor's charging higher  
It makes me drunk with desire.

#### **You Can't Buy Love**

I shower you with my love and affection  
I bought you diamonds many times before  
You throw a kiss or two in my direction  
But never give me much more  
'Cause I, want your love

Try to give me something to believe in  
Give me all the things I'm dreaming of  
They say money buys most anything  
But I should know it can't buy love  
No it can't buy love

When we socialize with fancy ladies  
You hold my arm, but it's just a show  
I give you furs and a new Mercedes

I try each day and night to let you know  
That I want your love.

Try to give me something to believe in  
Give me all the things I'm dreaming of  
They say money buys most anything  
But I should know you can't buy love  
No, no

I guess I knew it from the very start  
That all along it was a losing bet  
You keep me hangin' with a broken heart  
I learned a lesson I can't forget  
But I still want your love

Try to give me something to believe in  
Give me all the things I'm dreamin' of  
They say money buys most anything  
But I should know you can't buy love

Try to give me something to believe in  
Give me all the things I'm dreamin' of  
They say money buys most anything  
But I should know you can't buy love  
You can't buy love.

#### **Bad Time**

Trouble, well it always seems  
To get me down  
I'm doubtful that things are ever  
Gonna turn around  
I gotta find a way to change my life

Never have I ever been lucky  
My back is to the wall  
And lately if it wasn't for real bad luck  
I'd have no luck at all  
I need a way to change  
Some way to rearrange it all

Having a bad time  
I'm having a bad run  
I'm having a bad time  
I'm having a bad run

Running, but there's nowhere left to hide  
And nothing to do  
I'm talking but there ain't much left to say  
I got the street corner blues  
I need a way to change  
Some way to rearrange it all

Having a bad time  
I'm having a bad run  
I'm having a bad time  
I'm having a bad run

#### **Waited A Long Time**

I was lookin' for love  
When I saw you standin' alone  
I was down and out  
And my heart was filled with doubt  
Then you came and turned me inside out  
Showed me what love was about

I've waited a long time to find you  
I've waited a long, long time  
I've waited a long time to find you  
I've waited a long, long time

You're always on my mind  
For you I'd do anything  
But when I'm closer to you  
Do you feel the way that I do  
'Cause I want you to want me too

I've waited a long time to find you  
I've waited a long, long time  
I've waited a long time to find you

Now I've finally found you  
And I'll never let you go  
You know that I believe you  
When you say you love me so

Though words are easily spoken  
In your eyes the truth appears  
It feels so good like I knew it would  
Just to have and hold you near

Just to have and hold you near  
Just to have and hold you near

I've waited a long time to find you  
I've waited a long, long time  
I've waited a long time to find you  
I've waited a long, long time.

#### **I'll Bring The Whole World To Your Door**

Baby, it's you that makes me feel this way  
So please don't ever go away  
It's true I need you, need you

I'm yours till the sun falls from the sky  
Till the birds forget how to fly  
It's true I love you, love you

Do you feel all right  
I wanna hold you tight  
Till the mornin' light  
C'mon and love me tonight

Baby, I'll bring the whole world to your door  
Only say that you love me  
And you won't need anymore

Baby, you tell me things I wanna hear  
But you never seem to make it clear  
It's true I need you, need you

I'm yours till dreams become reality  
Till time has no eternity  
It's true I love you, love you

Do you feel all right  
I wanna hold you tight  
Till the morning light  
C'mon and love me tonight

Baby, I'll bring the whole world to your door  
Only say that you love me  
And you won't need anymore.

#### **I'll Never Fall In Love Again**

Songs on the radio, music that I know  
Seems like the band  
Can play the story of my life  
Just listen to that broken heart  
It's torn apart  
That poor soul in love

Is it me they're singing to  
Or am I just a stranger  
Whose song has just begun  
Just listen to that broken heart  
It's torn apart  
That poor soul in love

I always believed in you  
Never thought it was true  
I'll never ever fall in love again

I always believed in you  
Never thought it was true  
I'll never ever fall in love again

Is it me they're singing to  
Or am I just a stranger  
Whose song has just begun  
Just listen to that broken heart  
It's torn apart  
That poor soul in love

I always believed in you  
Never thought it was true  
I'll never ever fall in love again

I always believed in you  
Never thought it was true  
I'll never ever fall in love again

I always believed in you  
Never thought it was true  
I'll never ever fall in love again  
In love again  
In love again.

#### **Wild And Hot**

Up in the morning ready for school  
'Nother day with that golden rule  
Doin' my homework all week long  
Same old exams, always get 'em wrong  
Teacher don't care, she don't understand  
We're just crazy 'bout rock n' roll bands  
When they get it together  
There is nothing better  
When I feel that beat  
I just wanna jump out of my seat  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

'Cause we're wild and we're hot  
And we're ready to rock  
No one can make us stop  
'Cause we're wild and we're hot

Mommy and Daddy, think I'm a fool  
Stay out nights, late for school  
I don't care what they say  
When I hear those guitars play  
When they play it together  
There is nothing better when I feel that beat  
I just wanna jump out of my seat  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

'Cause we're wild and we're hot  
And we're ready to rock  
No one can make us stop  
'Cause we're wild and we're hot

The show is over, I got to go home  
Sit in my room, I'm all alone  
I can still hear my superstar  
Gettin' me high, takin' me far  
When I feel that beat  
I just wanna jump out of my seat  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

'Cause we're wild and we're hot  
And we're ready to rock  
No one can make us stop  
'Cause we're wild and we're hot.

#### **Lovers Live On**

Lovers live on  
You know that they can live on  
And you know that they are together  
Even when they're alone

'Cause when we're apart  
You know that you have my heart  
Don't forget that I'll never leave you  
anymore

'Cause lovers live on  
Lovers live on forever more

The time that we spend together  
Nobody knows me better  
You can be you, and I can be me

So listen to this, and remember  
That lovers live on forever  
Just take it easy, and you'll see

'Cause lovers live on  
Lovers live on forever more

We are in love  
It's not just a passing fancy  
And I won't desert you any more

'Cause lovers live on  
Lovers live on forever more.