

on the list

Telegraph Herald wire services

TOP MOVIES ON APPLE TV APP

- U.S. charts**
1. "Bullet Train"
  2. "Top Gun: Maverick"
  3. "Bros"
  4. "Fall"
  5. "Where the Crawdads Sing"
  6. "Bodies Bodies Bodies"
  7. "Minions: The Rise of Gru"
  8. "Vengeance" (2022)
  9. "Jurassic World Dominion"
  10. "Crimes of the Future"

**U.S. charts — independent**

1. "Vengeance" (2022)
2. "Bandit"
3. "Jeepers Creepers Reborn"
4. "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris"
5. "Mack & Rita"
6. "Hockeyland"
7. "Moment of Contact"
8. "Marcel the Shell with Shoes On"
9. "Trick 'R Treat" (2008)
10. "God's Country"

REDBOX'S TOP DVD RENTALS

1. "Bullet Train," Sony
2. "Beast" (2022), Universal
3. "Fall," Lionsgate
4. "Jeepers Creepers: Reborn," Screen Media
5. "DC League of Super-Pets," Warner
6. "Thor: Love and Thunder," Marvel Studios
7. "Where the Crawdads Sing," Sony
8. "Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank," Paramount
9. "Orphan: First Kill," Paramount
10. "Minions: The Rise of Gru," Universal

# AC/DC's Johnson and his Cinderella lives

The longtime lead singer tells his story in the memoir, 'The Lives of Brian Johnson.'

BY MARK KENNEDY  
The Associated Press

Before he began tearing the roof off arenas as lead singer of hard rock icon AC/DC, Brian Johnson was fixing roofs. In his new memoir, the "Hells Bells" singer recounts how he went from being a vinyl car roof fitter in the north-east of England to leading one of the most hailed bands in the world.

It's a Cinderella story. Only Johnson, now 75, was a Cinderella at least three times, never giving up on his dream of singing in a rock 'n' roll band.

"I don't know what it is, I just never, ever sort of gave in," he said recently by phone from his home in Florida. "I was always willing to give something a shot when more pessimistic people wouldn't have. I always thought the glass was half-full."

"The Lives of Brian Johnson," from Dey Street Books, goes chronologically through his ups and downs growing up near Newcastle, ending with him joining AC/DC and recording the band's seminal "Back in Black" album.

"It wasn't so much to validate my life," he said of the book. "It was to validate the lives of all the wonderful people that I met that helped shape my life — friends from school, friends at the factories, friends in the music."

Music was his North Star and he recalls first hearing Little Richard sing "Awop bop/a-loo bop/awop bam boom" at 11 and freaking out. "Many have described that song, 'Tutti Frutti,' as the sound of rock 'n' roll being born — which is fitting, because my dream of becoming a singer was born in that moment, too," he writes.

Johnson was an apprentice engineer



JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION • The Associated Press  
Brian Johnson has a memoir, "The Lives of Brian Johnson," which recounts his path to becoming the lead singer of AC/DC.

who sang on the side and was a young father and husband. To earn enough money for a P.A. system, he joined an airborne infantry regiment of the British Army.

He attended one of Jimi Hendrik's first shows in Britain, saw Sting perform when soon-The Police star was 15 and made friends with members of Slade and Thin Lizzy. He would meet Chuck Berry but it didn't go well.

"Never meet your heroes," he writes.

Johnson, who would later pen the immortal lines "Forget the hearse/cause I'll never die," made his live debut in the deliciously named The Toasty Folk Trio, survived a horrific car crash and finally found some success in the band Georgie.

The band made it to the "Top of the Pops" — a show that was a crowning achievement for any nascent band. He gave up a good career at his engineering firm, but Georgie had only one Top

10 hit and soon fizzled out.

"At the age of 28, I'd lost everything. My marriage, my career, my house," he writes. He moved in with his parents and recalls once watching AC/DC on BBC.

"I loved every second of it. But, of course, it was also a reminder that I'd had my shot and blown it."

Johnson rebuilt his life, becoming a windscreens fitter — later a car roof fixer — and founded Georgie II. He was happy. He had a little business and a little band.

"I thought that was my second Cinderella story, but there was more to come," he says.

The book reveals the origin of his trademark cap: Once he rushed to a gig with no time to change, sweating glue and shards of glass into his eyes. His brother, Maurice, lent him his cloth driving cap as protection, an addition the fans loved.

Part of Johnson was unfulfilled. It was a meeting with singer Roger Daltrey that proved pivotal. The Who's frontman invited Johnson — then living with his band in an apartment with just four mattresses on the floor — over for a meal at his manor house.

On the day, Johnson recalls Daltrey riding toward him bare-chested and barefoot with no saddle, holding onto the mane of his galloping white horse ("If this isn't a rock star, I thought to myself, I don't know what is," he writes.)

"He said, 'I'm going to give you one piece of advice, Brian. Never give up. Do you understand me? Never, ever give up.' And I really took that to heart," Johnson recalled. "He's probably forgotten that he said that, but I didn't."

Bon Scott, the original lead singer of AC/DC died in 1980, and Johnson got an audition to replace him based on recommendations, including from Scott himself, who had heard him sing one night. Only years later did Johnson realize they'd met.

At the audition, co-founder and rhythm guitarist Malcolm Young offered him a Newcastle Brown Ale, a nice nod to Johnson's heritage. And Johnson's first song with the band at the audition was Tina Turner's "Nut-bush City Limits." ("It was the most electric moment of my life," he writes). Then they sang some AC/DC tunes. He got the job, of course.

Johnson's editor, Rowland White, an author whose most recent novel is "Into the Black," said the shape of Johnson's story is "extraordinary because it doesn't usually happen like that."

"He was happy with the idea that he'd given it a shot and he made his peace with that. And it's what makes the shot at AC/DC somehow more joyful because it was no longer something that he was straining for."



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