

BLOOD+THUNDER

THE SOUND OF ALBERTS

PART TWO: THUNDER

Thursday, July 2 at 8.30pm on ABC

Blood +Thunder is a tale of two families and the music they made. The Alberts - an elegant, well-to-do dynasty from the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, and the Youngs – an unruly clan of ten-pound migrants from the tough suburbs of Glasgow. They were from different planets. But through music they locked together in a blood pact – fiercely determined to produce an Australian sound that would conquer the world.

If you ask Metallica, Guns 'N Roses, Suzi Quatro or The Foo Fighters today about Australian music, they remember the Alberts sound. That fat guitar, raw power that came from the Alberts studios and the records of The Easybeats, Rose Tattoo and AC/DC. It was the sound that killed the cultural cringe – tough, raw and unapologetic.

Tonight, the story continues with part two - THUNDER

By the mid '70s Australia was in a deep recession, and many young Australians turned to rock music for their escape.

The unassuming Ted Albert and songwriters/producers George Young and Harry Vanda, formerly of The Easybeats, take a cue from the beginnings of pub rock, and develop the sound that the audience was responding to in tough suburban pubs.



George's little brothers Angus and Malcolm step up and AC/DC is born – the name taken from older sister Margaret's sewing machine. When the charismatic Bon Scott joins as lead singer the band's popularity explodes, helped by relentless touring.

When The Angels share the AC/DC stage, they too promptly sign with Alberts and start clocking up successes helped by the arrival of colour television and *Countdown*.

Ted Albert is the quietly confident risk taker. His patronage is not just giving Australia its own unique brand of rock & roll but cracking pop too. *Hey St Peter* sees George and Harry back on stage as Flash and the Pan. John Paul Young cements his stardom with *Standing in the Rain* and *Love is in the Air* (much later he records a new version for the film *Strictly Ballroom*, Ted and Baz Luhrmann's first foray into film).



Ted's right hand is Fifa Riccobono, usually found right at the front of the crowd that's rocking to The Angels or another Alberts act, Rose Tattoo. In 1978 she goes to the US to see AC/DC trying to take on America. When they come up with *Highway to Hell*, it does the trick.

Brian Johnson replaces Bon when the lifestyle claims him in 1980 and the *Back in Black* album is a massive success across the world. While coloured by tragedy, it is a triumph for Ted Albert who backed the band for many years with rock-solid conviction.

In the years that follow, 'Acca Dacca' become one of the world's greatest rock bands, the music of Vanda and Young also becomes legendary, and Alberts remains a potent force in Australian music.

Production details: Screen Australia in associated with the ABC presents a Bombora Film and Music Co., and Beyond Screen production. Narrator: David Field. The series is written and directed by Paul Clarke. Co-written by Alex Barry. Producers: Martin Fabinyi and Stephanie Werrett. Executive Producer Mikael Borglund, Ron Saunders and Paul Clarke.

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