KIND OF LIVE

Rock Ideologies and the Illusion of Live
MODERN RECORDING
TECHNIQUES

- Over-dubbing
- Microphones
- Multi-track recording
- Artificial Reverb
- Stereo
- Dynamics processing
- Digital Audio Workstation
- Harmonic exciters
- Automatic double tracking
- Synthesis
- Drum machines
- MIDI
- Comping
- Drum replacing
- Sampling
- Beat Detective
- MIDI
- Virtual instruments
- Transient Shapers
- Elastic Audio
- Virtual Drummers
- Auto Tune
“In the classical tradition, recordings function either to capture the sound of a particular live performance or they attempt to present the sound of an ideal performance.“

Davies 2001
“Popular music developed a third function by exploiting studio technology to create inventive sonic presentations that are not meant to be judged by reference to what can be duplicated in live performance. “

Davies 2001
ROMANTICISM

“sense of community, sincerity and directness, ‘liveness,’ ‘natural’ sounds, hiding musical technology”

MODERNISM

“experimentation and progress, status of artist, irony, elitism, celebrating technology”

(Keightley)
ROMANTICISM

“sense of community, sincerity and directness, ‘liveness,’ ‘natural’ sounds, hiding musical technology”

“The human element of music is what’s important.

Singing into a microphone and learning to play an instrument and learning to do your craft, that’s the most important thing for people to do.

It’s not about being perfect, it’s not about sounding absolutely correct, it’s not about what goes on in a computer.”

Dave Grohl (2012 Grammy acceptance speech)
MODERNIST

“experimentation and progress, status of artist, irony, elitism, celebrating technology”
LIVE
KIND OF LIVE
KIND OF FAKE
FAKE
SGT PEPPER’S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND (1967)

“a fall from primal grace into pretence, production and self-consciousness” Kimsey
ELTON JOHN
BENNY AND THE
JETS (1973)

“Fake Live”
DAVID BOWIE
DIAMOND DOGS
(1974)

“Modernist authenticity, on the other hand, inheres in experimentation and progress, status of artist, irony, elitism, celebrating technology”

(Keightley 137).

"You wanted the best, and you got it — the hottest band in the land!" From that swaggering intro all the way through guitarist Paul Stanley's banter about audience members' preferred beverages, Alive! neatly summarized Kiss's gritty early-Seventies catalog and extremely outsized charm — in turn, the 1975 double LP wound up being the band's first Top 10 album. Muscular takes on white
KING CRIMSON
STARLESS AND BIBLE BLACK
(1974)
the Romantic discourse of authenticity, prime value is given to a “sense of community, sincerity and directness, ‘liveness,’ ‘natural’ sounds, hiding musical technology” (Keightley 137)."
FAIL
FAKE
FABRICATION
THANK YOU

Jason Comes Alive!