performing glam rock
performing glam rock

gender and theatricality in popular music

PHILIP AUSLANDER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS  Ann Arbor
for deanna, my own true love
I would like to thank my colleagues and students in the School of Literature, Communication, and Culture of the Georgia Institute of Technology for their support and patience with my nattering about glam rock for quite a few years. I particularly want to acknowledge the students who have participated over the last three years in my Music as Performance course, the proving ground for my approach here. I would also like to thank all those, too numerous to mention, who provided me with venues at conferences and universities in which to present this material: I profited enormously from the feedback. A shout-out particularly to Vivian Patraka, whose timely invitation made it much easier for me to finish the project. And thanks to Laci Reed for canine companionship.

A number of people were kind enough to read and comment on early versions of these chapters: Susan Fast, Judith Halberstam, Jon McKenzie, Richard Pettengill, and Peter Shapiro. Thank you all. Thanks also to “anonymous” readers Will Straw and Maria Delgado for your positive reinforcement and good suggestions.

Special thanks to LeAnn Fields for her unflagging support and faith in the project.

List of Illustrations xi

Introduction
Personal and Disciplinary Reflections 1

1. Glamticipation
Rock Faces the 1970s 9

2. Glamography
The Rise of Glam Rock 39

3. King of the Highway, Queen of the Hop
Marc Bolan and the Evolution of Glam Style 71

4. Who Can I Be Now?
David Bowie and the Theatricalization of Rock 106

5. Inauthentic Voices
Gender Bending and Genre Blending with Bryan Ferry and Roy Wood 150

6. Suzi Quatro Wants to Be Your Man
Female Masculinity in Glam Rock 193

Glamology
Glam Rock and the Politics of Identity 227

Works Cited 235
Index 249
Table 1. Canonical Glam Rock Artists 43

Fig. 1. Tyrannosaurus Rex, ca. 1968 77

Fig. 2. Marc Bolan, ca. 1972 93

Fig. 3. David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust, ca. 1973 125

Fig. 4. Mick Ronson and David Bowie, ca. 1973 142

Fig. 5. Roxy Music, ca. 1972 155

Fig. 6. Roy Wood performing with Wizzard, ca. 1974 184

Fig. 7. Suzi Quatro, ca. 1974 202