

Subject: Part One of MTV: The First 10 Videos They Ever Aired!

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Tunes Weekly - Part One of MTV: The First 10 Videos They Ever Aired!



On Saturday, August 1, 1981, at 12:01 a.m. eastern time, MTV appeared on the air with the words:

"Ladies and gentlemen, rock and roll."

It was a life-changing event. Oh, I know the invention of the wheel and the discovery of fire were big too, but dammit, these were *24-hours-a-day music videos*.

Our favorite rock stars fluffed up their hair nice and big, started wearing makeup, and tried to learn how to dance. Suddenly, we began to care how Paul Simon looked.

We didn't care that the artists were lip-syncing. The artistic merits mattered not, just keep those videos coming like popcorn. A music video could create a star overnight. Without MTV, would we have ever heard of Duran Duran, Boy George, or A Flock of Seagulls?

MTV, after going through umpteen changes, is almost unrecognizable today. Music Television plays hardly any music videos at all anymore and they also aren't really into talking about "the good ole days" either. 39 years later, some people still get misty-eyed recalling that night of August 1, 1981 when The Buggles announced a new era with "Video Killed the Radio Star." What else did MTV play that night? How about we take a look back at the first 10 videos that MTV ever

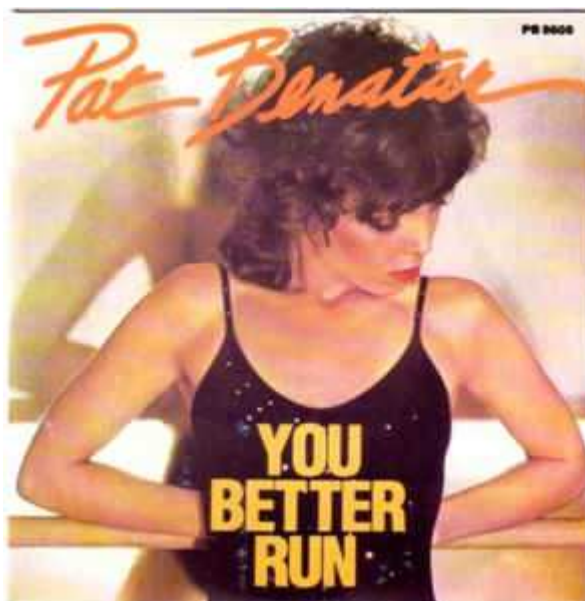
aired! Remember, we do this for you, so you don't have to. Here is part one.



1. **Video Killed the Radio Star**- The Buggles (1979)

This very catchy new wave-synthpop tune was destined for greatness as the first MTV music video ever aired. There were never any other songs considered. Trevor Horn went on to join Yes and had great success as a producer. Geoffrey Downes also went on to join Yes, and Asia as well. The Buggles released two albums and never toured. But they made history.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwuy4hHO3YQ>



2. **You Better Run**- Pat Benatar (1980)

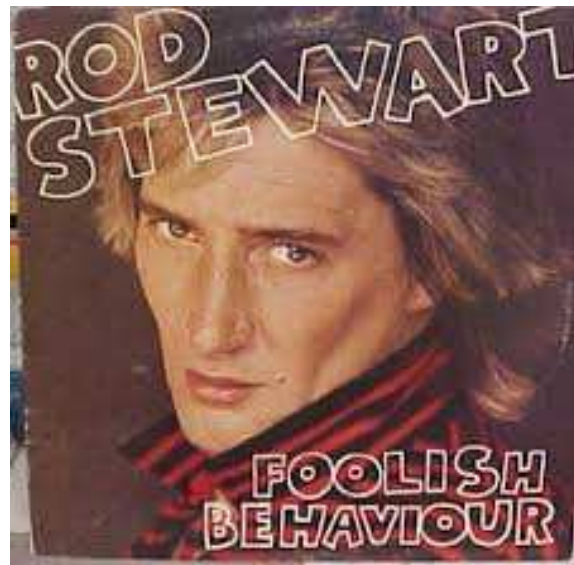
She strutted out wearing tight leather pants and a little striped top, while belting out a powerhouse vocal. She was cute, hot, and tough, with plenty of attitude. Who didn't love Pat Benatar? "You Better Run" was a cover of a 1966 Young Rascals tune. She would be the first woman, the first American, and the first rocker on MTV

. Now 67, Benatar's last album of original material was 2003's *Go*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvSbQB6-UdY>



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3. She Won't Dance With Me- Rod Stewart (1980)

This lively Chuck Berry-inspired rocker video only proves that none of those skinny white English guys could dance, POSSIBLY with the exception of Mick Jagger. Of note is that this tune contains an F-bomb which wasn't edited out of the video. Today, Rod Stewart at age 75, records standards and rock-climbs on his money. *Blood Red Roses* in 2018 was his 30th studio release.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHKHjtup3Qk>



4. You Better You Bet- The Who (1981)

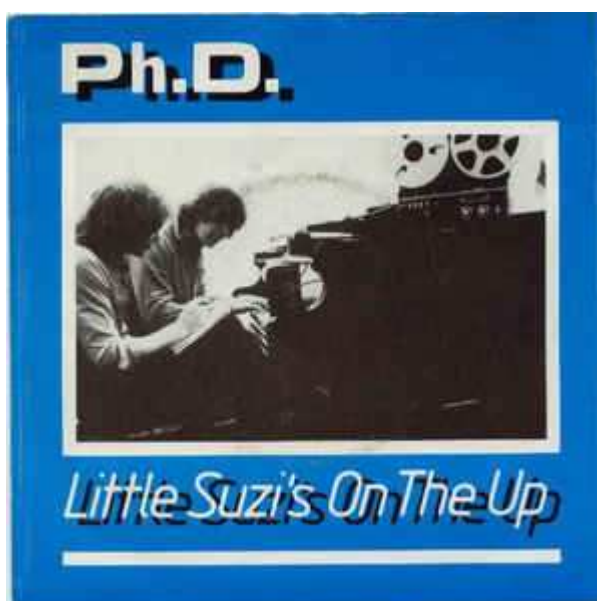
Very cool tune. This black and white video was the first one to be

aired twice on MTV. It's one of Roger Daltry's favorite Who songs. Sadly, only Daltry and Pete Townshend are left, but they are still rocking out and grumbling the whole way. It was the last tune by The Who to reach the Top 20.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir2rFb_gbn0



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5. **Little Suzi's on the Up**- Ph.D. (1981)

This terrible video looked like a Cyndi Lauper reject. It didn't chart in the US or the UK and it's no big mystery why. The band took its name from the initial letters of its three founding members' surnames; Phillips, Hymas and Diamond, which is the cleverest thing about them. Alas, British new-wavers Ph.D. is no more. Is anyone surprised?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKgzYLBV_cc

D. Tillis writes "Tunes Weekly" exclusively for www.tunescompany.com

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