

## Def Leppard – Slang (1996)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Truth?* 3:01 2 *Turn To Dust* 4:22 3 *Slang* 2:38 4 *All I Want Is Everything* 5:20 5 *Work It Out* 4:50 6 *Breathe A Sigh* 4:07 7 *Deliver Me* 3:04 8 *Gift Of Flesh* 3:48 9 *Blood Runs Cold* 4:27 10 *Where Does Love Go When It Dies* 4:05 11 *Pearl Of Euphoria* 6:20  
Bass Guitar, Guitar [Acoustic], Bass [Synth], Vocals – Rick Savage Drums, Percussion – Rick Allen Guitar [Electric], Guitar [Acoustic], Dulcimer, Vocals – Vivian Campbell Guitar [Electric], Guitar [Acoustic], Mandolin, Vocals – Phil Collen Lead Vocals – Joe Elliott

After the lackluster performance of *Adrenalize*, Def Leppard realized it was time to abandon their trademark wall-of-guitars sound. Jettisoning producer Mutt Lange -- who, admittedly, was busy producing his wife, country singer Shania Twain -- the group stripped its sound to the basics for *Slang*. There are very few layers-of-guitar effects on the album, just straight, crunching chords. Most notably, Rick Allen has returned to playing acoustic drums after playing an electronic kit for nearly a decade. The change in approach is apparent and welcome -- Def Leppard hasn't sounded so immediate since *Pyromania*. Furthermore, they decided to expand their musical vocabulary slightly, working elements of R&B and funk into the rhythms. Not all of the experiments work, but Def Leppard sound revitalized, particularly when they attack a straightforward rocker. *Slang* would have been even better if they had come up with a set of hooks that sounded as alive as their performance, but the album is a much-needed return to form for the group. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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