



Duran Duran “wild boys”
Roger Taylor, Nick Rhodes,
John Taylor and Simon LeBon

It’s time for the ’90s to step aside; the decade of decadence is back and it’s super gnarly

past excursions saw heaps of neon, very big hair, and lots of *Desperately Seeking Susan*-era Madonna lookalikes having a blast as their hosts, old school MTV VJs, looked on.

Can Larry Fortensky jokes and *Miami Vice* reruns be far behind? Perhaps the better question is, what’s the attraction of a decade dominated by Reaganomics, assassination attempts, Michael J. Fox and soundtracked by Phil Collins?

For one thing, we all consumed the same media and watched it at the same time, branding commercial phenomena into our collective consciousness (Who shot JR? Where’s the Beef?). “Watercooler chat” was fueled by strong opinions on the latest miniseries, whether it was *The Thorn Birds*, *Shōgun* or *Scruples*, and watching blockbusters on the big screen was still a thing. And look at how Tom Cruise’s sequel to one of the defining films of the ’80s – *Top Gun: Maverick* – revitalized a post-pandemic box office last summer.

Yes, there were horrors aplenty throughout the 1980s – the advent of HIV/AIDS and its awful toll on the gay community, the nefarious spread of crack cocaine. Not even the amber glow of nostalgia can blunt those savage memories.

Still, every decade eventually comes back into vogue. It’s just a question of when and how faithfully it will be interpreted by those who lived it and by young’uns operating under the possibly correct, possibly misguided impression that things were simpler back then. Admittedly, there was some bliss in being largely unreachable after leaving the office at the end of the day. —*Kim Hughes*

Propelled by swirling synthesizer sounds, New Zealand new wavers Split Enz proclaimed *History Never Repeats* in their 1981 hit of the same name. But anyone paying attention these days would say they’re wrong, as the ’80s slowly creeps its way back into contemporary pop culture.

You know it’s more than a blip when *Forbes* notes that ’80s gear is back on-trend, “with bright geometric patterns, dance-inspired looks, and more of those oversized blazers (with or without shoulder pads).” Supporting their claims: fashion bellwether Rihanna has been photographed wearing slouchy boots.

Evidence of an ’80s revival is everywhere. Revolving around the paranormal goings-on in the fictional town of Hawkins, Ind., in the ’80s, the last season of *Stranger Things* became Netflix’s second most watched show of all time after *Squid Game*, and is currently in production on Season 5. Also set smack in the middle of the ’80s is CBC’s *Son of a Critch* (recently renewed for a third season), which follows the adventures of an adolescent boy growing up in Newfoundland. And this past spring, HBO Max launched its smoking-hot miniseries *Love & Death* starring Elizabeth Olsen and Jesse Plemons as church-going Texas neighbours Candy Montgomery and Allan Gore, whose extramarital affair ended

when Gore’s wife was hacked to death with an ax. It’s based on the 1984 book *Evidence of Love* by journalists John Bloom and Jim Atkinson, who followed Candy Montgomery’s subsequent trial and acquittal for the murder of Betty Gore. It’s getting Emmy buzz.

Meanwhile, British pop dandies Duran Duran – who basically owned the 1980s after establishing the high-water mark for music videos with 1982’s *Rio* – have embarked on their aptly named *Future Past* tour to support their latest album (including a stop at Toronto’s Scotiabank Arena September 19). D2’s big-haired nemesis, rock maulers Def Leppard are also on the road this summer with their *Drastic Symphonies* tour.

If that isn’t enough to rekindle those bygone days, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ultimate ’80s Party has you covered. Departing February 29 for seven all-inclusive days, guests can party to the music of 38 Special, Soft Cell, Air Supply, Sheena Easton, Debbie Gibson, Sebastian Bach, The English Beat and Wang Chung, all aboard and performing live. Video from

RETIREMENT PARTY

The *Greying of Canada’s Population*, a recent study by TD, estimates that 900,000 Canadians will depart the workforce by 2025, a wave that could leave many companies facing “a deficit in experience and institutional knowledge.” —*PM*