

SHOWTIME Front Row filler copy:

SLIDE 1 of 28:

1981 Music Highlights and Lowlights

1981 saw not only its share of breakups, deaths and arrests, but also new sounds in music that seal the deal on the end of the 70s.

SLIDE 2 of 28:

1981 Music Highlights and Lowlights

Steely Dan and The Wings both break up...

Steely Dan disbands. The band reknowned for single-handedly crossing the jazz/rock divide, with songs and solos occasionally pushing the 7-minute mark, decided to call it quits and possibly pursue solo careers. Apart from hiring top studio session musicians, the band consisted solely of Walter Becker and Donald Fagen, who first met at Bard College in 1967, worked on film sound tracks together and eventually put out the critically acclaimed album, *Can't Buy a Thrill* in 1972, which spawned the hits "Do it Again", "Dirty Work", and "Reelin' in the Years."

Becker and Fagen not only opened the door to a new sound in music, they changed the quality of it in two ways:

SLIDE 3 of 28:

1981 Music Highlights and Lowlights

Steely Dan disbands...

- Similar to musical virtuoso Frank Zappa in their search for musical excellence, the song writing team worked with only the top studio talent, legends amongst their peers such as Lee Ritenour, Chuck Rainey, Steve Gadd and Michael McDonald. Their seventh album, *Gaucho*, saw no less than three DOZEN session musicians and a dozen engineers come and go during the course of recording barely a half-dozen songs.
- To capture every nuance of the pure talent and musicianship the pair sought, they pushed the envelope in recording techniques and equipment, garnering awards for "Excellence in Recording". Despite their whimsical, wry songs of love, sex, drugs, alcohol and criminals, or perhaps to emphasize it, Steely Dan created a sterile sound, their music appearing from silence with surgical precision, which rarely disappointed their many fans.