British Invasion: A rebellion against a rebellion

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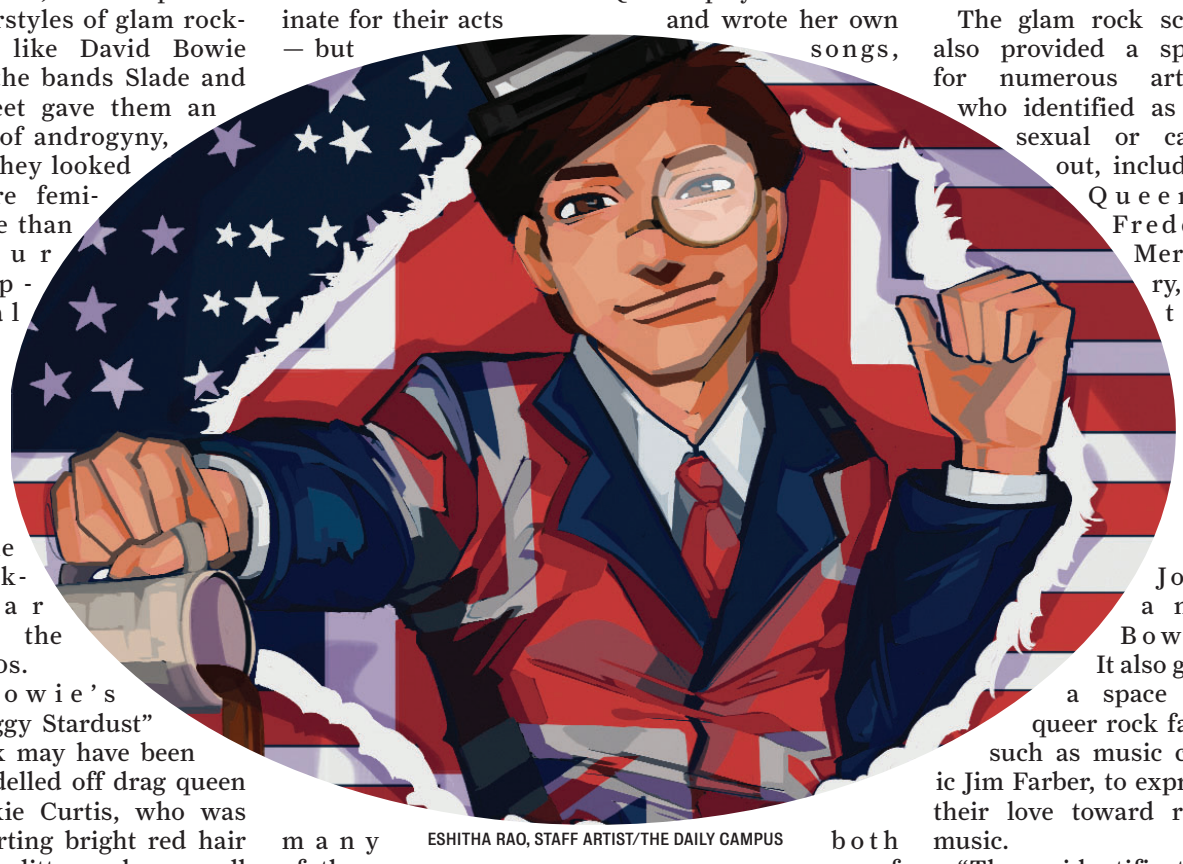
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In March 1971, Marc Bolan and his band T. Rex took to the stage of TV show "Top of the Pops." It looked like another innocuous performance of their hit "Hot Love," if not for the glittery gold teardrops Bolan adorned below his eyes. The teardrops, along with his silver satin sailor suit and corkscrew curls, helped usher in glam rock to the shores of Britain.

55 years later, it will be the topic for an edition of British Invasion! The column that explores the facets of British music history. Today's column touches on the fashion, music and culture of this subgenre in the early 1970s and how it endures into the present day.

Glam rock was created as an antagonist to the mainstream rock scene of the late 1960s and the burgeoning prog rock movement that was also gaining in popularity. Instead, glam rockers embraced a range of retro styles. From musical theater, cabaret, 1930s Hollywood glamor and more.

The one thing glam rock was well known for was their fashion style. The outrageous clothes, makeup and hairstyles of glam rockers like David Bowie or the bands Slade and Sweet gave them an air of androgyny, as they looked more feminine than your typical male rockstar of the 1960s.



ESHITHA RAO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust" look may have been modelled off drag queen Jackie Curtis, who was sporting bright red hair and glitter make-up well before Bowie did. Before his famous "Top of the Pops" performance, some sources claim the Bolan got idea for the glitter from Chelita Secunda, his manager's wife. It is possible that many women were behind the images of glam rockers — Angie Bowie and June Bolan helped their husbands dress more effeminate for their acts — but many of them were lost among the male-dominated subgenre and omitted from its history.

Suzi Quatro is one of the few female musicians who made her mark on the scene, and she did so by opposing the role of women in rock. She didn't wear makeup and always wore pants onstage; Quatro played the bass and wrote her own songs, both of which were considered more male-centric jobs back in the 1970s.

Despite its flamboyant style, the musical content of glam rock leaned towards brash yet simple riffs — evoking the rock and roll 1950s — and pairing it with a theatrical performance and larger than life characters.

The glam rock scene also provided a space for numerous artists who identified as bisexual or came out, including Queen's Freddie Mercury, Elton John and Bowie. It also gave a space for queer rock fans, such as music critic Jim Farber, to express their love toward rock music.

"The identification that glam gave me wasn't to gay culture, then deep into disco, but to the throbbing new heart of rock'n'roll," Farber said.

Glam rock came to a premature end on Oct. 11, 1974, in an event known as the Death of Glitter. People gathered inside Rodney Bingenheimer's English Disco to bury the genre. But it turns out they were a year early on that front, as punk rockers would arrive in 1976 to become the biggest challenger to the rock mainstream, hoping to purge both its progressive and glittery excesses.

But to say that glam rock's influence died in the 1970s is untrue, as you could still find the same countercultural spark that powered the scene aflame in other acts and other movements. Punk took up its mantle as the reactionary force to what's popular and the hair metal of the 1980s carried its aesthetics into a new decade. Pop artists like Lady Gaga and Pink-Pantheress arguably continue glam rock's tradition into the present. For the teenagers of the 1970s, they realized that style on the surface could be as important as the substance and depth the previous generation so enamored.

Think faster, run faster?: 'Chad Powers' returns for season two

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The cast of Chad Powers behind the scenes. The season came out on September 3, 2026 on Hulu.

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"Chad Powers" returned to Hulu on Sept. 3 with six new episodes and immediate improvements from the first season of the show.

A quick refresher for those who haven't seen season one or the Eli Manning skit that inspired the show: A disgraced college football star, Russ Holliday (Glen Powell), discovers that the fictitious University of South Georgia Catfish are holding walk-on tryouts to find a quarterback. After stealing special effects makeup from his father (Toby Huss) and disguising himself as a student named Chad Powers, Holliday earns a spot on the team but must fight to keep his identity hidden while looking to lead the Catfish to an NCAA championship.

From the first episode of season two, viewers can already feel a difference in style. Coach Ricky Hudson (Perry Mattfeld) is in on the secret, changing the overall feel of the show. Instead of Holliday trying to deceive his love interest, he instead works with her to keep the illusion of Powers alive. The natural chemistry between the two allows for their relationship to somehow be rebuilt after Hudson's bombshell realization at the end of season one of Powers' real identity.

A different yet similarly strong chemistry can be found in the further strengthened relationship between Holliday and his best friend and co-conspirator Danny (Frankie A. Rodriguez).

Also back for season two is the absurdist humor that characterized the first six episodes of the show. From various characters alluding to Holliday's conspiracy theories on the Unabomber to him fighting team doctors like a rabid animal to keep them from seeing the dangling prosthetic nose that detached from his face, the shock humor will miss for some but complements how awkward yet charming both Holliday and Powers are as characters.

Powell himself once again does a remarkable job presenting both Holliday and Powers as separate characters while also knowing the right times to blend the two together. While the identities feel distinct from each other, moments when the compassionate traits of Powers leak into Holliday's thoughts show character growth and help to strengthen the connection with Hudson.

The biggest negative with the show is both ironic and a step back from season one. There is a distinct lack of football shown, with games that took place off screen often only being referenced verbally.

That is not to say that the episodes cannot be effective without showing game play. Most episodes do center around a football-related storyline, especially those rapidly becoming more prevalent in the college sports landscape. These concepts include coaches on the hot seat, sports betting and backups struggling without playing time.

The latter of those three reveals another standout, Colton Ryan as Gerry. By the end of season one, we see Gerry's sanity regress as he is once again unceremoniously benched for Powers. Season two takes this anger and allows it to explode into a full-on rampage.

From photo surveillance to open accusations and even blackmail, Gerry will do just about anything to ruin Powers' life even before discovering more about what's under Power's mask (or that there's a mask at all).

From the beginning of season one to the apparent end of his character arc in the season two finale, both Ryan and the writers do a fantastic job of slow playing Gerry's declining mental state. By the time Gerry is shown wearing a cracked Chad Powers novelty mask to hide his own identity, it feels completely natural.

Ryan's Gerry is just one example of the memorable character acting that defines "Chad Powers" and makes season two stand out as a clear improvement over season one of the show.

Rating: 4.25/5