

Jimmy Page Accused of Infringing 'Dazed and Confused'

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If the ongoing acrimony between Daryl Hall and John Oates wasn't enough to fill the void of aging rock stars airing their grievances in court, never fear. There's an endless well where that came from.

Jake Holmes, original writer and composer of the song *Dazed and Confused*, has sued Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, among other musical production and publishing entities, for damages related to a songwriting credit he feels he is owed. Indeed, Holmes wrote the now-iconic hit in 1967, at which time Jimmy Page heard the song and rearranged the composition for his then-outfit, *The Yardbirds*. Page would later work with Robert Plant to reimagine the song for their upstart band, *Led Zeppelin*, again neglecting to credit Holmes for his role in the song's creation. Off the heels of a now-settled 2010 lawsuit regarding the issue, the recently released documentary, *Becoming Led Zeppelin*, has brought the song, and Holmes' claims, back into public consciousness. Doubtless, Holmes wanted to strike while the iron is hot.

Plaintiff Holmes filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, asserting three primary claims: two for copyright infringement and one for breach of contract. Holmes alleges he is the sole copyright owner of *Dazed and Confused*, originally registered in 1967. He claims that Jimmy Page and associated defendants, willfully infringed on this copyright by exploiting the composition without authorization—first in connection with the *Yardbirds*' performances and later through its use in the 2025 documentary *Becoming Led Zeppelin*.

Holmes's complaint alleges that, despite a 2011 settlement agreement (resolving the prior 2010 suit, which affirmed Holmes's exclusive rights to the composition), Jimmy Page, Succubus Music Ltd., and WC Music Corp. continued to falsely license and monetize recordings of *Dazed and Confused* as if Page were the sole author. Holmes contends that these recordings include numerous Yardbirds live releases and that the defendants generated revenue from licensing, streaming, and royalties without proper attribution or payment to Holmes.

Additionally, Holmes claims that the recent documentary film *Becoming Led Zeppelin* incorporated unauthorized performances of *Dazed and Confused*—both by the Yardbirds and by Led Zeppelin—again falsely crediting Page and excluding Holmes. He asserts that multiple defendants, including major production and distribution entities like Sony Pictures Classics and Big Beach LLC, participated in the infringing activity. Holmes seeks actual or statutory damages, injunctive relief, an accounting of profits, and attorneys' fees, alleging willful infringement and breach of the 2011 settlement agreement.

This new action has the potential to set a standard for infringement cases regarding works so central to the infringing entity's identity as to reframe that entity's success completely. Time will tell whether Page's Levee will finally Break, or whether Page and Zeppelin will Ramble On as they have for the past 50+ years.