

Drake Nothing Was the Same

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Drake has been an influential icon in pop culture and music for the past five years, and he is still going strong with setting trends through his music, from the infamous “YOLO” acronym and the recent trend in the word, *Versace*.

Drake’s new album, *Nothing Was the Same*, is an all-around exquisite piece of art and is one of the top albums of the year.

Usually, artists start off with intros to their albums, usually ranging from 30 seconds to a minute and half.

Unlike this typical set-up, Drake deliberately starts with a six-minute intro, Tuscan Leather, and raps, “How much time is this n----’ gonna spend on an intro.”

In my opinion, Drake has been one of the most consistent artists in the music industry and this album proves worthy of that.

He explains his life story through his versatile lyrics and describes how his life has changed drastically, hence the title *Nothing Was the Same*.

His second song, *Furthest Thing*, has two parts to it, but is packaged together into one song. It has two totally different sounds beginning with

a slower, more tranquil tune, while it transitions into an upbeat, quick tempo.

Drake is most notably famous for his distinct sounds of both the singing, R&B songs, like *Own It* from the album, and rap.

With these diverse tones throughout the album, he continues to stick to his roots.

Drake has been exceptionally successful through his career so far because his music appeals to both females and males.

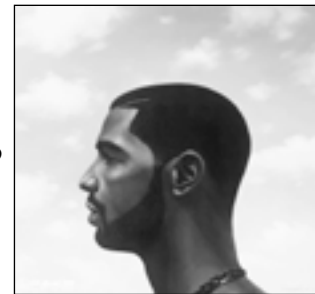
Towards the end of the album, Drake puts in another two-part song, except this one has two names to it.

Pound Cake/Paris Morton Music 2 (feat. JAY Z) opens with a darker feel to it with, what sounds like, a little angel-girl singing in the background.

The second part of the song beholds a nice, positive quality that would be something you would listen to on a long car ride.

Drake has five main feature artists on this album with a total of 15 songs with enough solos to create a substantial balance of singers.

This album is bound to be a classic Drake album, maybe one of the best albums of 2013.



Cash Money Records Inc.

◆ **Nothing Was the Same** was made public on September 24.

A
Skip to: Worst Behavior

Lorde Pure Heroine



Universal Music NZ Ltd.

BY MAKENZIE BRITO
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Lorde’s new album, *Pure Heroine*, is pure genius. Ella Yelich-O’Connor, known by stage name Lorde, smashed through the top charts with her first single “Royals.”

She became the first woman since 1996 to take number one on the Billboard Alternative Songs chart in August with “Royals.”

Lorde is one of those rare young artists that simply embodies raw talent. Her voice is absolutely unreal and almost indescribable – impressive for an emerging 16-year-old artist.

Upon hearing “Royals” on the radio, I was intrigued by this new voice and was thrilled when I heard her first album release was approaching.

Pure Heroine completely upheld and exceeded my expectations.

This album has a balance of slow, soothing songs and more upbeat fun songs, both of which include beautifully executed beats and sheer lyrical brilliance.

A few noteworthy tracks within *Pure Heroine* include “400 Lux,” “Buzzcut Season,” “White Teeth Teens” and “A World Alone.”

“400 Lux” is my personal favorite and has been on repeat since I downloaded the album.

It offers a catchy beat paired with well-written lyrics and is definitely the type of song to blast while driving with the windows down.

“Buzzcut Season” is much more mellow but still a song to listen to on occasions other than studying and sleeping. This song includes deep lyrical meaning and impressive vocals.

Next, “White Teeth Teens” grabbed my attention with its lyrics alluding to typical teenage materialism.

Putting the album to a close, “A World Alone” mentions the occasional darkness of life and young love and almost embraces it. All elements of the song – vocals, lyrics, and instrumentals come together perfectly to create a well crafted and pleasing song to listen to.

It’s a rare occasion to find a truly exceptional album from the first track to the last and I can honestly say I loved all 10 tracks on Lorde’s debut.

Pure Heroine is the type of album to obsess over for months on end and even after countless replays, you’ll still be completely satisfied listening to it all over again.

I strongly recommend this to anyone who likes alternative, soft rock and some pop or indie. I truly think this album has something to offer for everyone.

◆ **Pure Heroine** hit the market on September 27.

A+
Skip to: 400 Lux

Justin Timberlake 20/20 2 of 2

BY EPSA SHARMA
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Justin Timberlake has had one of the biggest comebacks of all time, as he’s taking 2013 by storm since releasing not one but two albums in a year.

After his 7 year hiatus from the music industry, he announced a remarkable return to music in January. He came out with a bang and released a two part album, the first part was released March 15th, and the 20/20 Experience Part 2 was recently released on Sept. 27th.

Timberlake’s music style is very different than all the overplayed “mainstream” music you hear on the radio. He sticks to his roots and goes towards his distinctive R&B/pop tone.

The most popular song on the album “Take Back the Night” is the ultimate throwback to ’70s disco music.

The song has a consistent horn driven tune, along with an exuberant percussion melody.

The tune of “Take Back of the Night” directly corresponds to playful lyrics that provoke the listener to dance every time they hear it.

One of the main tracks on the album, “Not a Bad Thing,” is a flashback to Timberlake’s previous band N Sync.

It starts out with upbeat carefree drum and piano melody. It is one of those sappy feel good songs that everyone can’t help but enjoy and sing along to.

The next song on the album “True Blood” has more of a darker and

up-tempo tone than the rest of the songs on the album.

Timberlake incorporated all kinds of engrossing and discrete sounds, including ringing phones, disco bells and a high pitched maniacal laugh.

This tune mixed well with the darker aspect of the lyrics, which were very similar to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.”

I personally think the best song on the album is “Drink You Away,” it has a rich acoustic-guitar-based rhythm, and Timberlake’s passionate singing allows the song to flow perfectly.

“Drink You Away” successfully bridges all styles of music together with country lyrics, Memphis influenced blues and it still incorporates Timberlake’s signature R&B/pop style.

Another quality lyrical masterpiece on Timberlake’s album, “Gimme What I Don’t Know (I Want),” has more of a sultry vibe which speaks to Timberlake’s animalistic desires and he executes that through his passionate and seductive lyrics.

One of the most anticipated songs on the album is the duet Timberlake performed with Drake, “Cabaret.”

This masterful combined duo has a ’90s feel to it that you can hum along to the song because it consists of catchy beats and repetitive lyrics.

Drake’s rap is meant to fit into Timberlake’s R&B tenor and embeds perfectly into the song.

In my opinion Timberlake did a great job executing the album. He had successful comeback to the music industry and this album proves to music listeners everywhere that he’s bringing “sexy back” once again.



RCA Records

Skip to: Drink You Away

B+

◆ **20/20 Experience 2 of 2** was released on September 30.