



RINKSIDER MUSIC UPDATE

Provided by **PROMO ONLY**



In just three years

Paramore, the rapidly emerging pop-punk quintet from Tennessee, has been building a near-deafening “next big thing” buzz. Driven by riveting live shows and the undeniable charisma of their frontwoman, 18-year-old Hayley Williams, they have captivated an increasingly rabid following. Confronted by the double-edged sword of overwhelming early praise, Paramore has risen to the challenge and recorded an album that happily delivers on all the claims made on their behalf. With their new Fueled By Ramen collection, “RIOT!,” they announce that they have the talent, the passion, and the songs to take themselves to the next level.

The band’s rise has been the result of consistent hard work since Hayley first met Josh Farro (guitar, age 20) and his younger brother Zac (drums, age 17) while they were together in school four years ago. After adding Jeremy Davis (bass, age 22), Paramore was formed in 2004. They played their first show in Nashville, and were soon building a local fanbase.

After just a few months of gigging, the band had their first big break in early 2005, when Fueled By Ramen

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- Hayley Williams

founder John Janick saw them at a gig in Florida. He was instantly struck by their presence and their dedication, and he immediately signed the band to the label.

As Hayley says, “Fueled By Ramen has been amazing to us. So many kids started checking us out because our name is on their roster. It’s like a big family; we all share such a massive unit of fans.”

Upon the release of their debut album, “ALL WE KNOW IS FALLING,” in the summer of 2005, the music community began taking immediate notice of the band. The New York Times and Spin hailed the album,

singling out Hayley as a star in the making. Nonstop touring throughout 2006 with bands such as Straylight Run and Simple Plan, combined with show-stealing festival performances at Warped and Bamboozle, continued to build the momentum. The year culminated with a sold-out headlining tour of North America in the fall of 2006, as well as successful tours of both Europe and Japan.

The accolades continued as 2006 came to a close. After an overwhelming response to a U.K. tour at the end of the year, Kerrang! readers voted Paramore as the “Best New Band” and Hayley as the #2 “Sexiest Female.” NME named Paramore one of the ten acts to watch in their “New Noise 2007” feature, proclaiming Williams as “young, articulate and with plenty to say.”

Some bands would begin to get nervous with those kinds of accolades. Not Paramore. “I love getting all the ‘Next Big Thing’ notices,” says Hayley with a grin. Josh continues, “The first few years everything was new to us and we made a name for ourselves as a band in a lot of places. But with ‘RIOT!’ we’re really ready to blow people’s minds.”

It only takes one listen to “RIOT!” to see the depth of the band’s growth in the past two years. Produced by David Bendeth (Hawthorne Heights, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Killswitch Engage), the music has taken on a richer, deeper, more intense tone, without sacrificing any of the melodicism that has been their trademark.

As Hayley explains, “For us, the title ‘RIOT!’ literally means an unbridled outburst of emotions. When we were writing, it seemed like our thoughts and emotions were coming out so fast that we couldn’t control them. It felt like there was a riot within us. So the album takes our passion to a new level; it’s just all raw energy.”

That raw energy and passion is evident in “Misery Business,” a song that has its origins in a message Hayley put on the band’s Live Journal page, asking her fans to post what they’re ashamed of. “I found that people really were reaching out to someone to spill their guts to,” she recalls, “So I did the same thing lyrically in the song and let everything out. It’s more honest than anything I’ve ever written, and the guys matched that emotion musically.”

The wryly titled “For A Pessimist, I’m Pretty Optimistic” stems from what Josh reflects as “putting your faith in someone and they blow it.” But in the writing of the song, he saw that his faith in his bandmates was not misplaced: “I wrote the music specifically to be awesome live and to be extremely energetic. It all came out at once. I showed



Paramore’s pop-punk quintet includes: First row (L, R) – Joshua Farro (guitar), Hayley Williams (vocals). Back row (L, R) – Jeremy Davis (bass), Zachary Farro (drums).

it to Hayley and she just nailed it lyrically. She completely got the feeling I wanted the song to have.” And “Hallelujah” serves as one of the album’s true anthems. As Hayley recounts, “It’s one of the oldest songs we’ve got, but we wanted to save it for this record, and it’s the perfect home for it. It’s a claim of victory for both ourselves and our fans.”

That connection with their audience is most evident in “Born For This,” a song that was specifically written for their fans. “We wrote it as a message to them,” Hayley explains. “They’re going to take us to the next level. Everything they’ve done has helped us so much... it’s really kept us going.” And to drive that point home, the band held an online contest for fans, with the winners getting to sing gang vocals on the song.

“Next big things” come and go, but it is obvious that Paramore has something special – both talent and staying power. “RIOT” is the band’s declaration of ambition, musical growth, and dedication. “We all have such a love and passion for this music,” says Josh.

“We’re lucky to have made such a connection with our fans that we’re making a difference in their lives.” Hayley concludes, “We want everyone to hear this album. We want to take it as far as we can. ‘RIOT!’ is everything we ever wanted to say on one album. If it all ended today, this is what we’d want to be remembered for.”

‘I’m not dead’

Philadelphia is the American city where the Declaration of Independence was signed, the Liberty Bell resides and the first American flag was made. Fitting then, that Philadelphia should also be the birthplace of America’s most controversial and innovative popular artist.

Pink is someone who dares to try new things, even if she risks falling on her face. The crazy, piss-takey party chick with 20-odd tattoos and great hair who was married in Costa Rica earlier this year to motocross star Carey Hart in a blissfully romantic ceremony. Who wants to push herself and branch out.

Who sometimes takes the mickey out of herself to distract attention from more serious stuff going on elsewhere.

Perhaps this is what attracted the directors of forthcoming horror-flick 'Catacombs' to Pink when they offered her a lead role after a lunch in Los Angeles. "We didn't even talk about the movie. Next thing I'm on a plane to Bucharest thinking 'what if I suck?'" During the shoot she was "kicking the walls in frustration, crying, wailing that I wanted to go home... A huge learning experience..." she nods soberly. Did she understand why they'd picked her, almost completely untried as an actress? "The part was pretty much written for someone who could be cruel and tough. Well," said Pink with a grin and a shrug, "there you go".

No doubt the directors recognized in the 23 million album-selling, double Grammy-winning artist someone who knows how to engage with an audience. A boundary-pusher whose songs, videos and personality speak loudly of a character way more interesting, rounded, flawed and real than any of her peers.

On her new, fourth album, 'I'm Not Dead', Pink takes her trademark

"I keep all my journals because every time I start a new album I think I have nothing to contribute to the world"

- Pink

honesty and genre-hopping, and runs with them – hard and fast. "This album is a product of my own experience. I don't hang out with celebrities. I hang out with real, nine-to-five people. My family are real working-class people. I'm very much in tune... I don't sit holed up in my mansion with my poodles and think everything's fine. I like to stir things up, create dissent, create discussion and highlight the ridiculousness of it all."

Executively produced by Pink, each track is produced and written by Pink alongside Billy Man, Max Martin and Dr Luke. Also collaborating on the album are Butch Walker, Mike Elizondo and the Indigo Girls.

The first single, 'Stupid Girls', lampooning designer handbag-carrying, scantily-clad bimbos, has already kicked up plenty of dust. Harry Potter author JK Rowling has called the song "The antidote-anthem for everything I had

been thinking about women and thinness." Furthermore – a must-be world record 8.6 million people downloaded the video from the internet before the single was officially released.

Opening song 'U + Ur Hand' is a party song with cool nods to Salt 'n' Pepa's 'Push It' and Toni Basil's 'Mickey'. It was written with Swedish hitmaker Max Martin, as was 'Cuz I Can', a dancefloor electro-glam monster ripe for remix treatment.

There is also some of the soul-baring honesty on 'I'm Not Dead' that made Pink's second album 'Missundiscovered' a worldwide, 16 million-selling phenomenon. That album's 'Family Portrait' was a searing depiction of the break-up of her parents' marriage when she was a child. On 'I'm Not Dead' she proves herself unafraid to lift the lid on her troubled emotional past again. 'Long Way To Happy' is an intense recollection of childhood abuse, based on a poem she wrote in her journal when she was 13.

"I keep all my journals because every time I start a new album I think I have nothing to contribute to the world and I think I suck and what if I can't sing and black, blah blah blah," said Pink. She writes in her journal to this day, and carries the old ones 'round with her. On her first day in the studio with new collaborator Butch Walker she was going through them. "It's always hard when you meet somebody knew to be like, 'hey, here's my blood, taste it, let's work together!'" she cackles. But she let Walker read the poem Long Way To Happy, and he insisted they turn it into a song.

Is the cliché true – that by discussing these old emotional issues, closure comes? "Yep," said Pink. Her brother Jason came to see her once in concert in Dallas. She dedicated 'Family Portrait' to him. "He was in the tenth row, and I was onstage and we were both sharing a moment. After I wrote that song I was happier, and I was happier after my parents heard it... Unfortunately it's like five minutes," she said breezily. "You write a song and you're like, f*** that felt really good. I'm glad I got that out. Then your family hear it and they're like [wails] 'I can't believe you were so affected!' And they wanna talk about it for months. I'm like, it's done! But, anyway, it's over. 'Long Way to Happy' is out there. Somebody somewhere will relate to it. and I won't feel so embarrassed to talk about it."

There's another new song that was trickier to discuss with her parents, specifically her dad. Jim Moore is a Vietnam veteran. In another intriguing departure in "I'm Not Dead," he and his daughter duet on 'I Have Seen The Rain', a folksy song he wrote while serving. Pink remembers singing the song as a kid with her dad at veterans' rallies. But this father-daughter rapprochement hasn't come so easily with regards to 'Dear Mr President'. It's a bitter, biting, acoustic lament, sung with



Pink

cult duo The Indigo Girls, in which Pink wonders how George W. Bush sleeps. "Let me tell you about hard work, minimum wage with a baby on the way... rebuilding your house after the bombs took them away... building a bed out of a cardboard box."

She first played 'Dear Mr President' to her dad on the day they recorded 'I Have Seen The Rain'. Its politics didn't fit with Dad's.

"My poor husband Carey!" sighs Pink. "He's such a sweet guy, he's so passive. And he had to be there during a lot of interesting conversations between me and my dad."

But in the end Jim Moore respected his daughter's freedom to say what she thought. That, to Pink, was approbation enough. "It's a questioning, provocative

song. It's not a flag-waving, 'you're a f*** up and you suck' anthem. This is how I feel, these are some issues, they're not theoretical questions, they probably could use some answers, for the whole world, and here you go."

Perhaps the political spirit of Philadelphia has rubbed off on its most flamboyant daughter? "I had an awakening," said Pink, "There's so much happening in the world, so many reasons to take the blinders off." "I guess I've pretty much done everything I wanted to do since I was six years old, but now I'm 26, my goals have completely changed," she said. "Every year I care a little bit less about my drama and a little bit more about the world. As far as the tabloids go, I've done it all. But as far as the world, I've done nothing. So far..."

Promo Only Top 20
for December, 2008

1 - So What	Pink	LaFace/Zomba
2 - Hot N Cold	Katy Perry	Capitol
3 - Whatever You Like	T.I.	Grand Hustle/Atlantic
4 - Better In Time	Leona Lewis	Syco/J
5 - I'm Yours	Jason Mraz	Atlantic/RRP
6 - Let It Rock	Kevin Rudolf	Cash Money/Universal
7 - Addicted	Saving Abel	Virgin
8 - Womanizer	Britney Spears	Jive/Zomba
9 - Live Your Life	T.I. f./Rihanna	Grand Hustle/Atlantic
10 - Disturbia	Rihanna	SRP/Def Jam/Island
11 - Keeps Gettin' Better	Christina Aguilera	RCA
12 - Miss Independent	Ne-Yo	Def Jam/Island Def Jam
13 - Closer	Ne-Yo	Compound/Def Jam
14 - If I Were A Boy	Beyonce	Columbia
15 - Crush	David Archuleta	19/Jive/Zomba
16 - Fall For You	Secondhand Serenade	Glassnote
17 - Gotta Be Somebody	Nickelback	Roadrunner
18 - T-Shirt	Shontelle	SRC/Universal Motown
19 - Right Now (Na Na Na)	Akon	Konvict/SRC/Universal
20 - One Step At A Time	Jordin Sparks	19/Jive/Zomba

Chart compiled from national airplay charts and Promo Only feedback

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