Playboi Carti releases 'MUSIC'

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

After five years of leaks, snippets and a canceled tour, rapper Playboi Carti has finally released his album "MUSIC."

The 30-track album, released on March 14, has been met with mixed reactions, receiving both praise and criticism.

Carti's post-release statement, "Everyday people will find a new song dey love on dis album," holds some truth, though it is a sentiment that takes time to fully appreciate.

At its best, the album bursts with energy, capturing Carti's signature style while exploring new sounds.

Tracks like "PHILLY" with Travis Scott and "FINE SH**" quickly become fan favorites—infectious, familiar, yet fresh.

Even "RATHER LIE" featuring The Weeknd flows seamlessly, benefiting both artists.

Longtime collaborator Lil Uzi Vert also shines, with tracks like "TWIN TRIM" and "JUMPIN" standing out, showing their strong chemistry.

However, "I AM MUSIC" has its flaws. Some songs feel rushed, as if thrown together hastily.

Tracks like "CRANK," "POP OUT," "DIS 1 GOT IT" and "WALK" rely on their beats but lack the punch and energy that define Carti's best work.

These songs feel more like fillers than an evolution of Carti's sound, with beats overpowering his vocals, making them almost unrecognizable.

Songs like "COCAINE NOSE" leave listeners wondering if the album was shaped more by industry pressures than artistic intent.

One of the more controversial aspects is Kendrick Lamar's involvement. With three appearances on "MOJO JOJO," "BACKD00R" and "GOOD CREDIT," the collaborations feel forced.

While "GOOD CREDIT" works best, Kendrick's introspective, complex style clashes with Carti's chaotic, freewheeling approach. Instead of blending naturally, these collaborations feel like mismatched sounds.

Despite this, "MUSIC" succeeds in balancing Carti's past and present.

Longtime fans will recognize echoes of "Die Lit" and "Whole Lotta Red," but there is also a shift to attract newer audiences.

The album alternates between aggressive tracks like "OPM BABI" and "COCAINE NOSE" and smoother, more mainstream moments like "WE NEED ALL DA VIBES" featuring Young Thug and Ty Dolla $ign.

There are playful nods to Carti's earlier "baby-voice" phase, adding nostalgia.

However, by trying to appeal to various fan segments, the album sometimes lacks the focused vision that made "Whole Lotta Red" so revolutionary.

This album cannot be judged after just one listen.

Tracks like "OLYMPIAN" and "MUNYAN," which may feel underwhelming at first, grow on you after repeated plays.

Given the long wait and high expectations, many might expect something groundbreaking, but "MUSIC" still stands out with its energetic moments and a few standout tracks.

Despite a few questionable choices, it is a valuable addition to Carti's growing catalog.



PHOTO | THE COME UP SHOW

Playboi Carti performing at the Phoenix Theatre in 2017.

Tory Lanez puts out prison album

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor



PHOTO | THE COME UP SHOW

Tory Lanez performing at The Come Up Show.

Tory Lanez's latest album, "PETERSON" emerges as a raw and unfiltered narrative from within the confines of the California Correctional Institution, where Lanez is currently serving a 10-year sentence for the shooting of Megan Thee Stallion.

Regardless of his legal troubles, this album stands as a testament of his resilience and commitment to his craft, even amidst adversity.

This project offers listeners an intimate glimpse into his prison experience, blending personal reflections with his signature music style.

The production quality of this album is the first notable thing. It is exceptionally impressive because the audio is clear and produced well, even though it was recorded inside of a prison. Listeners could barely tell that it was recorded using audio from jail calls.

Beyond the themes of incarceration and legal struggles, the album also touches on reflections of self-discovery and redemption.

Songs like "Free Me" reveal Lanez's vulnerability, offering an introspective look at his state of mind while incarcerated.

The song "Slipping x Falling" exhibit crisp sounds, allowing Lanez's emotive delivery to resonate effectively as well.

Similarly, "White Lightning" showcases a smooth R&B vibe reminiscent of his earlier work, highlighting his ability to craft soulful melodies still.

Lyrically, Lanez delves into themes of incarceration, judicial grievances and personal introspection on several songs.

Songs such as "Lawyer Fees" shed light on the complexities of legal battles and the emotional toll of navigating the justice system.

While the album provides a personal account of Lanez's current reality, it has received mixed reactions from critics and fans alike.

Some listeners find it challenging to relate to certain narratives, given their specific context.

Fans have aptly noted that the album's focus on prison life might not resonate with all audiences, emphasizing the importance of understanding the backdrop against which it was created.

Some reviews commend its authenticity and depth, considering it among Lanez's most personal works.

Conversely, others feel that the project lacks the depth and excitement of his previous releases, attributing this to the limitations the narratives provide.

It is also worth noting that the album's thematic focus on his legal troubles and personal grievances has sparked discussions about accountability and public perception.

Some listeners appreciate the candidness, while others perceive it as an attempt to garner sympathy.

While the album's tone may be somber and the themes heavy, it does not lose Lanez's signature blend of catchy hooks and melodic flows, making it a must listen for any fan of his prior work.

Chrome Hearts is worth the price tag

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

Chrome Hearts has earned a reputation as a luxury brand known for its unique designs and high-quality products, making it one of the best brands ever created.

While the price of Chrome Hearts items may seem high, there are several reasons why it is worth the cost.

The brand offers top-notch craftsmanship, exclusivity and a style that stands out from the crowd. Chrome Hearts prices are justified due to the quality.

Each piece is made with care and attention to detail. The brand uses high-end materials like sterling silver and premium leather to create its products.

Whether it is jewelry or clothing, the quality is noticeable. The intricate designs, like crosses, skulls and patterns are hand-crafted, showing the level of skill that goes into each item.

These pieces are not mass-produced, often they are one-of-one creations that are crafted to last for years.

Over time, they can even develop a unique look, which adds to their charm, making those expensive prices worth it.

Another reason Chrome Hearts is worth the price is its exclusivity. The brand does not make its products widely available, so getting your hands on one is special.

Many of their items are limited edition, which makes them rare. This sense of scarcity makes owning Chrome Hearts even more desirable.

It is not just about wearing a brand, but about wearing something that not everyone can have. This level of exclusivity adds to the feeling of status and uniqueness that comes with owning Chrome Hearts.

Chrome Hearts is also known for its bold and recognizable designs. The brand's style is different from other luxury labels. It is edgy, with a mix of rock and roll and high fashion.

Whether you are wearing one of their leather jackets, a sterling silver ring or a pair of sunglasses, it is always sure to stand out.

The designs are not just trendy; they have a timeless quality that makes them special.

People pay the price for something that makes a statement and Chrome Hearts delivers that in a way that few other brands can.

The popularity of Chrome Hearts has also been boosted by celebrities.

Many stars, like Justin Bieber, Kanye West and Bella Hadid, have been spotted wearing the brand. This has made the label even more desirable for people who look up to these public figures.

Finally, Chrome Hearts products hold their value well.

Unlike fast fashion or other luxury brands that lose value over time, Chrome Hearts items can actually increase in value.

Some of their jewelry and accessories, especially limited-edition pieces, can be sold for more than the original price.

For buyers, this means that investing in a Chrome Hearts item could be more than just a purchase, it could be a smart financial decision too.

By focusing on quality, rarity, unique design and celebrity influence, Chrome Hearts offers much more than just high-priced fashion.

For those who appreciate craftsmanship and exclusivity, it is clear why the brand's items are worth the investment.

These are the opinions of the Southern News Editoral Staff

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau, Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
Adanti Student Center Room 222
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT
Follow us on Twitter: @Southern_News
Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/thesouthernnews
Visit us online: TheSouthernNews.org
Print edition online: OurSchoolNewspaper.com/Southern

Sole' Scott — Editor-in-Chief
Jay'Mi Vazquez — Managing Editor

Section Editors
Brianna Wallen — News Editor
Lexi White — Features Editor
Dillon Flanigan — Sports Editor
Carly Russell — Photo Editor
Wade Barillaro — Photographer
Lily Rand — Photographer

Staff Reporters
Vacancy — News Writer
Vacancy — Sports Writer
Vacancy — General Assignment

Copy Desk
Mackenzie Byerlee

Southern News welcomes any and all comments and suggestions. If we make a mistake, please contact us and we will publish a correction or clarification in the next issue.

We are the student newspaper of Southern Connecticut State University, and we welcome the writing of all Southern students and faculty.

To submit a piece, email it to scsu.southern.news@gmail.com, or stop by the Southern News office on the second floor of the Student Center, Room 225. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Visit www.TheSouthernNews.org for more.