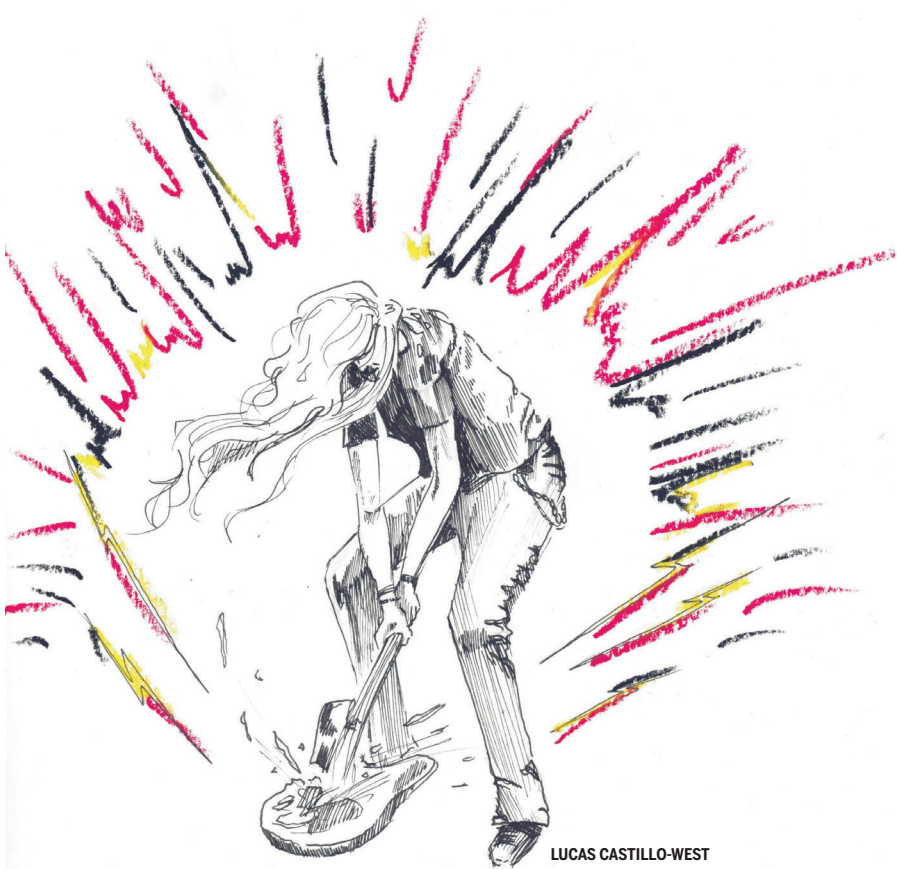




COLUMN

Lend Me Your Ears: Dude, we’re getting the band back together!

What’s the appeal of the reunion tour?

// BY CIELO GAZARD

Everybody loves a comeback, especially music lovers waiting on their favorite bands to get back together. Reunion tours are a huge deal in the music industry. A new generation of music lovers get to see bands from yesteryear for the first time. Longtime fans get to hear their favorite songs once again. The musicians themselves take in a lot of cash. Last year Oasis’ reunion tour grossed over \$400 million, making it the second-highest grossing tour of 2025.

But why do bands reunite decades after their critical and commercial peak? If a band’s legacy is considered intact after a few years of music-making, why do these musicians feel like they still have to prove themselves to a new audience?

Perhaps the most obvious reason for why bands reunite after years of inactivity is the money. While it is unknown how much the Gallagher brothers were offered to reunite after 16 years of bickering, it’s safe to assume they were given a figure in the tens of millions of dollars. If a band’s catalog isn’t moving money as much as it was a few decades ago, a tour is a surefire way to make some quick cash.

However, some musicians haven’t been swayed by the pleas of investors and fans to reunite. Robert Plant reportedly turned down \$800 million to reunite with Led Zeppelin on a 2014 world tour. The two other surviving members of the band and Jason Bonham, son of drummer John Bonham, whose 1980 death broke up the band, allegedly said yes to the offer. There probably won’t be a Led Zeppelin reunion. If there was, the news would be a world headline.

The death of an important band member usually means a band shouldn’t reunite. However, that doesn’t stop some bands from going back out on the road. The most shocking reunion announcement for me, apart from Oasis’, was the news that Rush reunited for an upcoming world tour.

On Sunday, Rush performed at the 2026 Juno Awards with their new drummer Anika Nilles. It’s the first time the band has been on stage since the death of drummer and primary lyricist Neil Peart. The band sounded really tight and gave a great performance, but is this really Rush or just a vanity project for the two surviving members? Maybe they are proving that they can still rock in their fifth decade in the music business, even when a core member is dead. If bands operate like

a musical Ship of Theseus, it could be entirely possible that a band with no original members can reunite for a so-called “reunion” tour.

If the music is what matters most, why do some post-reunion bands release new music sporadically, if they release new music at all? The allure of the reunion tour for many bands might just be performing for huge crowds once again. Huge crowds may not want to hear new music and would be content with hearing the classics live. I don’t deny that there have been some great bands who’ve reunited and released great new music after a long hiatus. I’m ready to be proven wrong if Rush somehow releases a new album without Peart’s lyrical input or if Oasis finally get back in the studio.

What happens then when reunions are permanent? Bringing up Led Zeppelin again, the band has only ever reunited for two standalone concerts since its 1980 breakup: once in 1985 at Live Aid with Phil Collins on drums and once in 2007 with Jason Bonham. It was made clear that the band was not going to tour again following these performances. Reports are currently circulating that Oasis will return to the road next year. But will Oasis return to the stage every other year from here on out?

In my opinion, some bands are better broken up than reunited. I may upset some Beatles fans by saying this, but I’m glad that the band never reunited. Even though people begged for the Beatles to get back together, including Lorne Michaels, who famously offered the band \$3,000 to reunite on SNL in 1976, it never happened. And that’s only strengthened the band’s legacy. They had a perfect eight years of making music and changing the music landscape.

I don’t deride musicians for wanting to go back out on the road to get that rush of the crowd once again. I’d be a hypocrite if I said reunion tours are pointless. I’ve never seen the vast majority of my favorite musicians at their supposed “peaks.” I never got to see the Beatles perform at Shea Stadium or Oasis at Knebworth Park. But I got to see Paul McCartney and Oasis at MetLife Stadium. I wasn’t transported back to their heydays, but I got to create my own memory that I can tell others about. From a legacy perspective, I wouldn’t say a reunion tour does the band justice. But for the fans’ sake, I understand.

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REVIEW

WOW! It’s the album of the summer

Between Friends’ newest album is my prediction for the album of Summer ’26

// BY ESMERALDA VASQUEZ-FERNANDEZ

Summer 2024 was Brat summer. Summer 2025 was all about the TV shows “Love Island” and “The Summer I Turned Pretty.” I did my best to live up to the expectations those summers set, but a community college student in Mission Viejo wasn’t finding herself in Charli’s boiler room on a Thursday afternoon. This summer, I’m old enough to fully embody the loudness and confidence of what Brat summer entailed AND the love and lust of TV show summer. Luckily for me, this summer seems primed to be defined by Between Friends’ newest album: “WOW!”

“BLOW” is the perfect song on the album to headline this summer’s vision. The song is a nontraditional love song that remembers the thrill of a past relationship. Its distorted beat and crooning lyrics feel like the perfect synthesis of Brat and yearning in “The Summer I Turned Pretty.” Who doesn’t want to spend the summer with someone they’d “follow wherever”? This album is sonically loud – like putting your “head in the speaker” loud – and feels like a celebration of love and living. Nothing screams summer more than a 35-minute album that mixes bedroom pop, alternative-electronic and a sibling duo to make all siblings jealous.

Savannah and Brandon Hudson made their debut with the highly rated EP album “we just need some time together” back in 2019. I love the entire EP. It’s one of the top three albums ever made in my personal charting. “affection,” “better friends” and “blushing!” are incomparable both lyrically and sonically to any other songs I’ve listened to. I stream “affection” about 50 times a week no matter the season or time of day.

Despite how much I love it, this EP definitely feels like fall. But WOW! is perfect for this upcoming season.

My favorite song on the new album is “JAM!” There’s something about the electronic keyboard and Space Invaders-reminiscent synth in the song that makes me feel like I’m transcending out of my own skin. It really does feel like I’m flying “a little higher right under the radar” and that my body is like a “light beam super clean and bright.”

Between Friends doesn’t just sound like summer. Check the duo’s Instagram: They look like they’ve been pulled from a 2000s summer catalog. Personally, I want to steal Savannah Hudson’s entire wardrobe. Her use of bedazzled bikini tops, neon leg warmers and feathered boas – even her bikini bottoms over bright leggings screams “It Girl.” She is that girl. Her striped black and white leggings remind me of a pirate costume, but in a good way. Her outfits could be sourced from Party City and Goodwill, but she pulls it off seamlessly. I’m jealous.

This album is the perfect one to follow the past two summers. The album was produced by Max Martin, who’s produced a handful of notorious summer hit songs. Without a doubt, this album should be everyone’s newest obsession. The album was released at the start of August 2025 – it waited its turn. The electric laser strobe on the album cover reminds me of summer in an underground bar in Europe. It is safe to say I know what I am JAMming for this summer.

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WEEKEND RECOMMENDS:

DAISY JONES AND THE SIX BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID