*Wasting Light* Sure to be a Smash Success

Foo Fighters Make Their Long-Awaited Return

By Tim Quigley

Well, it finally happened. After four long and agonizing years for fans of rock giants Foo Fighters such as myself, the quintet led by rock and roll icon Dave Grohl have released their seventh studio album, *Wasting Light*. One would think that Grohl would have nothing left to prove after all he’s done in the music industry.

After all, he was the drummer for Nirvana’s legendary *Nevermind* and its follow-up, *In Utero*. Following the death of Kurt Cobain and the break-up of the band, he recorded a twelve track demo tape in which he wrote and sang all lyrics while playing all instruments with the exception of the guitar part on the song “X-Static.” This demo became Foo Fighters’ debut album once he had recruited a band.

Following the massive success of both bands, Grohl played drums once again on the wildly successful Queens of the Stone Age album, *Songs for the Deaf* all the while still recording and touring with Foo Fighters. And just last year Grohl, Queens of the Stone Age front man Josh Homme, and Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones entered the studio to record their self-titled album *Them Crooked Vultures*.

So what did Grohl have left to prove? Apparently he didn’t think that he had made a big enough dent in the music industry so he and the rest of the band set out to record their “heaviest album to date,” according to an RSS feed on their website. To say they have succeeded is an understatement.

The band entered the studio – in this case, Grohl’s garage – late this past fall to begin recording their first album since going on hiatus back in 2007. The raw sound really shows through in an album with more highs and lows than en episode the Behind the Music. The beautiful thing about this album is that producer Butch Vig has found a happy medium between the garage band noise and the powerhouse wall of sound that has defined the band over the past 17 years.

The album, which was officially released on April 12, debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart. This is Foo Fighters’ first album to hit number one and their most commercially successful album in its first week.

The album’s front half absolutely lives up to Grohl’s promise as far as the head banging and power chords go. Songs like “Bridge Burning,” “Rope,” and “White Limousine” leave your ears ringing and wanting more with drummer Taylor Hawkins beating the drums with everything he has in him in order to compete with a screaming Grohl and the monolithic wall of sound coming at you.

Chris Storey, a senior at Longwood, has been the drummer for the band A Look Called Catastrophe for the past four years. According to Storey, “The drumming on the album is great. There’s a lot of intensity mixed with some pretty technical stuff, too.”

Other tracks such as “I Should Have Known” and “These Days” are a bit softer. However, there is heavy emphasis on the term “a bit.” Considering the raw power behind the majority of tracks on this album, these songs are the two softest, though they could stand toe-to-toe with most other Foo Fighters songs as far as energy and drive go.

Jimmy Bullock, a long time fan of the band, said, “I like the fact that there isn’t a song on [*Wasting Light*] that wouldn’t be able to stand on its own. Every song could be a hit.

“I was really surprised at how much this album sounds like some of their older stuff,” said Zack Jackson, a sophomore at Longwood University and disc jockey for its radio station, WMLU. “They came through in spades on this one.”

All in all, the album manages to convey a plethora of messages and themes while never deviating too far from the overall theme of the album as a whole. But the most satisfying aspect, at least for veteran fans, is that it sounds like Foo Fighters. One of my biggest concerns upon my first listen to the album was that it would be too forced, but that is not the case at all. *Wasting Light* is more than a return for one of modern rock’s biggest bands. It is a clear message to the entire music industry that Foo Fighters are still in their prime.

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