AMPED

FROM UNDERGROUND TO EVERYWHERE: CELEBRATING ALTERNATIVE MUSIC



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 **PARAMORE**
THE 3× GRAMMY WINNING AMERICAN ROCK BAND

04 **MEET THE BAND**
MEET HALEY, TAYLOR, AND ZAC

06 **THIS IS WHY**
THE OFFICIAL BEHIND THE SCENES OF PARAMORE'S NEWEST ALBUM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 **YUNGBLUD**
THE UP-AND COMING BRITISH ALTERNATIVE ROCK ARTIST

12 **MEET THE ARTIST**
MEET DOMINIC HARRISON

14 **HATED**
THE OFFICIAL BEHIND THE SCENES OF YUNGBLUD'S NEWEST SINGLE

18 **MEET THE EDITOR**




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Paramore is an American Grammy-award winning alternative rock band formed in Franklin, Tennessee, United States in 2004. The band currently consists of Hayley Williams (vocals), Taylor York (guitar) and Zac Farro (drums). They have released five studio albums: All We Know Is Falling (2005), RIOT! (2007), Brand New Eyes (2009), their first Billboard 200 chart topper Paramore (2013), After Laughter (2017), and This is Why (2023). Starting off 2024 with a bang, Paramore picked up two awards at the Grammy Awards ceremony which took place on February 4th. Both for their sixth studio album 'This Is Why', the band won awards for both Best Alternative Music Performance and Best Rock Album.

PARA


MORE

MEET THE BAND

FROM TENNESSEE TEENS TO 3× GRAMMY WINNERS

Career Beginnings:

Paramore was created in 2004 when friends Hayley Williams, brothers Josh and Zac Farro, Jeremy Davis, and Jason Bynum would meet up and jam together after school. As most of the band apart from Davis were under 18, Hayley's parents would drive them to perform at various shows and festivals. After attracting the attention of record label executives, the band, who originate from Franklin, Tennessee, was signed to Atlantic Records and Fueled By Ramen in 2005. However, shortly after this, Davis left the band citing personal reasons and was replaced by bass player John Hembree.

2005: 'All We Know Is Falling'

Upset about Davis leaving the band, Paramore used the experience as inspiration for their debut album, 'All We Know is Falling'. Despite leaving five months earlier, Paramore asked Davis to return just before the album was released. He accepted and replaced Hembree. Later that year, guitarist Hunter Lamb was brought in to replace Jason Bynum. 'All We Know Is Falling' was released in July 2005, along with singles 'Pressure', 'Emergency' and 'All We Know'. The album reached Number 4 on the UK Rock chart and Number 51 on the UK chart. It also peaked at number 30 on the Billboard Heatseekers Albums in 2006. While the album didn't perform as well as their record label had hoped, it did help Paramore to build a larger fanbase, particularly in the emo/alternative rock scene, on both sides of the pond.

2007: 'Riot!'

Paramore had their major breakthrough moment after the release of their second album, 'Riot!' in 2007. The now 2x Platinum-selling album featured singles 'That's What You Get', 'CrushCrushCrush', 'Hallelujah' and their biggest song to date, 'Misery Business'. The band chose the name 'Riot!' for the album because it means "a sudden outburst of uncontrolled emotion" which they felt "summed it all up". At this point, the band had gone through yet another lineup change after saying goodbye to Hunter Lamb, who was later replaced by guitarist Taylor York, a friend of the Farro brothers.

"I'M GONNA GO WHERE THE REST OF THE DREAMERS GO."

2009: 'Brand New Eyes'

After extensively touring their 'Riot!' album, Paramore went back into the studio to write and record their third album in 2009. 'Brand New Eyes' was released later that year and was an international success, thanks to singles 'Ignorance', 'Brick By Boring Brick', 'The Only Exception', 'Careful,' and 'Playing God'. Paramore then went on tour with You Me At Six for a 15-date European tour, which culminated at a show at London's Wembley Stadium which was watched by over 12,000 fans. In 2010, Hayley, Jeremy and Taylor announced on the Paramore website that founding members Zac and Josh Farro had left the band.

2012: 'Paramore'

In 2012, Paramore released their self-titled fourth album, their first as a trio. This album marked a change in direction for the band as they came back with a brand new look and sound. The change worked in their favour, with the album reaching Number 1 on the US Billboard 200 and the UK Album chart. In 2015, hit single 'Ain't It Fun' won the Grammy Award for Best Rock Song. This album also produced the commercially successful single, 'Still Into You' which has since gone double platinum. Despite the global success of 'Paramore', Jeremy Davis left the band for the third time to focus on his personal life in 2015. In early 2016, Hayley Williams announced on Twitter that Paramore were in the process of writing their fifth album. with Zac Farro returning as drummer.

2017: 'After Laughter'

With the new line-up in place, Paramore released 'After Laughter', their fifth studio album in 2017 which had a distinct '80s new wave vibe. It debuted at Number 6 on the US Billboard 200, making it their third top 10 on the chart and also reached the Top 10 in countries such as the UK, Australia and Canada. Much to the disappointment of their fans, Paramore took to Instagram in August 2019 to announce that they would be taking a break to pursue solo projects.

2023: 'This Is Why'

Finally, Paramore fans had some new music to sink their teeth into with the release of single 'This Is Why' in September 2022. Paramore's album 'This Is Why' was released on 10th February 2023, preceded by an explanatory post from the group which described why you might listen to it: "Hello. It's been 5.5 years since we released our last album. What'd we miss?"


ZAC
FARRO
HALEY
WILLIAMS
TAYLOR
YORK


This is why
I don't
leave
the
house



THIS IS WHY

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THEIR NEWEST ALBUM

Williams, 34; Farro, 32; and York, 33, met as kids with musical ambitions and Christian roots in Franklin, Tenn. Over the next two decades, as Paramore, they released five albums and survived internal band drama, from lineup changes to lawsuits, any of which could have sounded the death knell. But the group's sixth album, This Is Why — a tight, post-punk juggernaut that zeroes in on pandemic-fueled anxieties — marks the first time the lineup has been consistent between two albums, as well as the end of its contract with Atlantic Records, the only label the band has ever known.

Q: What is the meaning behind the title of "This Is Why"?

A: "The 'this' of it all is, I think, alluding to everything that gets talked about on the album," says Williams of This Is Why's topics, which range from men who are not held accountable for their actions ("Big Man Little Dignity") to the endless parade of bad news during the pandemic ("The News"). The outside noise, as well as the privacy the band's members rediscovered during the break, made it hard to fathom a return to the spotlight. As Williams shouts on the title track, "This is why I don't leave the house!"

Williams also turned the lens inward on the post-punk "C'est Comme Ça," where she speaks in a disaffected voice, "In a single year, I've aged 100/My social life, a chiropractic appointment," then confesses, "Getting better is boring. It's so difficult once you're on the path — like, you're doing therapy, or maybe you've started taking medication, or maybe you've lost some toxic relationships and you're trying to have better boundaries," she says. "But if you're — I have PTSD — addicted to survival, at a certain point, when things are healthy, it's really devastatingly boring. And it makes you feel like, 'I'm never going to have healthy relationships because some part of me is seeking out a shadow or always looking for the thing that's going to go wrong.' There's not ever peace."

Q: What was it like coming back from your five-year hiatus?

A: In the years since the trio's break began, pop-punk had made a startling mainstream comeback, with artists old and new participating in the resurgence. Pop-punk's resurrection came as a surprise to the group. "There's all this sh-t happening on TikTok with our songs and young artists that are kind of reclaiming [emo and pop-punk culture], and there's this resurgence of emo or whatever — which is also like, that's another weird conversation because we never really felt like we fit anywhere," Williams says. "But then this thing was happening, and we were part of the swell." "All of a sudden, they wanted to call us [part of] the scene now," Farro says. "Yeah," says Williams, "all of a sudden, they wanted to claim us."

For the band's first shows in four years, its agent, UTA's Ken Fermaglich, booked a combination of intimate venues and festivals, allowing the band to "get the cobwebs off and kind of get them back to being on the road," Fermaglich says. Knowing that the album would not be out until February and that the group would later announce an arena tour, the team "had to be mindful of the fact that we didn't want to do too much and play too big of places too early."

Q: How do you feel about the end of your contract with Atlantic Records?

A: "It feels surreal," York says. "We've been really lucky," says Williams. "We'll always have gripes, it's an industry, but we know that we've been really lucky. It's more just the fact that it's time to f–king finish something. And it's time to know that we're not doing the same sh-t that we've been on since we were teenagers. It's just going to feel so nice to start a new book. You know, like no more chapters of this one. Whole new book. And I'm excited." says Williams.



FUN FACT:

The band's name "Paramore" came from the maiden name of the mother of one of their first bass players before the lineup was finalized. Once the group learned the meaning of the homophone "paramour" ("secret lover"), they decided to adopt the name, using the Paramore spelling.



Dominic Richard Harrison, known professionally as Yungblud, is an English singer, songwriter and actor. In 2018, he released his debut self-titled EP, followed by his debut studio album 21st Century Liability. In 2019, he released his second EP, The Underrated Youth, and the following year, he released his second studio album, Weird!, which peaked at the top of the UK Albums Chart and reached number 75 on the US Billboard 200. His self-titled third studio album was released in 2022 and reached number one on the UK Album Charts, as well as number 45 on the Billboard 200 and number 7 on the US Top Rock Albums chart.

YUNG




BLUD

DOMINIC HARRISON



MEET THE ARTIST

ENGLISH SINGER, SONGWRITER, AND ACTOR

Career Beginnings:

When he began studying theatre at London's Arts Educational School, he had trouble fitting in, but he found solace in playing music, imitating the bands and rappers he grew up on like My Chemical Romance and N.W.A. A manager reached out to him but felt that Harrison's leftist political lyrics would make it difficult for him to get played on the radio. Wanting to make money, the teenager decided to listen. "Six months later, I'm floating in my eyelashes with an acoustic guitar, singing vapid pop music that means nothing," he says with disgust. "The final straw was when someone asked me to go on The Voice." In 2017, he embarked on what he calls "The Month": a transformative period in West London, where he lived in a flat that had very little light. There, he formulated a new stage presence as Yungblud. "I designed my stage outfits, the pink socks, what my community was going to be about, the fact that I'm never going to conform again to be something that someone else wants me to be," he says. Soon, he found a new manager and his new approach started to connect. Harrison played a show in London in 2017, shortly after releasing his first single as Yungblud, and was in awe of the fact that 20 people showed up and sang the words back to him.

2017 - 2019:

On 7 April 2017, Harrison released his first single, "King Charles". On 15 September 2017, he released "I Love You, Will You Marry Me" and on 10 November 2017, he released "Tin Pan Boy." On 19 January 2018, he released an EP, Yungblud which includes the three singles from earlier in the year. On 6 July, Harrison released his first album, 21st Century Liability. From 3 May 2019 to 31 August 2019, he embarked on the Don't Wanna Be a Loner tour, including some festival dates. "Parents" was the first single released from The Underrated Youth EP, released 24 May 2019. "I Think I'm Okay" was released by Machine Gun Kelly, Harrison, and Travis Barker on 7 June 2019. Yungblud's The Underrated Youth EP was released 18 October 2019 after some delays.

2020-2022:

On 22 April 2020, he released "Weird!". On 16 July, "Strawberry Lipstick" was released. The "Weird!" Album, originally set to be released on 13 November 2020, was pushed back to 4 December 2020. On 19 August 2021, he released his single "Fleabag", which charted at number 78 in the UK.[64] In November 2021, it was announced that Yungblud would release his first short film based on his 2020 song "Mars". The film is a collaboration between Mercury Studios and Interscope Films and focuses on one of the singer's fans named Charlie Acaster, who was struggling to convince her parents that she is transgender. On 11 March 2022, Yungblud released his single, "The Funeral", accompanied by the music video, released on YouTube, starring Sharon Osbourne and Ozzy Osbourne. "Memories", featuring American singer Willow, was the second single, released 6 May 2022. The third studio album, Yungblud, was released on 2 September 2022.

2023:

Yungblud performed at Coachella 2023. Yungblud began teasing a new song and a new era on 30 May 2023, he sent fans letters in the mail that gave instructions for a location to go to for three different places: Los Angeles, London, and Rock am Ring Germany. Fans in those places would find a car spray painted with the word "Lowlife" on it, and were allowed to hear a snippet of the new song, "Lowlife". "Lowlife" was released 7 June 2023. His newest single titled "Hated" follows the release of "Lowlife" which was billed as the beginning of "a new era" for Yungblud. The new track was informed by a harrowing incident Yungblud (aka Dom Harrison) experienced as a young child which he opened up about via a statement prior to the release of the tune.



HATED

BEHIND THE SCENES OF HIS NEWEST SINGLE

Q: What is the song "Hated" about?

A: "When I was seven years old, I was molested by a doctor. I never told anyone until I told my producer when this song started to come out. This is the most personal song I've ever released. That's not to say it's soft or gentle. Far from it. It's a rallying cry and an exposition of the soul."

He continues, "The song is ultimately about freeing yourself from bad experiences and trauma. finding inner strength, acknowledging your past, accepting the pain, and having the courage not to let it define your future. You've got to kill somebody to be somebody to be who you want to be. You have got to hit rock bottom and live through all of the shit nobody believes. You've got to hurt some people, but first, some people will thirst on watching you bleed. And that's when you know that you've made it. When you're hated."

Q: How is this song resonating in front of a crowd?

A: "Oh, f-ck me – it's so loud! What's cool is that it got such a different bounce to it. I think the whole show is pretty energetic until you do a ballad, but this one's got this like synths and vibes and it's sick. Everyone starts getting on each other's shoulders and it's a bit more... something. It's just as loud and just as crazy, but it's got a different feeling. I think you need that sometimes, you know what I mean? It's a different color and I like it."

"To be honest, it's definitely been the most crazy tour across America we've ever done. It's like... whoa – I've really been having a good time on this tour, you know what I mean? It's also been the loudest. We broke decibel limits on like six venues on the tour! It's been going like 130 db, which keeps getting us fined 'cause people are screaming so loud."

Q: What was your thought process behind the "Hated" music video?

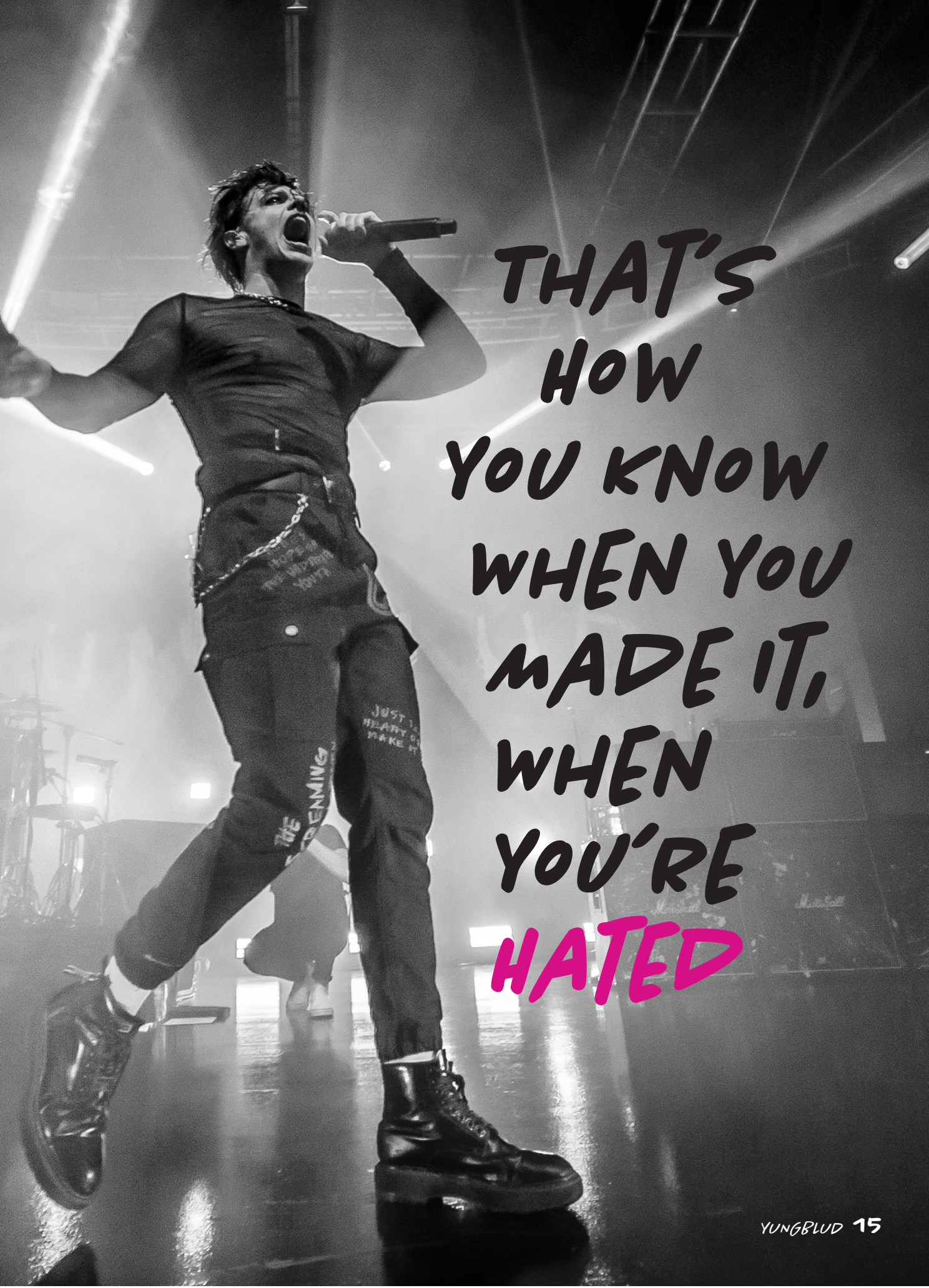
A: "I wanted to make something that looked like Emo Shameless or St Trinians on Acid. As I was writing the song, I was visualizing the video in my head, it literally helped me get the words down on paper."

"I knew it had to be shot in Camden Town and I wanted to be walking side by side with my younger self, guiding him through a f-cked up world based on real memories and people I have encountered in my life. Almost a message to myself saying that life doesn't always have to be so deep and there is beauty to be found in chaos and opportunity in disaster."

Q: What do you hope other musicians and entertainers take away from your inexpensive ticket prices?

A: Not one price fits all when it comes to an artist. I think when you get to a certain level you get beholden to corporate companies and the corporate system, especially when you play venues this big. That ain't gonna fly with me. Since it's always been about my fan base and it's always been about the culture and the movement, charging $90 plus fees for a ticket for a Yungblud show is not the vibe. I am not ok with that. It's not about the spectacle for me – the show is the people and the communication between us. You're not gonna see me singing with a snake or riding on a dragon or anything. That's cool, but I just don't think that price is cool, and I'm trying everything I can to make a statement about it. This is what Yungblud is about. I want to be showing that you can be an artist and put on the same show no matter how big or how small. I'm not going to bite the f-cking hand that feeds, you know what I mean?





THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW WHEN YOU MADE IT, WHEN YOU'RE HATED





FUN FACT:

YUNGBLUD didn't think that his real name (Dominic Harrison) suited the type of music he was writing, calling it "a bit polite." Being the youngest person on his management roster, his manager constantly referred to him as "young blood," so he decided to go with that for his stage name.

MEET THE EDITOR

HEY READER,

Growing up, my older sister would blast her music in the car when driving me to and from school. The artists would range from Paramore, Fall Out Boy, and Panic! at the Disco to Breathe Caroline, Sleeping with Sirens, and the Used. This heavily shaped my taste in music as I grew older and I often find myself still reaching for the same altnertive artisrs that my older sister raised me on.

I started exploring new artists in 2022 by attending the Austin City Limits (ACL) Music Festival where I discovered YUNGBLUD (and saw Paramore live for the first time!). I instantly knew YUNGBLUD would be a major addition to my main Spotify playlist and have since seen him live for the second time in Milan, Italy during his World Tour.

While historically alternative music hasn't been the most popular, its started to gain more traction with mainstream audiences as artists such as Paramore and YUNGBLUD top music charts worldwide and win major music awards such as the Grammys. With AMPED Magazine, I wanted to highlight my two favorite alternative artists and show my appreciation for their artistry over the years.

If you're unfamiliar with alternative music or just getting started, I'm glad you're here and I hope you fall in love with the genre as much as I have. It holds a special place in my heart.

- EMILY SAWYER




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