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# Marianas Trench

Kristen Leal;

Marianas Trench follows up their breakout album of 2006 *Fix Me with Masterpiece Theatre*, which I can agree is definitely a masterpiece.

The album shows that they aren't messing around like others; how too often do we hear that artists want to "branch out" and expand their "musical horizons." Trench doesn't fall into this trap, they stick to the same catchy beats and push button lyrics that rocketed them into fame in 2006 on the coat tails of their hit song, "Shake Tramp." You might not recognize the song by its name, but I'm almost sure you'll recognize it by this lyric: "Try a little more, a little more, a little more. They slap you like a bitch, and you take it like a whore." Push button lyrics, indeed. Regardless of the lyrical content, it's impossible to deny the infectiousness of some of the melodies in Trench's songs. But what makes me like this album even more beyond the music or lyrics is the way the album is put together. It's 12 tracks long, but three of the tracks are mixes of some of the previous songs; musical montages, if you'd like. Each is titled "Masterpiece Theatre" and each creatively mixes both the lyrics and music of the previous three or four songs, except for the first, which sets up the album perfectly by featuring lyrics such as "This masterpiece is only mine, entirely guilty by design." Fans of Trench will love songs such as "Cross My Heart," their newest single, which features rapid fire lyrics and the almost ever present sound of hands clapping in the background (which makes you want to do it in real life). It's been lighting up the airwaves, reaching 15 on the Canadian Hot 100 and 9 on the Canadian Hot Digital Singles charts. Another song fans will like is "Celebrity Status," whose lyrics provide a rather ironic, but still applicable, commentary on the nature of life in the spot light. A personal favourite, highlighting the relevancy of this song, is the lyric "I can't depend/ In the end, you know I thought you were my friend." Other catchy tunes that feature clutch-Mariana's Trench music and lyrics are "Sing, Sing," "All To Myself" and "Perfect." There is one odd-ball track on the disc, the song "Beside You." Lyrically, it's an absolutely stunning track, but it's the music and melody that sets it apart. It's not a pop rock/pop punk song like traditional Trench, instead taking on a slightly tribal tone about 30 seconds in, after a softly sung introduction by Ramsay. Back-up singers sing a very Lion-King-Soundtrack worthy melody of "oh" and "way" strewn together sound. They could have utterly butchered this song, but surprisingly, it's totally legit. Despite being so far outside of Marianas Trench's genre, I'm drawn to the track and the way a band who sings about slapping bitches and taking whores manage to pull off a 180 from their usual. Marianas Trench sticks to what they're good at; catchy melodies, interesting lyrics, and a falsetto frequently reprised by lead singer Josh Ramsay almost unknown to popular music now a days. He's no Freddie Mercury, but Ramsay sings some of the highest notes I've heard by a male in recent years that hasn't made me want to claw my eyes out. I adore this album and I think people who enjoy the pop-rock sensation that's dominated the airwaves as of late will enjoy it, too.