

Album Review: Halsey - *Badlands*



BY MEGAN TROUTMAN

Only recently was I introduced to the artist Halsey, so I was surprised to find out that she came out with an EP album in 2014. One year later, Aug. 28, she has released her album *Badlands*, which is now second on the iTunes top 10 album chart.

When I first listened to *Badlands*, I could not decide if it was something I would listen to in my spare time. After looping the songs a few times, her style began to grow on me. Halsey uses a unique blend of indie, electronic and pop beats. It is a different mix that takes some getting used to.

Most songs in the album such as "Roman Holiday" and "Colors" remind me of songs you would blast while getting ready for a girl's night out. I am not saying that in a negative connotation, but that is what her style of music reminds me of.

Halsey's music is often compared to Lorde or an indie version of Tove Lo. Halsey's rough, auto-tuned voice in her 2014 hit "Ghost" can be mistaken for that of Tove Lo. "Ghost" was also re-released in *Badlands* due to its popularity last year.

After further research on the mysterious

Halsey, I found out that her legal name is Ashley Frangipane, but she chose Halsey as her moniker, an anagram of Ashley.

On Halsey's website, she writes in her bio that she "will never be anything but honest [and she] writes songs about sex and being sad." This alone sums up the meaning of each song in *Badlands* with the exception of "New Americana," which discusses how pop culture continues to constantly shape our changing nation. The chorus reads, "we are the new Americana, high on legal marijuana," illustrating the recent societal changes in the legalization of marijuana in four states.

While her songs have shocking and memorable lines, each song has a deeper meaning beneath the surface. In the song "Castle," she discusses how people should think for themselves rather than being pressured to please others and how she heads "straight for the castle" to avoid regulations set by society.

Even though Halsey is still relatively new in the music industry, she is making her mark through her impactful lyrics and distinct, gritty style. I would strongly recommend this album if you want something rebelliously catchy and unique to listen to with friends.

Upcoming events for the

WEEK

Wall Draw XI

Sept. 3

Beasley Art
Gallery

@ 10 a.m. -
5 p.m.

Coconino County Fair

Sept. 4 - 7

Fort Tuthill
County Park

@ 10 a.m. - 10
p.m.

First Friday Artwalk

Sept. 4

Downtown

@ 6 p.m.

Arts&Entertainment

Five songs of summer

1. "Lean On" - Major Lazer & DJ Snake

Say hello to possibly the trendiest song of the summer, which I heard play on almost every radio station at every hour of every day. The electronic, but still a bit poppy track has incorporated within it the most perfect summer tunes, and the lyrics are incredibly catchy too. The song is packed with huge interesting beats and the melodies add in that extra catch. This song was perfect for summer kickbacks, summer parties and even summer road-trips.

2. "See You Again" - Wiz Khalifa

If you think about it, this song is an obvious in this list of summer songs. The song followed the franchise of the *Fast & Furious* movies, and was the ending song to the final movie, *Furious 7*. Though this was not a summer anthem, because it was about a tragedy, it was one that meant a lot to fans of the *Fast & Furious* movies. It may be that "See You Again" is not an amazing song if it stands on its own, but when the song plays, it is hard to not associate it with the movies and instantly become attached.

3. "Where Are Ü Now" - Skrillex & Diplo (ft. Justin Bieber)

Bring on the Bieber fever, at least with this song. This song was most definitely a summer anthem, seemed as if it was one of the most played songs on the radio this summer. The combination of Skrillex and Diplo makes for an incredibly catchy song that is hard not to like — even if you are not the biggest Justin Bieber fan. The reason this song works so well is because it has everything you would want from Skrillex, but toned down a bit. Diplo of course comes in with his unique flair to the beats making the song a great dance summer hit.

4. "Cheerleader" - OMI (Felix Jaehn remix)

Though this song was originally released in 2012, it really blew up this summer when DJ Felix Jaehn made the remix of it. This song made its way to the top of the charts this summer and had to be the catchiest summer song out there. The lyrics really are nothing special, but what makes this song so fun is the upbeat, dancing part of it. Everywhere I would go, I heard the song. Everyone I talked to loved this song. You just have to admit, this song did pretty well — it even topped the iTunes worldwide charts.

5. "Can't Feel My Face" - The Weeknd

We may all be used to The Weeknd's slower sound, but this song of his really moves. The song has hit the number one spot of the Billboard Top 100 chart, also hitting number one in charts from other countries. It may be because it was time for The Weeknd to make a more upbeat, dance track but this song has sure stuck around and it looks as if it won't be going anywhere.