

AWOLNATION DISCOGRAPHY REVIEW

Doin this bc they're releasing new music in a month!! Woohoo!!

F D C B A S *

+ and -

(B avg)

Background Info on AWOLNATION

L.A. Based Electronic Pop Rock Group

created in 2009, first album in 2011

Aaron Bruno is Producer, Composer, Singer, and Lyricist (Sorta One Man Band)

Has a crew for live shows

Approached by Red Bull to use recording studio for free in 2009

how the hell???

Bands before AWOLNATION

Home Town Hero

Under the Influence of Giants

Name comes from him leaving without saying goodbye, nickname from school

Megalithic Symphony - 2011 (A+)

Megalithic Symphony

Its an intro, robotic vocals, something epic and grand

Some Sort of Creature

AN INTRO LEADING INTO ANOTHER INTRO??

*Soul Wars (S-) ****

First real song and it's off to a blast, very upbeat, almost blisteringly fast, before going into halftime chorus groove

Lyrics talking about how you're given your own life to control while everything burning down around you

Headbanging chorus ngl, Even harder breakdown tho

People (B-)

"Born to rage for my father's pain."

kinda bubbly pop sound

voice cracking before the chorus

Sits in the pocket it made fairly well, if a little dull at moments

very sudden cut in music catches the ear

Jump on My Shoulders (A+)

That dirty guitar sound is DISGUSTING

contrasted with his clean vocals

quick into the chorus

good lyrics, lean on others for help against those in power

"It's not supposed to be easy, that's why it feels so fucking good."

Burn It Down (B+)

More energy like in soul wars, more hype and self confident than soul wars

fire SW feels like I'm on fire, this feels like I'm putting something else other than myself on

Guilty Filthy Soul (C+)

god I love the guitar tones on this album
the strain in his voice UGH
good lyrics in the chorus, but overall pretty bland
good groove towards the end, not sure if this was worth sitting through
cool vocal repetition right after

*Kill Your Heroes (S-) ****

words of wisdom from an old man on a train-core
really fucking good chorus, guitars reminiscent of Ratatat???
HIS SCREAMS UGHHHHH
love the lyrics
def has single song energy to it
- because it's been overplayed for me oops

My Nightmare's Dream

Transition

Sail (S-)

What is there to say
BWAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH
really cool use of plucked strings with overwhelming bass
the distortion on the voice too???
says add and not inattentive ADHD automatic 0/10
Fr tho fairly simple lyrics but they hit
that bass / melody call and response is legendary
acoustic piano comes in playing electronic melody over plucked strings
cool idea but feel it could've been better
when the drums come in though with him screaming sail
oh my god
the ending of this is just pure emotion, not any specific emotion I can comprehend but

yeah

Overplayed for a reason, not just the meme

*Wake Up (S) ****

Pads and an rnb singer to start? Okay I see you
and the drums hittin hard as ever
this is so fucking good, could've honestly been a single
bit of rap influence? Feels like there's a heavy influence on the rhythm of the words as

well as the content

from the desert to the sea??
palestine support in 2011??

This is peak

Not Your Fault (A-)

A love song from AWOLNATION?
more like him apologizing for his own toxic behaviors
ironic he's yelling the chorus
The pocket sits really well, feels like bloc party - banquet with how in it is
crowd chanting section bumps it up a bit

All I Need (C-)

An *actual* love song from AWOLNATION???
just a simple sweet piano song
song feels too plain for how processed his voice is
chord changes???
his voice goin off for a short pre chorus
feels like 90% of song is chorus which is already very repetitive

Knights of Shame (A+)

“dance baby dance cuz the world is ending”
cool vocal chop melodic line
heavy string bass
ends on a dissonant note followed by falsetto ??
doesn't feel like it should work but it grooves so fucking hard
OOOOhhhhh breakdown with gritty bass in love
very industrial feeling
morphs into this beautiful serene verse
back to an industrial feeling, though less intense
Rap section reminds me of Gorillaz
another rap section but very dated early 2010s party rap
this section goes on FAR too long
AWOL comes back in for the quarter note lyrical chops
Song would be S but that Party Rap verse goes on so long
acoustic guitar being brought in
THERES SO MANY FUCKING MUSICAL 180S
into this acoustic like 90s indie rock ballad
It's not crazy but to even consider adding it to this track already filled with 8 other 180s in

A DEBUT ALBUM is insane

Callback to Jump on My Shoulders

Just now realized this has been a like 2 min guitar solo that just blends perfectly with the rest of the track

goes silent at 12 minutes into a 15 minute song :/

pet peeve of mine, just add it as a bonus track

know what I retract my previous statement this is a good way of doing a demo

these demos sound very similar to Elliot smith

Dog what the fuck the amount of stylistic difference in this album is ABSURD

Peaks are very high and lows are pretty low

For a debut album, this is very hard to beat

Run - 2015 (B-)

Run (B+)

Strings build suspense
repetition of lyric
good groove, strings replaced with guitar
Very repetitive
Run.
Feel like the drop needed a LOT more bass
and like, some quarter not crashes

the breakdown slowing everything down to halftime slaps though
and then the offbeat crashes come in with the actual chorus, finally pays off

Fat Face (C-)

Piano and vocals to start
feels out of place right after that last track
not my cup of tea, fairly uneventful
Starts screaming???
works better imo, still fairly boring though

Hollow Moon (Bad Wolf) (B-)

BIG bass distortion
Chorus is sorta catchy and cool w the dj vocal scratches
motherFUCKER ill be back
lyrics are fairly good
Screams at the end go off

*Jailbreak (A+) ****

ooh the funk is real in the start of this one
been workin on a jailbreak?
Chorus slaps
ending grooves

KOOKSEVERYWHERE!!! (B-)

Blistering fast positive energy
cold blood section is a vibe
otherwise forgettable

I Am (B)

Chorus goes off with a slightly forgettable verse, seems like a repeating pattern
feels like there's too much happening in the low-end, gets clouded
nice piano breakdown going into last chorus
French Horn in the ending?

Headrest for My Soul (B)

solo guitar and vocals
not my type of music, but feels sincere
not exactly sure what title means tho

Dreamers (B-)

The xylophone??
screaming ++
All these songs feel kinda similar

*Windows (A) ****

Interesting intro
cool swapping between yelling and low singing
nice piano chorus
contrasts the verses very nicely
off-beat flow section is little weird
the transition into the chorus is fire tho
ending is a good send off, could've had a crowd chant effect tho

Holy Roller (B-)

a slow piano/guitar ballad, but it feels more sincere than others before it
drums and bass come in towards end, gives a bit of momentum to the track

Woman Woman (B-)

nice pluck melody
Good chorus, still waiting on the verses
verses are repetitive, pre choruses are the parts that change
breakdown is alright

Lie Love Live Love (B+)

chorus is repetitive and catchy, more of the same
cool breakdown part where it gets more intense
eastern flow section is good, whatever the hell it means

Like People, Like Plastic (B+)

His screaming is phenomenal on this track
pre chorus is nice
Cool Style change towards end of song

Drinking Lightning (B-)

This song is entirely too long
Feels like its been building to something for 3 minutes outta 5 minutes
cool name, whatever it means
voicemail invitation from a friend to end album, kinda odd

this album feels like it tried being more mature and rock/pop focused when it should've kept going
with the ultimate genre blend angle

It feels like I'm just listening to choruses on repeat

Much more consistent album in terms of sound and quality, but fewer peaks than Megalithic

Symphony

This album could've been a lot more concise, not just in number of songs but length of each track

Here Come the Runts - 2018 (A)

Here Come the Runts (A)

cool rhythmic pattern starts off
good vocals as always
groovy bass shows up for a second, teasing the actual drop
this groove is insane
gradual slowdown intensifies the groove even more
super fast guitar build into gallop
trumpets???
oh hey he says the title
those trumpets (or trombones?) are so fucking good
drum fills for days
Epic shot before pre breakdown
groove go hard as always
WE are the runts???

Passion (B+)

A Passion potion??
CHORUS BANGS

heavy n hard hitting
verse seems to be repeating
ending breakdown with a groovy keyboard lick

Sound Witness System (B+)

Amazing transition from Passion
AWOL does a bit of rapping okay I see you
I love his delivery it feels like he's having a bit of fun with it
SWS section has good vocals
verses feel really distinct
low pixely guitar tone solo

Miracle Man (B+)

starts off with chorus, gives it some energy
LOU!!! Scream is funny and fits well
Energy stays relatively constant throughout
groovy lil guitar riff
repetitive chorus
gross guitar tone I love it

*Handyman (A+) ****

solo guitar and vocals
much heavier lyrical content
chorus is an explosion of sound
reminds me of Young the Giant
"Im not brittle, I'm just a little scared of my government"
like the change of energy in the chorus, fits much better than keeping the energy
stagnant like in other songs like this from AWOL
do do do's over the chorus go off
ends with a drum groove followed by solo guitar

*Jealous Buffoon (A+) ****

incredible guitar tone
different sort of yelling, a lot more weight in voice
contrasted to the clean lightness of chorus
chorus slaps AS ALWAYS
This reminds me of IDKHOW with more guitar

Seven Sticks of Dynamite (A-)

falsetto singing in the verse is a nice of change of pace
scream chorus is a big vibe
no explosion of sound but just a nice guitar riff
falsetto hummed melody
"Lipstick like dynamite"
Snare comes in to build some energy
UGLY GUITAR TONE OUTTA NOWHERE
try not to rock ur head challenge (impossible)

A Little Luck and a Couple of Dogs

short transition

*Table for One (A) ****

strings and finger bass and guitar lick intro is amazing
Chorus explodes with his vocals carrying it
downwards chord changes helps cement lonely themes (table for one)
"CUZ I DONT WANT YOU TO LEAVE"
how much more blunt can you be but it works so well
vocal harmonies slap
blue summer section is a nice breakdown
twinkly ending feels more hopeful than lyrics let on

My Molasses (B+)

whistle intro that's melancholic? Alright
feels a bit more dreary and rocky than other songs
chorus keeps the energy from verses but it works
"Hold back my tears so I don't spoil your wine."

Cannonball (B-)

Guitar bringing the energy
cool lyrical rhythm for chorus
lyrics don't really match the energy of the song

Tall, Tall Tale (B)

groovy beginning
great guitar riff
cool delayed piano melody
vocals feel restrained somehow
halftime groove goes hard with that guitar tone
lil bit of rhythmic vocals go well with it

The Buffoon

Feels dreadful and haunting, like someone is coming
heavy as shit, very western like
speeding up the groove
mess of sound cuts to a heavenly pad sound
feels like a transition track

Stop That Train (A)

piano playing single note repeatedly goes insane
epic train stopping music
Chorus is a lil more energetic,
chorus cuts abruptly and changes energy entirely (much like a stopped train)
jump in front of a train section is a nice change of pace
lighter vocals with strings build tension, what's gonna happen
more gallops bring the heat
Ending goes crazy
"STOP THAT TRAIN! I WANNA GET OFF!"
heaviest breakdown I've heard yet this is disgusting
WITH THE STRINGS TOO???

these drums are so good? Like across the album

Very groovy as always

Very eclectic sonically like Megalithic Symphony, but with the consistency of quality from Run

Feels country in an odd sorta way can't really describe it

Angel Miners & The Lightning Riders - 2020 (A-)

The Best (A-)

Fast paced guitar intro
groove is more dance focused
wonder if this sound will carry into the rest of the album
chorus surprisingly worse than verses
Feels like you're riding around on a horse

Slam (Angel Miners) (A)

Kinda somber intro melody
Cool delayed marimba melody
a lot more experimental sonically
this feels grand but muted in scale
big vibes from the marimba

*Mayday!!! Fiesta Fever (A+) ****

Feels very Franz Ferdinand
The groove is unmeasurable
Very grand
Not much I have to say about this but it's so good

Lightning Riders (A-)

light floaty vocals to start
blowing up the bridges
AWOL glows in the dark!?!?
good transition tho
screams even harder

*California Halo Blue (A) ****

chorus going off AS USUAL
the energy shift btw verse and chorus is rly nice
This song is carried by its chorus but its still rly good

Radical (B)

great intro, drums and vocals
Bit overplayed since it was a single
Vocals in chorus kind of get drowned out
lil breakdown before another chorus
rhythmic repetition of radical is cool
ending kinda mid
prefer the single version, feels a bit fuller

Battered, Black & Blue (Hole in My Heart) (B+)

cowbell intro ez
hole in my heart melody is sweet
verses go harder than choruses??? Who am I listening to
contrast in energy is nice
ending guitar riff is good

Pacific Coast Highway In The Movies (B-)

Very poppy
Weezer is in this song???
easygoing vibes
pretty tame compared to other songs
Weezer feels like it should fit, but not really
la la la la downward melody feels cliché but works
40 seconds of fade out?

Half Italian (B)

Screams to start!!
High Piano and heavy guitar
rhythm of lyrics in chorus is cool, fits with instruments
HES HALF ITALIAN????
“God damn it, GOSH DAMN!”
Da da dada da line repeats a bit long but is good

*I'm A Wreck (A) ****

bit of a 180 in terms of lyrical content
“I'm in my head forevermore”
Guitar sounds like something off a Weezer track
very wavy
Voice recording behind the music
Strings building suspense and speed
okay where we goin??
G R O O V E
makes me feel like a spy
UGH THAT GUITAR IS SO HEAVY
“FAKE MOTHERFUCKER, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!”
I've never heard him scream w so much conviction
feels realer than real
metal breakdown actually works really well?
FUUUUUUUCK!
transitions into this sorta heavenly pad section

Feels much more pop-driven, and feels sorta forgettable after it's all said and done
Each track is pretty good, but lacks staying power
Still consistently above average though

Megalithic Symphony Bonus Tracks (2021) (D+)

Cannibals (C+)

feels more poppy already
nice vocal harmonies
not a lot of drums so far
drums come in second chorus
don't really feel like they add much though

I'm No Good (B-)

Gives run vibes to start
Good groove
verses better than chorus
repeated lightning is boring
after all is a good belt

Wichita Panama (B-)

where's Wichita?
there's a lot of humming melodies on this
trumpets in the chorus slap

This kids not a right (D)

this is boring
you can follow them to hell lyric is good
that's the only redeeming part of this song

*Some Kind of Joke (A-) ****

groovy space vibes
cool vocal chops IDKY
Feels much more like MS than the rest of the bonus songs
bass is even more distorted
screams yesyesyes

Everybody's Got a Secret (C+)

feels organic n natural??
just a lil boring
and forgettable

MF (C)

very industrial and 2010s party rap vibes
groove feels more electronic than anything, heavy justice influence
these rap lyrics aren't it
this would be better as an instrumental

Swinging from the Castles (D+)

everything is high
more rap :(
this is so bad
last line of chorus is the only good thing abt this

I've Been Dreaming (F)

what the fuck is this low rider type beat
GODDAMNIT MORE RAP
this is a clusterfuck of bad ideas
the drums are groovy but it's not enough

Shoestrings (D+)

very upbeat pop vibes
more boring lyrics
this feels sickly sweet like tooth rot

This was so fucking bad

Bunch of demos that were "finished" to sound like full songs
I've been dreaming is **almost** so bad it's good

My Echo, My Shadow, My Covers & Me - 2022 (N/a)

It's just a bunch of covers I'm not doing this fuck you

The Phantom Five - 2024 (released so far)

*Jump Sit Stand March (A) ****

oh hey he starts with the title
okay very dark and eerie vibes
lyrics are a lot more politically motivated
chorus is a big vibe, like a slower kill your heroes
what is that guitar melody???
it works but wtf
WHO THE FUCK IS EMILY ARMSTRONG I NEED HER SCREAMS INJECTED INTO

MY VEINS

This song is really nice
meaningful lyrics, powerful verses, smooth chorus

Panoramic View (A-)

feels piano ballad sorta
intro is light
chorus is grand and beautiful
an actual love song?? From AWOLNATION?? THATS GOOD??? What timeline is this
fairly repetitive

I Am Happy (B+)

HOW TF YOU GET *DEL THE FUNKY HOMOSAPIEN* ON HERE???
Strings n bass absolutely fuck
Chorus feels like building to something
sunshine bar is a cool change of pace in the chorus
Del fucking kills it as always
feel like the chorus building energy should be more rock than whatever the sunshine line

is

still works tho