

# Fall Out Boy goes glam, Allen catches spotlight

BY HARRY BURSON  
Reviewer

Back from break and ready for a new year! But first, let's examine a big record we missed before looking forward to an exciting new year in music. Hooray for 2009!

Midway through Fall Out Boy's latest single the band stops as Patrick Stump, accompanied only by his electric guitar, repeats a few lines over a glammy T. Rex groove. "I don't care what you think, as long as it's about me."

Although sung by singer/composer/arranger Stump, the words were of course written by bassist/lyricist/newly-wed/would-be-mogul Pete Wentz. Coming from any other newlywed, one would assume the lyrics would reflect the writer's basic desire to be ever in the thoughts of his new bride.

But Mr. Wentz has no time for frivolity. He has bigger concerns than his new celebrity wife (Ashlee Simpson-Wentz), like making sure Fall Out Boy is the chief concern not only of his legion of Myspace acolytes, but the international Billboard charts as well, pop-culture historians. Wentz wants his band to be the biggest in the world, and with the ever-improving Stump as his unwitting accomplice, he just might be able to pull it off.

Lyricaly, I hear two themes running through Fall Out Boy's fourth major-label release "Folie A Deux": Wentz's obsession with his own fame as it relates to his media circus of a marriage, and Wentz's obsession with his own fame as it relates to his (band's) place in the history of rock and roll.

Of the first category, the most obvious examples are "She's My Winona" a reference to Winona Ryder's propensity for rock stars

in the early '90s and "America's Suitehearts" on which Wentz admits, "I'm in love with my own sins." On these songs his relationship with his own celebrity is tricky as he half-heartedly damns the media while acknowledging his love of the spotlight. On second thought, it's not tricky at all. He basically just admits he loves the spotlight, end of story.

The songs about Fall Out Boy are a little less tabloid-tastic, as Wentz confusedly ruminates on his band's mythos on "Headfirst Slide into Cooperstown on a Bad Bet," essentially about the band's potential place in rock history, the hall of fame. "The (Shipped) Gold Standard," about the band's place in the deteriorating music industry, and "(Coffees for Closers),"

intentional parentheticals in which he wonders if he can measure up on the "Glenn Garry Gleen Roos" big board.

The best moment of muddled meta-commentary comes at the end of "What a Catch, Donnie" in which various celebrities, including Elvis Costello and Travis McCoy, sing snippets of former Fall Out Boy in homage to John Lennon at the end of "All You Need is

Love."

Speaking of the Beatles, Patrick Stump makes up for Wentz's inane puns with some more-than-competent stabs at brit-pop and arena rock only occasionally ruined by a soaring "Sugar, We're Going Down"-style chorus. After producing a good rap track on Lupe Fiasco's latest, this dude has been on fire, proving that long after we forget about Fall Out Boy (sorry Pete, but we will), Stump will make a decent living as a record producer following in the footsteps of ex-rockers like Ric Ocasek.

According to our good friend Wikipedia, "Folie A Deux" is "a

psychiatric syndrome shared by two people." The cover of the album is a wild bear held aloft by a little person in a bear costume, undoubtedly some oblique reference to Mr. and Mrs. Simpson-Wentz. To me, I only see the wild, inconsistent Wentz held aloft by his singing friend. This album, and by proxy this band, wouldn't be where it is without Stump. It remains to be seen how long he will shoulder the load.

Elsewhere in the Top 40 universe, Lily Allen is angry. Maybe you forgot who she is? That's totally acceptable. Allen arrived in early 2006 with day-glo classicist pop via London that was immediately washed to the wayside in the wake of hurricane Winehouse. Only one British pop diva at a time, thank you very much.

Now that Winehouse is essentially a non-entity, Allen is prepping her sophomore release, "It's Not Me, It's You," with a feud with Katy Perry, who provoked scorn when she recently called herself a skinny version of Lily Allen.

Although it was probably written long before, its hard not to hear Allen's new single "F\*\*\* You," directed at an ignorant homophobe as anything but directed at Perry. Now Perry's not exactly homophobic, but with singles like "Ur So Gay" she definitely is ignorant. The sentiments of "F\*\*\* You" are as simple as the title, but the circus-like classic pop instrumentation are insanely catchy, splitting the difference between Top 40 and indie sensibility.

I don't have a copy of "It's Not Me, It's You" yet, just a three song radio sampler, which ironically is too vulgar to play on the radio. The other two tracks are equally damning as Allen takes on the pharmaceutical industry in "Everyone's At It" and capitalism in "The Fear."

I found her debut "Alright, Still" to be too cloying in its aggressive pop production. These new songs are similarly catchy, but less annoying. I look forward to the album

That's all for this edition of the roundup. Stay tuned for next week.



Courtesy of www.falloutboyrock.com  
Members of Fall Out Boy include Joe Trohman, Pete Wentz, Patrick Stump and Andy Hurley.



Courtesy of Capital Records  
With Amy Winehouse out of the picture, Lily Allen has become the new British diva who mixes classic instrumentals with catchy tunes.

# Internet radio services opens new possibilities

## Music in the Making

Designed by Sarah Schneider/Index

Founder of Pandora Tim Westergren bases Pandora's music off his previous project: the Music Genome Project.

Most music analysts working on the Music Genome Project have a four-year degree in composition, performance, or music theory has passed through a selective screening process.

The Music Genome Project started in 2000 and spans music from new releases to Classical music.

Songs in the Music Genome Project are analyzed by a music analyst that use up to 400 distinct musical characteristics.

Source: Pandora.com

BY PAUL BISCHOFF  
Staff reporter

First, we had record albums. Then we upgraded to more sophisticated cassette tapes, compact discs and eventually, the MP3 Player. Now we need nothing more than a broadband Internet connection.

Streaming audio sites sporting new music recommendation software are becoming increasingly popular. This new approach to the music business has a number of incentives for both the listener and the business providing it. Freshman Justin Crouch is a user of one of the most popular streaming radio services, Pandora.

"One of the advantages is you don't have to download the songs or anything," Crouch said. "You don't have to buy them, you just listen to them as if it were a radio. Another advantage is ... if you don't like the song that's currently playing you can skip up to five per hour — or something like that — which in some cases is also a disadvantage because you can only skip a certain amount."

Crouch said that if not for Pandora, he probably would get most of his music from Limewire and friends. Streaming radio provides a safe, free and legal alternative to pirating music.

"The original idea for this grew out of my life experience as a musician," founder of Pandora Tim Westergren said. "I wanted to build a recommendation technology that would help obscure musicians get discovered. So I created the Music Genome Project."

The Music Genome Project, the software that matches artists and customizes playlists for each user, is a detailed musical analysis that connects songs based on musical similarities, Westergren said.

"Most of the recommendation services are based exclusively on statistical data," he said. "So if you like a particular music, they'll try to find other people that like similar music to you instead of [recommending] across the collections. Ours is based on musicology. ... It's really good at delivering personalized music — creating a radio station that plays music you love easily, which is something, I think, that just about everybody hungers for."

Pandora's library consists of about 60,000 artists and 600,000 songs, Westergren said. Seventy percent of the music comes from artists who are not signed to a major label. Pandora receives new music from both independent sources and major labels.

"Making it available anytime, anywhere is a huge strategic priority for us," Westergren said. "About 80 percent of our songs from our collection play every day. So it's a really great channel for working musicians."

Another streaming audio site that has become more popular is iMeem. The Web site combines social net-

working with streaming audio and video, like a cross between Pandora and Facebook.

"[It has] easy to find playlists and similar songs with favorite songs," said senior Chantell Johnson, an iMeem user. "Hard-to-find songs are often accessible through iMeem streams, such as songs from [the] 1940s or '20s, jazz ballads, things that were mostly found on albums or recordings."

Johnson said the variety and the ease of access were both attributes that drew her to iMeem. The ability to choose a specific song was an option not available on Pandora.

"A lot of celebrities and their public relations teams have accounts with iMeem, and you get a lot of early release studios from celebrities just before they put it out on a show or before it comes out on a channel like MTV or TRL or something like that," Johnson said. "You can listen to full albums or individual albums or DJ release mixtapes."

The future of services like these includes expanding beyond the computer monitor. Pandora is already available on the iPhone, and iMeem can be used on the new Google Android phones.

"If they can get a partnership with a phone company to make the streams available to mobile phones or use within your car, that would be great," Johnson said.

"The original idea for this grew out of my life experience as a musician."

Tim Westergren  
Founder of Pandora

## Hamilton Street Baptist Church

**Welcome Students!**  
Come worship with us.  
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:45 a.m. Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship led by HSBC Praise Team

- College class led by Brent and Ginger Nolker.
- Come learn about our Philos ministry to Truman Students

Just a few blocks west and south of the campus.

Charles Jackson, Pastor

802 W. Hamilton Street  
660-665-4633  
www.hamiltonstreet.org  
email: hsbcb@sbcglobal.net

## WWW.TRUMANRENTALS.COM

**Providing affordable student housing for more than 22 years.**

**Boardwalk • Waterworks • Park Place • States Avenue • St. James Place • New York Avenue**

**Four Horizons Realty  
703 N. Marion St.  
Kirksville, MO 63501  
660-665-RENT  
www.4horizonsrealty.com**