

King for a Day... Fool for a Lifetime

Review by Ronin Vallée



First off, Who is Faith No More?

Faith No More is a band from San Francisco, California, that was formed in 1979 by members Billy Gould, Mike Bordin and Roddy Bottum, they have been the three members of the band who have remained in it since they started. The “current” in quotes because they haven’t played any shows or done any music together since 2015, is Mike Patton, Mike Bordin, Roddy Bottum Billy Gould and Jon Hudson. They have had many lineup changes over the years.

Now a brief history of the band and their discography.

The main lineup for years besides their vocalist was Jim Martin, Billy Gould, Roddy Bottum, Mike Bordin.

They started out in San Francisco, and then after many vocalist try outs, they found Chuck Mosley, he did the vocals for their first two official albums, “We Care a Lot”-1985 and “Introduce Yourself”-1987.



Taken around 1987, when Introduce Yourself came out.

Due to Mosley’s frequent drinking problems, the band fired him and were without a vocalist. While searching for a new vocalist, Jim Martin had heard Mike

Patton in his first of many bands, Mr. Bungle, on their first demo tape, suggested to the other members of Faith No More that he join as the band's new vocalist. They recruited him and got to work on their third and very successful album, "The Real Thing". It took Patton two weeks to come up with the lyrics for the album. They performed their hit single "Epic" on the MTV Music Awards in 1990, and also played on Saturday Night Live, The album went platinum in many countries, then causing them to tour extensively for the album for

almost three years.



Singer Mike Patton during The Real Thing tour. Circa 1989-1990.

Then after touring they started working on their second album with Mike Patton, Angel Dust. This one showed a more experimental and weird sound unlike the more straightforward funk metal sound of their previous work. This one was not as commercially successful in the U.S. although it outsold The Real Thing in numerous other countries. Tensions during

recording started to happen between the band and guitarist Jim Martin, he didn't like the sound of this album and thought it was too weird and different and didn't like the direction the band was going in. He toured with them for the album but after touring was done, the band fired him.

Now this is where my review will start for King for a Day... Fool for a Lifetime

Recording process:

After finishing touring the band headed back to the studio, but this time without a guitarist, they invited both Geordie Walker from Killing Joke, and Justin Broadrick from Godflesh to fill in on guitar duties but both declined. Mike Patton knew a guitarist from his first band Mr. Bungle, Trey Spruance was this guitarist. The band recorded the album throughout 1994-1995 in Bearsville, New York. For production work of the album, they got Andy Wallace, a great producer who has worked with some amazing bands such as Nirvana, Sonic Youth, Slayer, Sepultura, White Zombie, and many others. Mike Bordin had said that the writing process was easier

without Jim Martin, and also said the album was more focused than their previous work, Angel Dust. The rehearsing and writing of this album took eight to nine months to finish and about half of that time was spent trying to find another guitarist. Billy Gould said in an interview that “We’ve never written stuff with Jim, as a band. Usually we’d give him a tape and he’d put stuff to it because he didn’t like practicing with us much.” He also stated in another interview “it’s heavier, it’s more direct and it’s the first record where we had the guitar the way we wanted it. Now it feels like we’re a dog who’s been let off the leash.”

Issues during recording:

There was an absence of Roddy Bottum for a bit of the record because of a developing heroin addiction and the death of his father, and death of his friend Kurt Cobain from Nirvana. Also during the recording process there was a car crash involving Mike Patton who was driving and Trey Spruance and Mike Bordin as passengers, this caused the sessions to take longer.



Singer Mike Patton(right) and keyboardist Roddy Bottum(left)
Circa 1990.

After recording and production was finished they had to come up with a cover, they got art from Eric Drooker's book "Flood" and changed the colors from black and white to black red and white.

Sitting at 56 minutes and 33 seconds, Faith No More's first album in three years was finished and ready to be released to the world, it was released on March 13, 1995.

Touring:

After it was released, they toured the album from February 1995 to September 1995, playing all over the world including North America, South America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia and Japan, playing venues and festivals. But right before they were going on tour Trey

Spruance dropped out of the touring because it was too stressful for him, but they got one of their roadies to fill in for the guitar duties, this guy was Dean Menta.



Them headlining Alternative Nation Festival with Nine Inch Nails.



Also them playing on the tour.
cycle for the album

Songs:

#1. “Get Out” Starting the album off strong with this mix of metal and punk. This song is a great opener for the album, it starts out immediately with a loud guitar chord and this pulsating drum beat that goes throughout the song into the chorus, no introductions just a wild loud opener for their first album in three years.

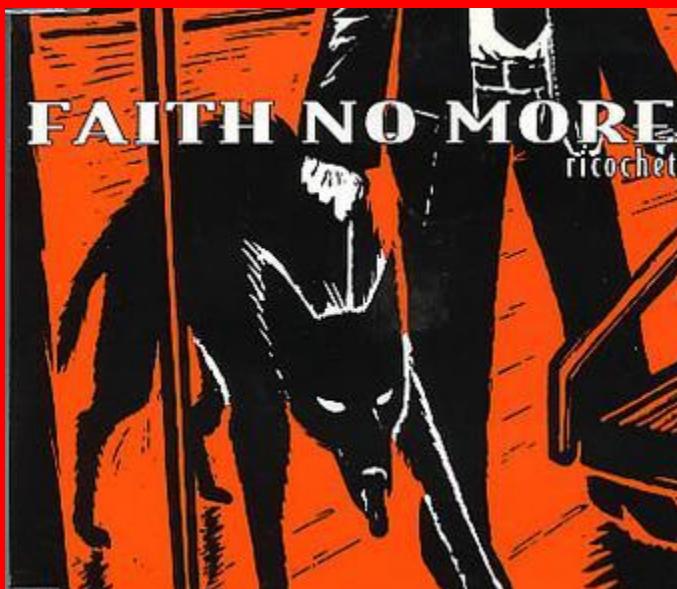
Below is an awesome video of them playing the song at the Pinkpop festival in 1995.

[▶ Faith No More - 'Get Out' \[HD\] | Live at Pinkpop 1995](#)

#2. “Ricochet” Right after the loudness of the opening track, you get this masterpiece of a song. Originally intended to be a B-side, this was released as the second single for the album, the song charted in Australia, and made a number one spot on the charts in the United Kingdom. They filmed a music video for this song in Paris when out on tour for the album, which was directed by Alex Hemming. This is a pretty simple song for the most part, but it really gets stuck in your head. The keyboards are great, the guitar parts are fierce and aggressive when transitioning from quieter verses to loud choruses, the drum beats with Mike Bordin’s signature style, and who could forget the great lyricist Mike Patton. One of my favourite lyrics from the song is “It’s always funny until someone gets hurt, and then it’s just hilarious”

Below is a link to the music video filmed for the song, and below the link is the cover of the single, featuring more of the “Flood” artwork.

 [Faith No More - Ricochet \(Official Music Video\)](#)



#3. “Evidence” A very drastic change from the two previous songs, but not in a bad way at all. This song is the third single from the album, and also had a music video created for it. Some unique things about this song are that it is a new style of sound for the band that they hadn’t done before much, but they do very well. It is such a well put together song and it just chills you right out with its slick, mysterious vibe. Having lots of influence from Soul and R&B music, this song sounded like nothing else they ever did before but is pulled off so well.

Very keyboard driven and sleek sounding guitar riffs mixed in with Mike’s passionate vocals, you know that this is gonna be a great combo.

 [Faith No More - Evidence \(Official Music Video\)](#)

#4. “The Gentle Art of Making Enemies” This song is an epic battle between quiet and LOUD, going from almost spoken word parts to loud full band parts, and it works perfectly in my opinion. The guitar riffs and vocals grab you from the start of the song and do not let go. This song was not released as a single but is a fan favourite and has been a live staple in their setlists since its release, becoming one of their most played songs.

#5. “Star A.D.” Not sure where to start with this one other than saying it is quite a weird one, taking big influences from Big Band and Swing music, and it’s

incorporation of trumpets, this is definitely an odd one in their discography but is done so well in my opinion and is one of my favourites on the album. From groovy bass lines, to funky guitar riffs and great drum beats, and yet again another great vocal performance, this song has everything all in one song. Although it has only been played once live sadly, it was very cool to see video of it, the link below is from the show where they played it, and this show was the full album being played start to finish with recording guitarist, Trey Spruance, for the first and only time with him.

 [Faith No More - Star AD / Maquinaria Festival \(2011\) S...](#)

#6. “Cuckoo for Caca” Again another weird song, but not in a bad way. This song is an aggressive, raw powerhouse of screaming and relentless riffs. It starts off with a heavy riff and then everyone else comes into the song and performs perfectly, one of my favourite parts about this song is Mike Patton’s crazy vocals during the middle of the song, it gets so crazy sounding that you can’t even understand what he’s saying, which I don’t think he’s actually saying anything by the time he’s done. All in all this is a great song and definitely has a thing of its own going on.

 [Faith No More - Cuckoo For Caca \(Optimus Alive, Lisbo...](#)

#7. “Caralho Voador” I’m not gonna say on here what the title translates to but it’s a weird but good one

nonetheless, anyways, I'm very excited to talk about this one, this song is a standout track for me on the album, it is such a weird one that they have never done anything like it, at least not this much. It has a lot of inspiration from Brazilian bossa nova music, with the guitars and drums representing it, done extremely well. Each member is represented here on this song in their own unique way and it fits together perfectly like a puzzle. Patton had stated in a 1995 interview "it was going in the wrong direction, sounding like 80s pop, so we thought we would give it a little bit of a Brazilian sabor." also stating that the song originally sounded like The Police. This is again a odd one in their discography but is one of my favourites of their songs and I think it is done so well.

Below is a video from the same pinkpop show as Get Out.

 [Faith No More - 'Caralho Voador' \[HD\] | Live at Pinkpo...](#)

#8. “Ugly in the Morning” Back with more loudness, in a good way. This song starts out like most of the songs on the album with the guitar and drums, and a very nice bass groove leading the way, The song has a bit of slower parts not too slow, but then during the “Don’t look at me I’m ugly in the morning” part it goes very fast very suddenly then back to the normal pace. Just like Cuckoo for Caca, this song has some screams that go from words to just sound, but oh man it sounds so good and makes me laugh every time because of how crazy it sounds.

Below is a video from the tour in 1995, not the best quality but still cool to see.

► [Faith No More - Ugly In The Morning \[Pro Shot\] \(Superior\)](#)

#9. “Digging the Grave” The first single being released from the album, and just wow, what a song. It again like almost all the others pulls you in from the start with a great guitar riff and the signature Patton vocals, and stays that way until the very end of the song, also another live staple in set lists, and for good reason. This is a fan favourite as well and is also one of the music videos from the album, in fact this was the first song I remember hearing from the album along with evidence, great stuff yet again.

Below is the music video created for the song.

► [Faith No More - Digging The Grave \(Official Music Video\)](#)

#10. “Take This Bottle” This song again is a weird one, of course, but a great one. This is an easy going almost country inspired song with simple chord progressions and interesting licks, along with the signature Patton vocals again, which is always great, it has been covered many times by lots of artists and doesn’t really sound like anything they did before this album but I am very glad they tried doing this style because it works very well on this song.

► [Faith No More - Take This Bottle \(Multicam Version\) \(Directed by Mark Mancina\)](#)

#11. “King for a Day” This is one of my favourite songs on the album, standing at 6 minutes and 35 seconds,

it is one of the longer songs on the album but every second is great and beautiful. Everything from the acoustic guitar at the beginning to the loud chords later, to the keyboards going throughout the song with ease, to the great bass lines by Mr. Gould, and who could forget Mike Bordin's drumming, all flowing together so perfectly. I'm not sure what words I would use to describe this song, but in my opinion it is beautiful and a masterpiece all around, definitely a standout track on the album and their discography.

 [Faith No More - 'King For a Day' \[HD\] | Live at Pinkpop 1995](#)

#12. “What a Day” this one is a short one but great nonetheless, maybe my least favourite on the album but in no way is it bad, I still love the song and enjoy it's fierce riffs and punching bass lines, and everything else that makes it a great song, it also leads into a very great song, that is up next.
Below is a great sounding gritty live version from 1995 on MTV

 [Faith No More - What a Day live MTV Studios](#)

#13. “The Last to Know” Here's a beautiful song, Mike's vocals on this one are pretty stellar, and it works so perfectly with the guitar riffs and overall flow of the song in my opinion and it's just awesome all around, it hasn't been played live much but it is a very great and well put

together song that probably would be harder to pull off live than others. Roddy Bottum once stated in an interview that it was like Pearl Jam on mushrooms, which listening back to it I can sorta hear where he's coming from, because it definitely has this odd vibe surrounding it I can't put my finger on exactly, but it is a great vibe.

Here is a rare video of it being done live, sounding epic.

 [The Last to Know – Faith No More Live@Ma...](#)

#14. “Just a Man” The final song on the album, but what a way to end off this journey through so many great and weird genres, this song takes a lot of inspiration from gospel music and even has a choir in the background during the choruses of it, sounding awesome. This is a song where the fade out ending works pretty perfectly in my opinion, because it is the final track on the album and is just a good song to

end it off with. Most of the time they play it live they incorporate the choir into it and it is very cool to see. Again, what a way to end an amazing album.

Below is an awesome live version where it is just the choir at almost the end, also it is an all kid choir which I find very cool of the band to include.

 [Faith No More - Just A Man \(SWU Festival 2011\)](#)

Now for my final words in my review, this was such an awesome project to get to do for school, and I am very glad I was able to get it done and hopefully do well on it, I hope whoever reads my review enjoys it and goes to check out the band themselves, trust me you will not regret it, this is a band that stands the tests of time. There were a couple parts I would like to work on but overall I think and hope I did good on it and hope everyone enjoys it, thank you for reading my review of this fantastic album!

