

MELODY

MAGAZINE

- LANA DEL REY -

NEW ALBUM

REVIEW OF THE NEW-
EST LANA DEL REY
ALBUM - BLUE BANIS-
TERS

SUCCESS

DISCUSSING LANA'S
ACHIEVEMENTS DUR-
ING HER 10 YEAR
REIGN AS QUEEN OF
ALTERNATIVE MUSIC

INFLUENCE

THE INFLUNCE SHE
HAS OVER MANY UP-

WHAT'S NEXT?

RUMORS
AND PROMISES OF
NEW MUSIC AND THE
ILLUSIVE ALBUM OF
COVERS

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● BORN TO DIE



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Who Is Lana Del Rey?

Elizabeth Grant, more known by millions of people as Lana Del Rey, started making her own music quite a long time ago. Around 2005 she was already releasing music, but she did not reach a bigger audience until 10 years ago when she released her 2011 hit song – Video Games. The music video that she edited herself by using clips from different videos and movies that had an authentic and vintage feel to them was uploaded to YouTube and started gaining traction. After being reblogged by The Weeknd on his Tumblr, because of that the song got attention of one DJ at BBC Radio in UK and they started playing the song daily - soon enough the song started becoming more and more popular – catapulting Lana into stardom she was dreaming about for years.

Historic Debut - Born To Die

On January 27, 2012 Lana released her long awaited debut album – Born To Die that debuted at #2 on Billboard 200 and spanned numerous hits like Summertime Sadness, Blue Jeans, the title track – Born To Die and many more. Even though the album was heavily critiqued by musical critics, it did not stop the success if only boosted it, as at the moment of writing this article – Born To Die has spent 407 weeks on Billboard 200 which makes it one of the most successful albums of all time! Born To Die has a very unique sound to it – the album and especially the Paradise Edition of it that includes 9 more songs from her Paradise EP has a very cinematic and grand sound, with some songs having a whole orchestra involved, but added to this classic element are hip-hop inspired beats and other elements, which in theory is not such a great idea but Lana and her collaborators made it work! The album is considered by many as an alternative one, some naming the genre baroque pop, the album is truly unique and there is not a lot of work from anyone that could be compared to it. Del Rey made a niche for herself and succeeded in doing so.

Influence on Taylor Swift and other pop giants

Music on *Born To Die* compared to the music on top of charts at that time is slower in tempo, but managed to still break many records and made this “alternative” star a pop sensation that managed to sell more records than many artists who made much more commercial music. This was the start of change in music that reaches the top of the charts worldwide. Just in a few years more and more alternative artists started getting global recognition for their music, artists such as Halsey, Lorde, Billie Eilish who even herself talked about how much Lana influenced her and her music. Lana opened a way for many artists to be able to reach huge audiences with music that is not very upbeat or happy – a thing that only a few could do before that. Even such big artists as Taylor Swift mentioned Lana as a huge influence on her music saying “I’ve watched as one of my favorite artists of the decade, Lana Del Rey, [...] was ruthlessly criticized early in her career, and then slowly but surely, she turned into, in my opinion, the most influential artist in pop. Her vocal stylings, her lyrics, her aesthetics: they’ve been echoed and repurposed everywhere in music.” During her speech at Billboard Music Awards. The influence she has on music industry is undeniable.

Lana’s journey through music.

Lana continued to break many more records and making better and better music – which leads us to our next article – her newest album “*Blue Banisters*” that she released on 22nd of October.



Review of the newest album - **BLUE BANISTERS**



Just a few days ago, on October 22nd Lana Del Rey released her anticipated 8th studio album *Blue Banisters*, which is very impressive considering that just a few months ago she released her 7th album titled *Chemtrails Over The Country Club*, this is what we call being productive.

Collaborators

The new album starts a new chapter of Lana's professional life as she parts ways with her long-time collaborator Jack Antonoff – who worked on most of the songs she made for the last 2 albums. In the production credits for *Blue Banisters*, you can see some of Lana's old

collaborators returning, such as Rick Nowels – an American producer and songwriter who worked with Lana on some of her greatest songs such as *West Coast*, *High By The Beach*, *Young and Beautiful* and many others. We can also see many new faces, most notably Mike Dean, an American producer who worked with many very influential artists such as Madonna, The Weeknd, Drake and more. He produced the song called "Wildflower Wildfire" which we definitely recommend to listen, the song starts off very light and with time production continues to grow and become more prominent – the song ends with the sound of distorted drum samples that weirdly enough suit the song very well.

Collaborators

It's very refreshing to see such prominent artists like Lana still not being afraid to put an experimental spin on their work. The last collaborator on this album we want to mention is Barrie James O'Neill, an ex-boyfriend of Lana's who worked on 4 songs on this album together with her, most of the songs include his signature acoustic guitar sound that reminiscent of Del Rey's earlier work, especially her "Ultraviolence" record, for the fans of that album we would definitely recommend song named "Nectar Of The Gods" that even lyrically reminds us of that gloomy era filled with cigarette smoke, roses and melancholy dancing on misty beaches.



Vocal Experimentation and standouts

Something very special that we noticed about this album right away is how experimental Lana is with her vocals on this body of work, there are a few songs that explore singing styles that she never used in her catalogue of 8 albums and countless singles. The track "Dealer" is a very good example of this – the track features British singer Miles Kane and explores the themes of addiction, failed love and desperately trying to escape. When singing the chorus, you can feel the raw emotions as Lana starts almost screaming the lyrics

*"I don't wanna live
I don't wanna give you nothing
Cause you never give me nothing back
Why can't you be good for something?"*

As she screams out those you can feel the despair she is in, and the track is definitely a standout on the album. The song is not the only time she uses the vocal technique on this album, it is also present on songs such as "If You Lie Down With Me" and "Wildflower Wildfire"

Living Legend

Another stand out track is “Living Legend”, another song made with Barrie James O’Neill that calls back to her earlier work, in the song she calls her lover “my living legend” but the best part of the song is on the bridge – a very powerful where she uses her voice to imitate an electro guitar solo, this part hits the listener out of nowhere and if you don’t focus you could mistake her voice for an actual guitar, those vocals deliver very pure and raw emotions and the song is a must listen for everyone and one of our favorites!



Critical Reception

The album was very well received by both fans and music critics, it actually set the record by getting the highest ever user score on Metacritic – with Metascore of 80 and user currently sitting at impressive 9.7 based on almost 3 thousand reviews! It is also one of the most discussed albums of the year and debuted at #1 on Spotify album debut chart, was #1 album on iTunes charts in around 40 countries and much more.







“BEST SONGS & THE FUTURE”

In conclusion, *Blue Banisters* is a very solid album from Lana Del Rey that adds even more credibility to her catalogue and proves ones again that she is one of the best songwriters of this decade that brings her songs to life with her siren-esque voice. We would recommend the album to everyone, some of the songs that we liked the most are -

- Thunder, Dealer, If You Lie Down With Me, Nectar Of The Gods, Living Legend and Violets For Roses. We are already excited to see what else Lana has in store for us later on as she mentioned working on an album of covers in her recent Instagram livestream - a project she was working on since last year.