

Interdisciplinary practice review semester 1 2020

21st Century Liability by YUNGBLUD

During the lockdowns in 2020, I come across Doncaster based punk band, YUNGBLUD. Dominic Harrison, front man, guitar and lead singer of YUNGBLUD wrote this album, and it was released on the 4th of May 2018. I instantly found a connection within this album, and it soon became my favourite. I have decided to review it, as I listened to this album a lot during the process of developing and creating my project.

Track 1: Eulogy

By google definition: Eulogy “a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, especially a tribute to someone who has just died.” This track is only 30 seconds long. It has an ambient sound playing, with a gruelling voice. It speaks “We’re all gathered here today, to commemorate the life of one, YUNGBLUD. A beloved friend, A beloved brother, A beloved son. He just didn't give a fuck really, 'Til the politicians killed him, He spoke far too loud, Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, Amen”. This small introduction to the album gives a real sense of who Dominic is as a person, and his views on the hierarchy. I find this is a really great touch, and adds to the whole sense of being free that is expressed later in the album.

Track 2: Die For The Hype [Explicit]

Die For The Hype is a follow on from Eulogy, in which YUNGBLUD speaks about feeling he has just died, and questions everything that is happening. He says “I just wanna die for the hype, for the hype, crucified like Jesus Christ”. The whole energy that this track gives off is very comforting, it almost masks the common fear of death and makes it seem that its not all negative.

Track 3: Doctor Doctor [Explicit]

Doctor Doctor is about Dominic's mental health, asking for help with dealing with it. The lyrics make it clear it is a cry for relief, an escape from his own thoughts. “I don't wanna die, I don't wanna cry, I just wanna be out of my mind.” - “Give me that one shot, two shot, blood clot, cause in my mind I can't stop, won't stop”. This is the reality for so many people, mental illnesses are not taken seriously and often patients have to beg and plead to get the help that they need.

Track 4: Medication [Explicit]

Medication is a follow on from the previous track, Doctor Doctor. In this track, Dominic explains that the doctors decided to prescribe him with medication in order to make him “normal”. He says “I'm blank, why you shouting at me? I just wanna take my medication, I just wanna find my motivation”. The medication he is referring to in the song is Ritalin, a drug often prescribed for ADHD, as it is a stimulant, which targets dopamine and norepinephrine. Ritalin is given to a patient when they have no clear concept of daily activities, which is presented in the song in which YUNGBLUD states “doctor says that I'm-“ repeatedly, because in his own mind, his thoughts are normal.

Track 5: Machine Gun (F**k The NRA) [Explicit]

The National Rifle Association (NRA) of America is a gun rights advocacy group based in the United States. This song is a bit of a publicity statement. Harrison wrote this song based on a story of a

student whom was mentally ill, and got control of a machine gun. He said “I made the news today, because I hurt my friends. They scribbled down my name, tied both my hands behind my head”. In America, the cases of school shootings shows that it is often caused by someone who feels neglected by the system, or other people. As unfortunate as this might be, the NRA support the US gun laws, which is killing several people each year. This track has a very deep and truthful message behind it, which most fail to see.

Track 6: Psychotic Kids [Explicit]

When writing this track, YUNGBLUD stated he wanted to create a sound unlike anything else heard. He wanted to create a sound of a mixture of genres and did exactly that. The meaning behind the song is simply that the younger generation has a vision for the future in a world that the older generation will not allow, and we get degraded and brought down for having a vision. He says, “My mom thinks I’m on heroin, and my dad just thinks I’m gone, but they don’t know fucking anything, says youth is wasted on the young”. When hearing that lyric, it really sums up the message he tried to create.

Track 9: Polygraph Eyes [Explicit]

Polygraph Eyes was written with the intention of it being difficult to listen to. Like Machine Gun, it was scripted to have a statement and an impact. It is written in a story format, explaining how men take advantage of drunken women when they are out. “she can’t even run; she can’t even walk. She slurs when she speaks but you hear what you want when she can’t even talk”. This is the reality for too many people, and I think this is an incredibly emotional way to express how wrong and disgusting “lad” culture is. As a female, I can confirm every single female I know has experienced harassment from a male at some point in their lives, and this needs to change. I love the way this is portrayed in this title.

Track 12: 21st Century Liability [Explicit]

The last track on the album, and the album title, 21st Century Liability. In this track, it has a very hyperactive tone, and carries a lot of energy. I think it is a great way of finishing such an album, with its waves of emotions and self-expression. Lyrically it sums up the album, which all throughout has a huge relation to the unfortunate society the 21st century holds. The final line “it’s all bollocks” gives a final breath of exhaustion we all feel in this time. Although already this record is 2 years old, I feel it will still be extremely relevant for years to come.