

= American Tragedy ( album ) =

American Tragedy is the second studio album by American rap rock band Hollywood Undead . Production for the album began following the induction of Daniel Murillo into the band in early 2010 and lasted until December . Don Gilmore and Ben Grosse , who helped produce the band 's debut album , Swan Songs ( 2008 ) , also returned to produce the album along with several other producers including Kevin Rudolf , Sam Hollander , Dave Katz , Griffin Boice , Jeff Halavacs , and Jacob Kashner . The album is musically heavier and features darker lyrical content than the band 's previous effort . Originally set to release in March , American Tragedy was released on April 5 , 2011 in the United States and was released on various other dates that month in other countries . A remix of the album , American Tragedy Redux , was released on November 21 , 2011 .

The album debuted at number four on the US Billboard 200 , selling approximately 67 @, @ 000 copies in its first week in the United States , and ended up becoming the 142nd best selling album of 2011 in the US . It also charted in a few other countries , including Canada and the UK , a first for the band . The album also had five singles : " Hear Me Now " , " Been to Hell " , " Coming Back Down " , " Comin ' in Hot " , and " My Town " , with music videos being made for all of them except " Coming Back Down " as it was released on the same day as " Been to Hell " . The band participated in three headlining tours : the Revolt Tour , the Endless Summer Tour , and the World War III Tour , as well as other supporting tours throughout 2011 to promote the album . Upon release , American Tragedy received mixed reviews . Critics consistently noted the darker and more serious tone of the album , but to mixed reception . Lyrics were widely criticized while the energy and instruments were praised in most reviews .

= = Singles and promotion = =

To promote the album , the band participated in three headlining tours and several other supporting tours . The first headlining tour , the Revolt Tour , began on April 6 and spanned across the spring until May 27 , playing with Drive @-@ A , New Medicine , 10 Years , and others at various House of Blues venues across North America . The second headlining tour for the album was the Endless Summer Tour with All That Remains and Hyro Da Hero which began in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania , and ended in Knoxville , Tennessee . The third tour was the World War III Tour , which the band called the biggest tour they had done yet . The tour was co @-@ headlined with Asking Alexandria with support acts We Came As Romans , D.R.U.G.S. , and Borgore , with different local openers for each location . For supporting tours , the band began with the Nightmare After Christmas Tour with headliners Avenged Sevenfold and supporters Stone Sour and New Medicine on January 20 , 2011 , which was the first supporting tour for the album . Outside of official tours , the band played several festivals throughout 2011 including UFEST in Mesa , Arizona , Rockfest , and Summerfest in Milwaukee , Wisconsin . The band also played various holiday shows , such as a Cinco De Mayo show in Salt Lake City , Utah , with Flogging Molly and others .

The album spawned five singles in total . On December 8 , 2010 , the band released the artwork for the album 's first single , titled " Hear Me Now " . The track was released on December 13 for radio and was made available online a week later on December 21 . " Hear Me Now " was the album 's most successful single , charting variously on the Billboard Heatseeker charts , Alternative charts , and the Rock charts . On March 22 , the band appeared live on the late night talk show Lopez Tonight as a musical guest where they performed the single " Hear Me Now " to promote the album . The band reportedly almost drank the entire bar behind the Turner Broadcasting System set , with George Lopez saying to J @-@ Dog , " Drink all of it . Go ahead , I don ' t care . But I 've never seen anyone drink that much . " The album 's second and third official singles , " Been to Hell " and " Coming Back Down " , were both released on March 15 , 2011 . " Been to Hell " was previously released as a promotional single with a lyric video on February 6 , but was then released as a single with a music video , leading to it chart on Billboard 's Heatseeker and Bubbling Under Hot 100 charts . Because " Coming Back Down " was released on the same day as " Been to Hell " , the track did not get a music video . " Coming Back Down " previously surfaced due to a leak on

February 18 and was later confirmed to be on the album and was produced by Kevin Rudolf . Brian Voerding noted that the song showed the band 's strength in both singing and rapping while comparing the sound to Linkin Park . The album 's fourth single , " Comin ' in Hot " , was released on April 9 with a music video to celebrate the album 's release . Similar to " Been to Hell " , " Comin ' in Hot " was originally a free promotional single released on January 21 , but was later released as an album single following the release of American Tragedy . The track was reviewed by Evigshed along with " Hear Me Now " after it was released as a promotional single , who gave both " Comin ' in Hot " and " Hear Me Now " a perfect ten out of ten score , noting that " Comin ' in Hot " was much more upbeat and was extremely catchy . On July 8 , it was announced the fifth single for the album would be " My Town " . The band began shooting the music video in early July and announced that fans would be featured in the video if they recorded themselves performing the song in front of a famous landmark . The video has no release date yet .

= = Music and lyrical themes = =

American Tragedy opens with the single " Been to Hell " . J @-@ Dog said that the song is , " the truth about what really happens to people when they move to L.A. , to be actors or models or God knows what other delusions people have ... failure . It 's all too true , but most people aren 't there to see it first @-@ hand . But we are , so it 's our interpretation of it all . " The track is followed by " Apologize " , a track that directly addresses critics and states the band 's defiance in the face of negative opinions , as evident by the chorus , " We don 't apologize and that 's just the way it is , but we can harmonize even if we sound like shit . " Third is " Comin ? in Hot " , a party song and the album 's fourth single that uses humor to describe what happens in night clubs . " My Town " is the fifth single and a mid @-@ tempo song talking about Los Angeles and Hollywood . Next is " I Don 't Wanna Die " , a song about the fear of death fueling the need to kill another person . " Hear Me Now " was the lead single from the album and is about the troubles each band member was going through at the time the song was written . The song 's lyrics tell the story of a person who is depressed and hopeless , taking a very somber tone to the track . Despite this , the instruments and melodies contrast to make an uptempo track . Next is " Gangsta Sexy " , a party anthem song about heading to nightclubs and pursuing women . The following track , " Glory " , is a metal @-@ inspired song which drew influence from war and fighting . " Lights Out " , the ninth song on the album , is about Deuce , ex @-@ vocalist of Hollywood Undead . It is a response to " Story of a Snitch " . " Coming Back Down " , the third single released from the album , is a rock ballad song with acoustic guitars on the track . The lyrics describes about a story of an unknown loved one who has recently died , with the narrator having difficulty trying to live without them . " Bullet " , the eleventh track from the album , is an uptempo pop song about suicide . It is played in an upbeat tempo with energetic vocals , which gives contrast to the dark lyrical content . Rick Florino called the track , " heart @-@ wrenching genius " . " Levitate " is an uptempo discothèque song about sex , while the verses of the song talk about suicide and alcoholism . It was also featured in the Need For Speed : Shift 2 Unleashed trailer , " Autolog Drift Challenge " , as well as on the game 's soundtrack , where it was ranked eighth on ProGamist 's list of " Top ten songs featured in racing games " .

" Pour Me " , the last soft song on the album , is a dark ballad that has been often compared to Eminem 's " Stan " . Johnny 3 Tears stated that , " We were messing around with chord progressions and that came out like a more major chord style than we were used to it . It 's melodic and poppy sounding . We 're talking about drinking obviously because all of us sometimes drink too much . It 's one of those basic every day things that people go through but they don 't know how to voice it or others around them don 't know to voice it . It 's almost like you 're looked down upon , but no one actually talks about it . " " Tendencies " , which is the closing track for the standard edition of the album , is a high tempo alternative metal song about murder . Johnny 3 Tears said , " When we wrote Tendencies , I wanted to make a song that kids would just go nuts to when we played it . Kids start moshpits at our shows . Not every song we have is the best mosh song , so I wanted to make a song kids could go crazy for . "

While the band was touring with Avenged Sevenfold , the guitarist Synyster Gates spoke about "

S.C.A.V.A. " stating " Holy shit , that 's the craziest verse I 've ever heard ! The lyrics are insane . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Prior to release , American Tragedy was projected by several publications to sell about 65 @,@ 000 copies in the first week of release in the United States , and was expected to reach number three on the Billboard 200 . When the official sales week ended , the album exceeded expectations and sold about 67 @,@ 000 copies , but was outsold by Radiohead 's The King of Limbs and so debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 . Weekly sales topped albums such as Wiz Khalifa 's Rolling Papers and Chris Brown 's F.A.M.E. , and was right behind Adele 's 21 , Britney Spears 's Femme Fatale , and Radiohead 's The King of Limbs .

Upon learning of the album 's first @-@ week sales , Jordan Terrel , also known to fans of the band as " Charlie Scene . " jokingly remarked , " I gotta be honest with everyone : I was really looking forward to the opportunity to be on top of Britney this week , but being right behind her and Adele is a memory we ? ll relish forever . " The album also debuted at number one on the US Hard Rock charts , number two on the US Rock , Digital , and Alternative charts , and number 11 on the Tastemaker Albums charts . Outside of the US , American Tragedy charted number five in Canadian albums charts and number 43 in the UK albums charts .

= = = Critical response = = =

At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 59 , based on 6 reviews , which indicates " mixed or average reviews " .

Rick Florino of Artistdirect gave American Tragedy 5 out of 5 , particularly praising the band 's choice to avoid duplicating their debut album , Swan Songs , and instead choosing to create a , " darker , deeper , and far deadlier ride this time around . " Florino compared various elements of the album to the Wu Tang Clan and Nine Inch Nails , particularly comparing the album 's production ( which was done by various producers with executive producer Don Gilmore ) to Nine Inch Nails ' second album The Downward Spiral ( 1994 ) . He also lauded the irony of the quality singing on , " Apologize " , combined with the lyrics , " But we can harmonize , even if we sound like shit . " Florino concluded that , " Hollywood Undead 's genius lies ? in that dangerous space between unforgettable and unsettling , " pointing this out in the track , " Bullet " , for it being the , " sunniest and catchiest tune on American Tragedy , " while still telling , " a potent and poignant tale of longing for suicide . " The other track Florino pointed out for being unforgettable is , " Pour Me " , calling it , " an evil power ballad that everyone who hears it will feel . "

Revolver magazine reviewer Jeremy Borjon gave the album four out of five in his review , calling American Tragedy , " one hell of an album that will leave fans ? heads buzzing long after the clubs have let out and the hangover sets in . " Borjon complimented the shift in moods throughout the album and the lyrical quality compared to Swan Songs . He praised several tracks including " Been to Hell " , " Apologize " , " Comin ' in Hot " , " Bullet " , " Levitate " , and " Tendencies " as numerous outstanding points in the album . Borjon did criticize the slower songs , " Coming Back Down " and " Pour Me " but dismissed that that were , " easily forgotten among the album 's many undeniably addictive future hits . " Richard Solomon of The Minaret proclaimed that , " If you ? re a Hollywood Undead fan , you 'll love American Tragedy . As for people who didn ? t care for Swan Songs , you 'll probably still love American Tragedy . " Instrumentally , Solomon noted one of his only complaints of the album , being that , " At times , the synthesizer seems a little too heavy handed , but it succeeds more often than not . " Solomon complimented the album being different and further encouraged the Deluxe Edition tracks in addition to the album itself .

Mikael Wood of the Los Angeles Times was more critical in his review . He praised the energy of

the album , pointing out the , " Booming groove , " of " Apologize " , and the " disco @-@ metal urgency , " of " Levitate " . Wood 's biggest complaint of the album was that the band has , " filtered out any sense of humor from its music , which makes American Tragedy virtually impossible to listen to for longer than a few songs at a time . " Alistair Lawrence of BBC Music said that the album is , " The result is that they ? ve ditched some of the early , growling quirkiness that at least gave them an initial , oddball appeal . " Lawrence finishes his review noting , " Hollywood Undead are content to deliver clichés ? more out of a lack of imagination than cynical opportunism , but it still smacks of both . That 's why to seasoned ears or any genre fan requiring more than more of the same , they ? re very , very boring . "

== = Accolades == =

== Track listing ==

All tracks are written and performed by Hollywood Undead , with specific writers detailed for each track .

== = Production == =

== Release history ==