

= Dookie =

Dookie is the third studio album by the American punk rock band Green Day , released on February 1 , 1994 , through Reprise Records . It was the band 's first collaboration with producer Rob Cavallo and its major record label debut . Dookie became a worldwide commercial success , peaking at No. 2 on the US Billboard 200 and charting in seven countries . The album helped propel Green Day , and even punk rock music into mainstream popularity . Dookie was certified Diamond by the Recording Industry Association of America for the shipment of 10 million copies .

Dookie produced five hit singles for the band : " Longview " , " When I Come Around " , " Basket Case " , a re @-@ recorded version of " Welcome to Paradise " and the radio @-@ only single " She " . The album has garnered considerable acclaim , from its release to present day , winning a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album in 1995 and being ranked No. 193 on Rolling Stone 's list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time . As of 2014 , Dookie is the band 's best @-@ selling album with more than 20 million copies sold worldwide .

= = Background and recording = =

Following the underground success of the band 's second studio album Kerplunk ( 1992 ) , a number of major record labels became interested in Green Day . Representatives of these labels attempted to entice the band to sign by inviting them for meals to discuss a deal , with one manager even inviting the group to Disneyland . The band declined these advances until meeting producer and Reprise representative Rob Cavallo . They were impressed by his work with fellow Californian band The Muffs , and later remarked that Cavallo " was the only person we could really talk to and connect with " .

Eventually , the band left their independent record label Lookout ! Records on friendly terms , and signed to Reprise . Signing to a major label caused many of the band 's original fans from the independent music club 924 Gilman Street to regard Green Day as sell @-@ outs . The club has banned Green Day from entering since the major label signing . Reflecting back on the period , lead vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong told Spin magazine in 1999 , " I couldn 't go back to the punk scene , whether we were the biggest success in the world or the biggest failure [ ... ] The only thing I could do was get on my bike and go forward . "

Cavallo was chosen as the main producer of the album , with Jerry Finn as the mixer . Green Day originally gave the first demo tape to Cavallo , and after listening to it during the car ride home he sensed that " [ he ] had stumbled on something big . " The band 's recording session lasted three weeks and the album was remixed twice . Armstrong claimed that the band wanted to create a dry sound , " similar to the Sex Pistols ' album or first Black Sabbath albums . " The band felt the original mix to be unsatisfactory . Cavallo agreed , and it was remixed at Fantasy Studios in Berkeley , California . Armstrong later said of their studio experience , " Everything was already written , all we had to do was play it . "

= = Writing and composition = =

Much of the album 's content was written by Armstrong , except " Emenius Sleepus " written by bassist Mike Dirnt , and the hidden track , " All by Myself " , which was composed and written by drummer Tré Cool . The album touched upon various experiences of the band members and included subjects like anxiety and panic attacks , masturbation , sexual orientation , boredom , mass murder , divorce , and ex @-@ girlfriends .

The single " Longview " had a signature bass line that bassist Dirnt wrote while under the influence of LSD . He originally forgot much of it , but the remembered portions were included in the song . Armstrong stated that the song was mainly about boredom , masturbation , and smoking cannabis , as evident in some of the lyrics ( " When masturbation 's lost its fun / You 're fucking lonely " , inaccurately quoted as " You 're fucking breaking " in the liner notes ) .

" Welcome to Paradise " , the second single from Dookie , was originally on the band 's second

studio album , Kerplunk . The song was re @-@ recorded with a less grainy sound for Dookie . The song never had an official music video ; however , a certain live performance of the song is often associated as a music video . The video is located on Green Day 's official website .

The hit single " Basket Case " , which appeared on many singles charts worldwide , was also inspired by Armstrong 's personal experiences . The song deals with Armstrong 's anxiety attacks and feelings of " going crazy " prior to being diagnosed with a panic disorder . In the third verse , " Basket Case " references soliciting a male prostitute ; Armstrong noted that " I wanted to challenge myself and whoever the listener might be . It 's also looking at the world and saying , ' It 's not as black and white as you think . This isn 't your grandfather 's prostitute ? or maybe it was . ' " The music video was filmed in an abandoned mental institution . This is one of the band 's most popular songs .

The radio @-@ only single , " She " , was written by Armstrong about a former girlfriend who showed him a feminist poem with an identical title . In return , Armstrong wrote the lyrics of " She " and showed them to her . She later moved to Ecuador , prompting Armstrong to put " She " on the album . The same ex @-@ girlfriend is also the topic of the songs " Sassafras Roots " and " Chump " .

The final single , " When I Come Around " , was again inspired by a woman , though this time being about Armstrong 's wife , then former girlfriend , Adrienne . Following a dispute between the couple , Armstrong left Adrienne to spend some time alone . The video featured the three band members walking around Berkeley and San Francisco at night , eventually ending up back at the original location . Future member of Green Day , Jason White , made a cameo in the video with his then @-@ girlfriend . Although not as popular as " Basket Case " , the song was actually more successful in the U.S. being the band 's first top ten single at number 6 on the Hot 100 Airplay chart and staying number 1 on the Modern Rock Tracks chart for 7 weeks or 2 weeks longer than " Basket Case " , it also hit number 2 on both the Mainstream Rock Tracks and the Mainstream Top 40 charts .

The song " Coming Clean " deals with Armstrong 's coming to terms with his bisexuality when he was 16 and 17 years old . In his interview with The Advocate magazine , he states that although he has never had a relationship with a man , his sexuality has been " something that comes up as a struggle in me " .

Billie Joe Armstrong wrote the song " In the End " about his mother and her husband . He is quoted saying : " That song is about my mother 's husband , it 's not really about a girl , or like anyone directly related to me in a relationship . In the End 's about my mother . "

Armstrong also wrote the song " Having a Blast " when he was in Cleveland in 1992 .

= = Packaging = =

The name of the album is a reference to the band members often suffering from diarrhea , which they referred to as " liquid dookie " , as a result of eating spoiled food while on tour . Initially the band was to name the album Liquid Dookie ; however , this was deemed " too gross " , and so they settled on the name Dookie .

Its album artwork caused controversy , which depicts bombs being dropped on people and buildings . In the center , there is an explosion , with the band 's name at the top . Armstrong has since explained the meaning of the artwork :

The back cover on early prints of the CD featured a plush toy of Ernie from Sesame Street , which was airbrushed out of later prints for fear of litigation ; however , Canadian and European prints still feature Ernie on the back cover . Some rumors suggest that it was removed because it led parents to think that Dookie was a child 's lullaby album or that the creators of Sesame Street had sued Green Day .

= = Release = =

Dookie was released on February 1 , 1994 . Upon its release , the album charted in seven countries . It peaked at number two on the Billboard 200 in the United States , and was a success in several

other countries , peaking as high as number one in New Zealand ; the lowest peak in any country was in the United Kingdom at number 13 . While all the singles from the album charted in a few countries , the hit single " Basket Case " entered the top 10 in the United Kingdom and Sweden . Later in 1995 , the album received a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album , with " Longview " and " Basket Case " each being nominated for a Grammy .

Throughout the 1990s , Dookie continued to sell well , eventually receiving diamond certification in 1999 ; by 2013 , Dookie had sold over 20 million copies worldwide and remains the band 's best selling album .

= = Reception = =

Dookie was released to critical acclaim . Bill Lamb at About.com regards it as an album that only gets better with time , calling it " one of the landmark albums of the 1990s " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic described Dookie as " a stellar piece of modern punk that many tried to emulate but nobody bettered " . In 1994 , Time claimed Dookie as the third best album of the year , and the best rock album of 1994 . Jon Pareles from The New York Times , in early 1995 , described the sound of Dookie as , " Punk turns into pop in fast , funny , catchy , high powered songs about whining and channel surfing ; apathy has rarely sounded so passionate . " Rolling Stone 's Paul Evans described Green Day as " convincing mainly because they 've got punk 's snotty anti values down cold : blame , self pity , arrogant self hatred , humor , narcissism , fun " .

Neil Strauss of The New York Times , while complimentary on the album 's overall quality , noted that Dookie 's pop sound only remotely resembled punk music . The band did not respond initially to these comments , but later claimed that they were " just trying to be themselves " and that " it 's our band , we can do whatever we want " . Dirnt claimed that the follow up album , Insomniac , one of the band 's hardest albums lyrically and musically , was the band releasing their anger at all the criticism from critics and former fans .

Along with The Offspring 's Smash , Dookie has been credited for helping bring punk rock back into mainstream music culture . Thomas Nassiff at Fuse cited it as the most important pop punk album .

In April 2014 , Rolling Stone placed the album at No. 1 on its " 1994 : The 40 Best Records From Mainstream Alternative 's Greatest Year " list . A month later , Loudwire placed Dookie at No. 1 on its " 10 Best Hard Rock Albums of 1994 " list . Guitar World ranked Dookie at number thirteen in their list " Superunknown : 50 Iconic Albums That Defined 1994 " .

= = = Accolades = = =

Since its release , Dookie has been featured heavily in various " must have " lists compiled by the music media . Some of the more prominent of these lists to feature Dookie are shown below ; this information is adapted from Acclaimed Music .

= = Live performances = =

Immediately following the release of Dookie , the band embarked on an international tour , beginning in the United States , for which they used a bookmobile belonging to Tré Cool 's father to travel between shows . An audience of millions saw Green Day 's performance at Woodstock ' 94 on Pay per view , helping the band attract more fans . This event was the location of the infamous mud " fight " between the band and the crowd , which continued beyond the end of Green Day 's set . During the fight , Dirnt was mistaken for a fan by a security guard , who tackled him and then threw him against a monitor , causing him to injure his arm and break two of his teeth .

The band also appeared at Lollapalooza and the Z100 Acoustic Christmas at Madison Square Garden , where Armstrong performed the song " She " naked . Having toured throughout the United States and Canada , the band played a few shows in Europe before beginning the recording sessions for the subsequent album , Insomniac . During the tour , Armstrong was quite homesick .

His wife , Adrienne Armstrong , whom he had married shortly after the release of Dookie , was pregnant during most of the tour , and Armstrong was upset about being unable to help and care for her .

In August 2013 , Dookie was played in its entirety at the Brixton Academy in London and at Reading and Leeds Festivals as a celebration of the album 's upcoming 20th anniversary .

= = Track listing = =

All lyrics written by Billie Joe Armstrong , except where noted . All music composed by Green Day .

= = = iTunes edition = = =

= = Personnel = =

Green Day

Billie Joe Armstrong ? lead vocals , guitar

Mike Dirnt ? bass , backing vocals

Tré Cool ? drums , guitar and lead vocals on " All by Myself "

Technical personnel

Rob Cavallo ; Green Day ? producer , mixing

Jerry Finn ? mixing

Neill King ? engineer

Casey McCrankin ? engineer

Richie Bucher ? cover artist

Ken Schles ? photography

Pat Hynes ? booklet artwork

= = Chart positions = =

= = = Album = = =

= = = = End of decade charts = = = =

= = = Singles = = =