

= Follow the Leader ( Korn album ) =

Follow the Leader is the third studio album by the American nu metal band Korn . The album was released on August 18 , 1998 , through Immortal / Epic . This was their first album not produced by Ross Robinson . Instead , it was produced by Steve Thompson and Toby Wright .

The album peaked at number one on four charts , including the Billboard 200 with 268 @, @ 000 units sold in its first week of release , and is often credited with launching nu metal into the mainstream . The album received a 5 × Platinum certification in the United States on March 15 , 2002 as well as a 3 × Platinum in Australia and Canada . Its singles " Got the Life " , and " Freak on a Leash " , both charted on more than three charts , and their music videos are considered to be the first music videos retired from MTV , most notably the MTV show " Total Request Live " . The album generally received positive reviews by critics . Korn was praised by AllMusic saying the album is " an effective follow @-@ up to their first two alt @-@ metal landmarks . "

The Family Values Tour promoted the album , along with its five singles . The song " Freak on a Leash " was nominated for nine MTV Video Music Awards , and won for the Best Rock Video award , as well as Best Editing . The music video for " Freak on a Leash " won Best Short Form Music Video at the 2000 Grammy Awards . Follow the Leader has sold over 7 million copies in the US according to Nielsen SoundScan as of January 4 , 2013 and over 14 million copies worldwide , making it Korn 's most successful album .

= = Recording and production = =

By early 1998 , Korn returned to the studio to record Follow the Leader . Even though Korn was impressed by the work Ross Robinson had done on their previous albums , they decided to work with Steve Thompson and Toby Wright . Robinson did however work with singer Jonathan Davis as a vocal coach for the album . Korn was shown making the video on KornTV . The reason they exposed themselves making the album was because they wanted to let their fans see what they were doing in the studio and behind the scenes . Follow the Leader features numerous guest vocalists , including Ice Cube on " Children of the Korn " , Tre Hardson of The Pharcyde on " Cameltoxis " and Limp Bizkit 's Fred Durst on " All in the Family " .

In a 2013 interview , the band revealed that they partied heavily during the production of Follow the Leader , with massive amounts of alcohol , drugs , and women in the studio . Davis explained further , saying that while recording the vocals for " It 's On " , there were " people getting blowjobs right behind me , there was girls banging each other in front of me , people getting boned in the closet right behind me , it was the craziest shit I 've ever seen in my life and I sang that song . " According to Davis , he only agreed to begin tracking vocals when producer Toby Wright met his demands for an eight @-@ ball ( a one @-@ eighth ounce of cocaine ) .

= = = Photography and illustration = = =

The artwork for Follow the Leader was done by Todd McFarlane Entertainment , with McFarlane and fellow Image Comics artists Greg Capullo ( penciller ) and Brian Hagelin ( colorist ) doing the album cover , and designer Brent Ashe handling the graphics work . According to drummer David Silveria , the band got interested in McFarlane after hearing that " Todd had actually referred to us as ' the Doors of the 90 's ' " , leading to them recording a song for Spawn , a film based on a comic book by McFarlane , and eventually approaching the artist to make an album cover for them . The cover art depicts a child hopscotching off a cliff and a gathering of kids waiting to follow , a concept that begun with bassist Reginald " Fieldy " Arvizu and sketched by a friend of Jonathan Davis before being submitted to McFarlane . It marked the third straight Korn cover featuring children in a disturbing context , which Davis explained by saying that " Children are always scared when they 're all happy and stuff . They 're the most beautiful thing in the world , but when you see it in our artwork , the way we 've placed it , it 's just kinda fuckin ' weird . " The " Freak on a Leash " music video features animated segments by McFarlane featuring this cover art .

## = = Promotion = =

Follow the Leader is recognized as Korn 's mainstream breakthrough , and the album that launched nu metal into the mainstream . Follow the Leader was released August 18 , 1998 , and was awarded multi @-@ platinum certification for shipments in excess of five million copies , by the RIAA on March 15 , 2002 . In fall of 1998 , Korn started the Family Values Tour . According to Arvizu , the tour name was due to " so many of their friends who were like family to us played in bands " . The tour started on September 22 , 1998 , ending on October 31 , 1998 . The tour grossed over 6 @.@ 4 million ( 6 @,@ 400 @,@ 000 ) . Korn maintained a generally low ticket price , usually no more than thirty dollars . Korn toured with the band Limp Bizkit , as well as Ice Cube , Orgy , Incubus , and Rammstein . The tour was considered to be a major success , and promoted Follow the Leader to sales that were considered to have " skyrocketed " .

The album was also promoted through Concrete Marketing 's Concrete Corner program . The promotion saw 100 @,@ 000 copies of a compilation CD featuring tracks of breakthrough artists approved by Korn , as well as a previously unreleased Korn track , being shrink @-@ wrapped to the album at participating stores and given away for free with each purchase of the album . Band artists ( at the time ) featured on this CD included Kid Rock , Orgy , Powerman 5000 and Limp Bizkit . The album had five singles issued : " All in the Family " , " Got the Life " , " Freak on a Leash " , " Children of the Korn " , and " B.B.K. " .

## = = Composition = =

Follow the Leader is seventy minutes and eight seconds long . AllMusic said , " They write songs , but those wind up not being nearly as memorable as their lurching metallic hip @-@ hop grind . " Entertainment Weekly commented that Follow the Leader was Korn 's " gimmick " , while saying the album had " steely riffs " and " stomping beats " . Tower Records said the album " combines streamlined metal with ominous industrial touches and an undercurrent of hip @-@ hop rhythm , " and also said it was an " urban nightmare " . The album is considered to be nu metal , but also spans other genres such as alternative metal and heavy metal .

The album features 25 tracks , 12 of which last five seconds of silence , making the first 60 seconds of the album all silent . Winston @-@ Salem Journal writer Ed Bumgardner described Korn 's work as having " shaped rap , metal and punk into a sonic maelstrom that is brutal , aggressive - and reasonably musical " . The Daily News said that " the band shovels chunky beats into an already complex sound ... " Michael Mehle of Rocky Mountain News said , " For the uninitiated , the classic Korn sound comes rumbling out of the speakers on the first cut : It 's On ! grinds fuzzy guitars , thunderous beats and shouts of gut @-@ wrenching rage into an anthem for the alienated " , and gave other positive remarks . The Charlotte Observer said the album was dark , but humble . A Zeeland high school assistant principal said in an interview for a Michigan newspaper that the music is " indecent , vulgar , obscene and intends to be insulting " . She said this after giving a student a one @-@ day suspension for wearing a shirt with Korn on it .

## = = Critical reception = =

Follow the Leader received generally positive reviews . Stephan Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic gave the album four out of five stars , saying that it " is an effective follow @-@ up to their first two alt @-@ metal landmarks . " Erlewine also said that the songs were " vehicles for the metal grind " . Entertainment Weekly gave the album a B ? . Reviewer Jim Farber said that the lyrics " provide a new blend of metal and remnants of alt @-@ rock . " Jon Pareles from The New York Times said the album was " choppy " , and also said that lead singer Jonathan Davis was " wrestling with self @-@ hatred , violent impulses , parental execration , and a confused sexual identity ... " Robert Christgau of The Village Voice said that , although Korn " deny they 're metal " , they " nevertheless demonstrate that the essence of metal ... is self @-@ obliterating volume and self @-@

aggrandizing display . " Rolling Stone gave the album four out of five stars , while saying that Korn " have an ideal record for those long , black days when all you can do is say ' What the Fuck ! What the Fuck ! What the Fuck ! ' at bloody murder volume " . The album is featured in the book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die .

The album peaked at number one on four charts , including the Billboard 200 . Follow the Leader peaked at number five in the United Kingdom . The album received a 5 × Platinum certification in the United States , as well as a triple platinum in Australia and Canada . Follow the Leader also received a gold certification in the Netherlands . The album 's first charting single , " Got the Life " , released on July 24 , 1998 , peaked at number fifteen on the Mainstream Rock Songs chart , and received a gold certification in Australia . The album 's next charting single , " Freak on a Leash " , released in February 1999 , peaked at number six on the Alternative Songs chart , as well as number six on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 , and like " Got the Life " , received a gold certification in Australia . " Freak on a Leash " was nominated for nine MTV Video Music Awards , and won for the Best Rock Video award , as well as Best Editing .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by Korn except " Earache My Eye " written by Tommy Chong , Gaye Delorme and Richard Marin . All guest appearances feature an extra writing credit by the guest .

The original physical release features 25 tracks . The music begins on track 13 and ends on track 25 , Starting the album with 12 hidden tracks consisting of five seconds of silence each , totaling 1 minute of silence out of respect for a deceased fan , who also had track 10 ( Justin ) named after him . Later prints move the silent tracks after the music . In interviews Jon Davis also mentioned he was very superstitious and did not want to end an album on track 13 .

" My Gift to You " stops at 7 : 12 and is followed by two minutes of silence . At 9 : 12 , a hidden track titled " Earache My Eye " starts playing after an anecdote from Fieldy during the studio session .

= = Credits = =

= = Charts = =