

= My Name Is My Name =

My Name Is My Name is the debut studio album by American hip hop recording artist Pusha T (who is one half of the hip hop duo Clipse) . It was released on October 7 , 2013 , by GOOD Music and Def Jam Recordings . While leading up to the album 's announcement , Pusha T released the mixtape Fear of God and the EP Fear of God II : Let Us Pray during 2011 , along with collaborating on the GOOD Music 's compilation album Cruel Summer (released in 2012) . In 2013 , he also released another mixtape Wrath of Caine . The album 's production was handled primarily by Kanye West , along with several producers , including Pharrell Williams , The @-@ Dream , Hudson Mohawke , Sebastian Sartor , Don Cannon , Swizz Beatz , Rico Beats , Mano and Nottz , It also features guest appearances from Rick Ross , Young Jeezy , 2 Chainz , Big Sean , Future , Pharrell Williams , Chris Brown and Kendrick Lamar , among others .

The album was met with universal acclaim from music critics and was positioned highly on many " Best Albums of 2013 " lists by major publications . The album also fared well commercially debuting at number 4 on the US Billboard 200 , selling 74 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of release . As of November 20 , 2013 , the album has sold 122 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . The album was promoted by five singles ; " Pain " featuring Future , " Numbers on the Boards " , " Sweet Serenade " featuring Chris Brown , " Let Me Love You " featuring Kelly Rowland , and " Nosetalgia " featuring Kendrick Lamar , along with the promotional single " Who I Am " featuring 2 Chainz and Big Sean .

= = Background = =

After establishing his solo career , while signing a deal to GOOD Music in September 2010 , Pusha T released his first solo project , a mixtape , titled Fear of God (2011) . Following the release of his mixtape , he released his first extended play , a sequel to the mixtape , titled Fear of God II : Let Us Pray (2011) . After the release of his EP , Pusha T started working on his debut album , and at the time it have included the production from Kanye West , The Neptunes , Bangladesh , Ryan Leslie and Alex da Kid . After continued to working on his first full @-@ length album , which was originally set to be released in 2012 , it was pushed back due to his participation in GOOD Music 's first compilation album Cruel Summer (2012) .

In July 2012 , Pusha T told MTV that while he was putting together his solo album , he was heavily influenced by Keanu Reeves and Al Pacino 's 1997 film The Devil 's Advocate . " This album was based off the movie ' Devil 's Advocate ' . Not theme @-@ wise at all , but just in the feel of the album . ' Devil 's Advocate ' is a very dark movie , but at the same time , visually , it 's beautiful . The album is based off of that because I speak about the harsh realities of street life but there 's a lot of glitz and glamour that comes along with that . If you just look at it at face value , you might think , ' It sounds a bit like he 's glorifying [street life] ' , but when you get tuned into the record , you realize that you get both sides of it . "

In 2012 , in an interview , Pusha T spoke on the inspiration behind the album title . " Basically , I tried to pick a title that embodied who I am as an artist . I wanted people to understand like Pusha is everything that I really , really am . Actually , there is a line in ' Pain ' where I say " My name is my name , " that line comes from Marlo Stanfield from the series The Wire . It was one of the more prominent catch phrases that he said at the end of that series . He was basically saying , I am who I am , I stand on my name I live this . I really felt that embodied my presence in the rap game . " Pusha T announced the new title of his album in November 2012 , along with Spin reporting that his album had been pushed back until 2013 . On March 19 , 2013 Pusha T said that the album would include 13 songs and that he had already finished 11 of those songs .

= = Recording and production = =

On April 13 , 2013 , during at the 2013 's Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival , Pusha T announced that he would be going to Paris later this week , just to put on some final touches on the

album , afterwards he would announce a release date . In June 2013 , Pusha T had been set to turn in the album to Def Jam for mastering , however , Kanye West was shortly given by him with three new beats , in which resulted him to go back to the studio to continued recording . In early stages in the recording process , he began working on the album with Kanye West , Symbolyc One , The Neptunes , Bangladesh , and Ryan Leslie . Since then , he has confirmed that he was working with The @-@ Dream , Just Blaze , No I.D. , Nottz , Don Cannon , Nashiem Myrick , Carlos Brody (of The Hitmen) , DJ Mano , Swizz Beatz , Rico Beats , Travi \$ Scott , Hudson Mohawke , Young Chop , and Sham , amongst others on the album 's production . On August 4 , 2013 he announced that the song he wants to be the album 's intro is produced by Joaquin Phoenix . On August 22 , 2013 , Pusha T appeared on MTV 's RapFix and told Sway Calloway that the bulk of the album 's production would be handled by Kanye West , while confirming production by Pharrell , Swizz Beatz , The @-@ Dream , Nottz , and Don Cannon to be featured on the album .

Pusha T has announced leading up to the album that the guest appearances are included from Rick Ross , Kanye West , The @-@ Dream , Future , Young Jeezy , 2 Chainz , Big Sean , Chris Brown , Kendrick Lamar , and The Re @-@ Up Gang . He also said he was looking to get a couple more cleared up . In early January , Pusha stated that fellow Clipse member No Malice could appear on the album , however , in July , he confirmed that Malice would not be featured on the album . He also said his dream collaboration for the album would be with Jay @-@ Z. In an August 22 , 2013 , appearance on MTV 's RapFix he confirmed that additional guest appearances , that had yet to be revealed would come from Ab @-@ Liva , Kelly Rowland , and Pharrell .

= = Release and promotion = =

While performing in Vancouver , Canada , it was reported that Pusha T announced that he would be releasing , for promotional purposes , a mixtape , titled Wrath of Caine by the end of 2012 . However , it would have to be pushed back to 2013 . Pusha T described the tape as street @-@ oriented music intended for his longtime fans .

" Wrath of Caine is basically just me catering to my core . It 's all about just street Hip Hop , street music " he said . " It 's just something that I like to do . It 's something that I feel like has no boundaries , no parameters . I can do what I really , really want to do ? [my approach to the mixtape is] not about more of a creative [decision] , I just think it 's about more of what I want to hear for myself and what my fans want to hear . They want to hear lyrics , they want to hear street [music] ? it 's just the whole street life perspective . "

On December 5 , 2012 , the first song released from the mixtape , " Blocka " , which features guest vocals by Popcaan and GOOD Music 's Travi \$ Scott . The reggae @-@ inspired track was produced by Young Chop . The music video was released on December 10 , 2012 . The second song was , " Millions " , which features guest vocals from a fellow rapper Rick Ross . The mixtape cover was revealed on January 15 , 2013 . The mixtape was released for free download on January 28 , 2013 . The mixtape also features guest appearances from French Montana , Wale , Kevin Gates , Troy Ave and Andrea Martin , also it included the production from Kanye West , Young Chop , Harry Fraud , The Neptunes , Jake One , ! lmind and B ! nk , among others .

The album was included on multiple " Most Anticipated Albums of 2013 " lists including eighth by Complex Magazine and ninth by XXL Magazine . In January 2013 , Pusha T announced that his album will be releasing at the end of quarter one of 2013 . During the red carpet for the 55th Grammy Awards , Pusha T announced that his album would have to be pushed back till May 2013 . On April 29 , Pusha T announced through his Twitter page that the album would be released on July 16 , 2013 . In July 2013 , he confirmed that the album would be pushed back , and then on August 22 , he confirmed that the album would be released on October 8 , 2013 .

On August 30 , 2013 , Kanye West unveiled the simplistic standard and deluxe edition album covers via his Twitter account . On September 21 , 2013 , Pusha T released snippets for the standard edition tracks . On September 27 , 2013 , Pusha T released the music video for the intro track " King Push " . On October 2 , 2013 , after a few days of being credited as a co @-@ producer of " King Push " , Joaquin Phoenix denied having assist in producing the song . He said , " While it

was widely reported that Pusha T used my beat and that I produced his song , I can 't take any credit . A friend 's son played me his music , and all I did was make an introduction to Kanye 's camp . " On October 3 , 2013 , during an interview with Rap @-@ Up , Pusha T revealed that it was actually the son of Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich who produced the song , saying " Joaquin Phoenix gave the beat to ' Ye , so when I got the beat from ' Ye , it was , Yo , Joaquin gave me this beat . So me , I 'm just like , OK , I know Joaquin 's into music and you know the whole thing , so I 'm like , Oh , damn . I believe it is the son of Lars Ulrich from Metallica . I hope I 'm not wrong this time . It was mistaken because it came from Joaquin . " On October 1 , 2013 , the album was released for free streaming via MySpace .

Starting April 24 , 2013 , Pusha T and fellow Def Jam rapper Fabolous begun the Life is So Exciting Tour in Providence , Rhode Island . The tour features 28 shows and ended on June 1 , 2013 . The tour was in promotion of My Name Is My Name and Fabolous ' sixth studio album Loso 's Way 2 : Rise to Power . On December 9 , 2013 , it was revealed that Pusha T would be co @-@ headlining the 2 Good 2 Be T.R.U. Tour with 2 Chainz , a North American tour to begin on February 4 , 2014 , in Boston , Massachusetts and end on March 24 , 2014 , in Washington DC . The tour will also feature August Alsina and Cap1 as opening acts .

= = Singles = =

On October 9 , 2012 , Pusha T released " Pain " featuring Future , as the first single from the album . On October 10 , 2013 , the music video was released for " Pain " featuring Future . The first promotional single released from the album would be " Millions " which features Rick Ross . The song originally appeared on his mixtape Wrath of Caine , however Pusha also released the song for retail sale on January 29 , 2013 . The music video for " Millions " was released on February 10 , 2013 . At the 55th Grammy Awards he announced the song would be featured on his album . On March 8 , 2013 , in an interview with DJ Semtex , Pusha T said that " Millions " would not be featured on the album after all . Moreover , Pusha T confirmed a further collaboration with Rick Ross .

On April 29 , 2013 Rolling Stone gave his following single " Numbers on the Boards " 4 out of 5 stars , stating " The star is Kanye West 's beat , a contusive bass blur with percussion that 's like bamboo sticks on a busted radiator . The result is near @-@ perfect no @-@ bullshit hip @-@ hop . " On May 9 , 2013 , the music video was released for " Numbers on the Boards " which featured cameo appearances from Kanye West and Chief Keef . The video was shot in Paris . The Kanye West and Don Cannon @-@ produced song was then released as the album 's second single the following day .

In March 2013 , during an interview Hot 107 @.@ 9 , he announced that his next single is " Who I Am " featuring Kanye West . On June 11 , Pusha T announced that " Who I Am " would be released in two days on June 13 , 2013 . The final version of the single featured 2 Chainz and Big Sean , however Kanye West still provided the production of the track . However , the song did not end up receiving an official retail release , instead becoming the album 's second promotional single .

On August 30 , 2013 , Pusha T premiered the audio to the album 's third single , " Sweet Serenade " featuring Chris Brown . After during a Twitter Q & A , he would reveal the song was produced by Swizz Beatz . It would then be released for retail digital download on September 4 , 2013 . The music video was released for " Sweet Serenade " on October 7 , 2013 .

On September 16 , 2013 , Def Jam released the single artwork , and announced that " Nosetalgia " featuring Kendrick Lamar would be released soon . Later that same day the song would be premiered via Def Jam 's website . The song produced by Nottz , features both artists rapping about their experiences and effects of cocaine on their childhoods . On the following day , it has been released to the DJs , as the album 's third promotional single , and then be released for pre @-@ order with the album on iTunes . On October 3 , 2013 , the music video was released for " Nosetalgia " featuring Kendrick Lamar . " Nosetalgia " was officially released as a single in the United Kingdom on February 3 , 2014 , serving as the fifth overall single from the album .

" Let Me Love You " features guest vocals by Kelly Rowland , impacted urban contemporary radio

on November 12 , 2013 , as the album 's fourth single .

= = = Other songs = = =

On the following day , the music video for the Rick Ross featuring " Hold On " was released . On January 17 , 2014 , the music video was released for " Suicide " featuring Ab @-@ Liva .

= = Commercial performance = =

My Name Is My Name debuted at number 4 on the US Billboard 200 , selling 74 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of release . In its second week the album dropped to number 14 on the US Billboard 200 , selling 20 @,@ 000 more copies . In its third week , the album dropped to twelve more places , selling 10 @,@ 000 more copies in the United States . As of November 2015 , the album has sold 182 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

Internationally , the album peaked at number 56 on the UK Albums Chart , number 36 in the Netherlands , and number 98 in Switzerland . It also charted in other countries such as France and Belgium .

= = Critical response = =

My Name Is My Name was met with universal acclaim from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 81 , based on 27 reviews . Mike Powell of Rolling Stone stated , " He 's still a witty , quietly vicious rapper , capable of tearing apart spare street tracks like " Nosetalgia " and " Numbers on the Board " while barely raising his voice . But set in the more commercial contexts of Kelly Rowland features and the @-@ Dream 's fluorescent R & B , he can sound like a fish out of some pretty expensive water . Who Pusha was is gone , but who he is still sometimes unclear . " David Jeffries of AllMusic said , " With Pusha 's pen at full force and his performance a proper combination of cold and tense , the album is as if Clipse 's Hell Hath No Fury were atom @-@ smashed into something more artful and unstable . My Name Is My Name is a remarkable and vital solo debut . " Jesse Cataldo , writing for Slant Magazine , said , " Yet despite its pedigree , the album puts too much overall emphasis on guest spots and not enough on establishing a distinctive identity for the rapper . Full of retrograde lyrical conceits , seemingly at odds with its futuristic backdrops , My Name Is My Name is a reminder that Pusha T hasn 't changed , and his stubborn reliance on maintaining his brand is probably not the wisest strategy in today 's shifting hip @-@ hop climate . " Jon Hadusek of Consequence of Sound stated , " A few poor production choices and uneven sequencing do slow the album , but it shows flashes of real brilliance . The best tracks here are produced by Kanye and Pharrell , and they 're concentrated at the beginning and end . The smattering in the middle of the tracklist is handled by host of collaborators , not all of them effectively complimenting Pusha 's rawness . While not the defining statement it could ? ve been , My Name Is My Name shows different sides of Pusha T as he becomes a more multidimensional rapper . "

Jabbari Weekes of Exclaim ! said , " A majority of My Name Is My Name 's sounds are wrapped in minimalistic saran wrap that allows Pusha T 's cold delivery to flourish , with more abstract drug references than a paranoid dealer over a tapped phone line . " Reed Jackson , writing for XXL , stated , " Certain songs , like the trap house anthem " No Regrets " or the early @-@ 2000s @-@ sounding " Let Me Love You , " are entertaining , but don 't have the inventiveness or excitement of the album 's other tracks . With MNIMN standing at a lean 12 songs , these missteps are hard to gloss over . Regardless , Pusha T accomplishes a lot here , crafting a record that is big in concept but is still rooted in the longstanding hip @-@ hop tradition that lyricism is king . " Brandon Soderberg of Spin said , " Don 't tell King Push , but My Name Is My Name bears a weird resemblance to Drake 's Nothing Was the Same : Here is another deeply considered collection of top @-@ shelf beats and uncompromising @-@ though @-@ still @-@ pop @-@ enough raps that justifies the fairly awful personalities driving it , which , depending on your tolerance for wounded

narcissism and a complete lack of insight , is either fascinating or frustrating . "

Randall Roberts of the Los Angeles Times stated , " The album ? s haunting highlight -- and one of the best hip @-@ hop tracks of the year ? is the last one . Called " S.N.I.T.C.H. , " it thrives on understated tension as Pusha and guest vocalist Pharrell recount an interaction with an old friend who had decided to become a police informant . It 's the perfect conclusion to a consistently surprising hip @-@ hop album . " Lauren Martin of Fact gave the album three and a half stars out of five , saying " In short , on My Name Is My Name , Pusha doesn ? t really give much away about his past , present or future , and it 's a disconcerting thought for an album posited as a vanguard for a more " real " presentation of rap . " Russ Bengtson of Complex said , " it 's a never @-@ hit @-@ skip album made by a 36 @-@ year @-@ old rapper with more hunger than most 15 years his junior . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Closing out the year , My Name Is My Name was named to multiple " Best Albums of the Year " lists . It was ranked at number 33 on Rolling Stone 's list of the 50 best albums of 2013 . They commented saying , " The cockier half of the Clipse didn 't choose to go solo ? he had to after his brother found God . Pusha , in turn , found Kanye West , whose stark and twisted production helped make My Name Is My Name feel like a more lyrically focused companion piece to his own Yeezus . It 's the year 's sharpest hit of street philosophy . " Complex named it the third best album of 2013 . They elaborated saying , " everything clicks because of the way it was calculated . The songs benefit from their respective placement beside each other , each track a background for the next . In that way , it brings the Pusha T fan up to speed with what he 's evolved into , without leaving them in unfamiliar territory . If you were the reluctant " we want that old Pusha T " fan , then it fed you the teaspoon of updated classic with the medicine of his reinvention ? and by the end , you appreciated both sides . " Nick Catucci of Entertainment Weekly named it the eighth best album of 2013 saying , " With these beats ? private @-@ stash stuff from the likes of his label boss Kanye West and Pharrell Williams ? he could sell fire in hell . In fact , Pusha plumbs his emotional depths , breaking down his parents ' divorce after 35 years of marriage and his conflicted feelings about his brother . " Exclaim ! named it the second best hip hop album of 2013 . XXL named it the fourth best album of 2013 . They commented saying , " Song for song , it 's tough to put any album in the same category as Pusha 's proper solo debut . In the space of a trim 46 minutes , Push coaxed the best verse of Rick Ross ' year on " Hold On , " made Kendrick Lamar get dark and grim on " Nosetalgia " and even rapped over a beat that seemed impossible to make into a hip @-@ hop track on " King Push , " all while keeping his lyricism at the absolute highest level . The worst song on this album could find its way onto a top ten list . If this is what a post @-@ Yeezus world sounds like , sign us up immediately . "

Spin positioned it at number 46 on their list of the best 50 albums of 2013 . They said , " Push is in fighting form , incorporating a mature point of view on his drug @-@ dealer past while rapping with the confidence of a man who knows the game is his to lose . " NME positioned it at number 48 on their list of the 50 best albums of year . They said , My Name Is My Name was the moment Clipse member Pusha T finally hit the home run he promised for so long . The beats snapped hard , the guests including Kendrick Lamar , Rick Ross and 2 Chainz glittered and the overall vibe was dirty but triumphant . " Paste ranked it number 34 on their list of the 50 best albums of 2013 saying , " each bar has the ferociousness of a lion smelling the scent of fresh blood . Among his contemporaries , Pusha T is the sharp @-@ witted wordsmith who makes you feel like you ? re listening to a master at work , devilishly cooking up something as pure and addictive as he possibly can . " It was named the third best hip hop album of 2013 by PopMatters . They commented saying , " My Name Is My Name is easily one of the most impressive displays of lyricism of the year and contains some of 2013 's best verses , as Pusha shows off his versatility The production is minimalistic and intelligently doesn 't overshadow Pusha 's performance . The beats are big and full of bass , giving life to the album and forming a unique theme , with a reunion with Pharrell triggering a nice blast of nostalgia My Name Is My Name has substance , style , and passion , and no

doubt is an album that will still be appreciated a decade from now . " Consequence of Sound positioned it at number 44 on their list of the 50 best albums of the year .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

Track listing and credits from album booklet .

^ a signifies a co @-@ producer

^ b signifies an additional producer

" Hold On " features uncredited vocals from Kanye West .

Sample credits

" Numbers on the Boards " contains samples of " Shake Your Booty " , written and performed by Bunny Sigler ; samples of " Intro : A Million and One Questions / Rhyme No More " , written by Jay @-@ Z and Chris Martin performed by the former ; and samples of " Pots and Pans " , written and performed by Anthony King and John Matthews , as included on the Luke Vibert compilation Nuggets .

" Hold On " contains samples of " Ghet @-@ To @-@ Funk " , written by W. Norman performed by Duralcha .

" Let Me Love You " contains samples of " Audition " , written by Jeppe Thybo and Nick Johnsen performed by The Robotboys .

" Who I Am " contains samples of " U.F.O " , written by R. Scroggins performed by ESG ; and samples of " LGOYH " , written and performed by Kwes .

" Nosetalgia " contains samples of " The Bridge Is Over " , written by Scott La Rock and Lawrence Parker performed by Boogie Down Productions ; samples of " (If Loving You Is Wrong) I Don 't Want to Be Right " , written by Homer Banks , Carl Hampton and Raymond Jackson performed by Bobby Bland ; and samples of " Do You Like Scratchin ' " , written by Trevor Horn and Malcolm McLaren performed by Malcolm McLaren .

" Pain " contains samples of " My Name Is Anthony Gonsalves " , written by Laxmikant ? Pyarelal and Anand Bakshi performed by Kishore Kumar .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from AllMusic .

= = Chart positions = =

= = Release history = =