

## = The Uplift Mofo Party Plan =

The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the third studio album by American rock band Red Hot Chili Peppers , released on September 29 , 1987 on EMI Records . Due to prior obligations resulting in temporary personnel changes following the band 's formation in 1983 , The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the only studio album to feature all four founding members of the band on every single track : vocalist Anthony Kiedis , bassist Flea , guitarist Hillel Slovak , and drummer Jack Irons .

The record features the band 's signature funk rock musical style , but also is influenced by reggae and heavy metal . For the album , the Red Hot Chili Peppers recruited new producer Michael Beinhorn , who encouraged the members to expand their musical horizons in order to create a more diverse work . The recording process was difficult due to Kiedis ' drug addiction ; however , the band was ultimately content with its work on Uplift . Flea later referred to the album as " the ' rockinest ' record " the band has ever made .

The album was more successful than its predecessors both critically and commercially , and was the band 's first album to enter the Billboard 200 , where it charted at number 148 . Although Uplift 's follow @-@ up Mother 's Milk would reach Gold first , The Uplift Mofo Party Plan would go on to become the band 's earliest effort to do so . Following the tour to promote the album , Slovak died of a heroin overdose and shortly after , Irons decided to quit the band , unable to cope with his friend 's death .

## = = Background = =

After Red Hot Chili Peppers signed a record deal with EMI in 1983 , founding members Hillel Slovak and Jack Irons left the group to focus on their group What Is This ? , which had also signed a record deal . Vocalist Anthony Kiedis and bassist Flea hired Jack Sherman as guitarist and Cliff Martinez as drummer , and established themselves as a prominent funk rock band with their 1984 debut album The Red Hot Chili Peppers . Disappointed with the results of the production , Kiedis and Flea replaced Sherman with Slovak , who had quit his band , What Is This ? , several weeks earlier . The group 's George Clinton @-@ produced second album , Freaky Styley ( 1985 ) , was Slovak 's first studio album with the band . In early 1986 , the band began work on their upcoming album , and EMI gave the Chili Peppers a budget of \$ 5 @,@ 000 to record a demo tape . The band chose to work with producer and former Public Image Ltd. guitarist Keith Levene , because he shared the members ' interest in drugs . Levene and Slovak put aside \$ 2 @,@ 000 of the budget to spend on drugs without telling the rest of the group , which created tension between the members . Martinez ' " heart was no longer in the band " , but he did not quit , so Kiedis and Flea fired him . After the firing of Martinez , original drummer Jack Irons rejoined the band , which marked the first time all four founding members were together since 1983 .

Both Kiedis and Slovak struggled with debilitating heroin addictions , which grew worse as the band was preparing to record Uplift . Due to his addiction , Kiedis lacked the motivation to contribute to the band musically , and appeared at rehearsal " literally asleep " . He was asked to leave the band in order to undergo drug rehabilitation . During that time , the band won the LA Weekly Band of the Year award which prompted Kiedis to quit using heroin cold turkey . He visited his mother in Michigan for guidance , who drove him to drug rehabilitation immediately after picking him up from the airport upon seeing his unhealthy appearance . He checked into Salvation Army rehabilitation clinic in Grand Rapids , an experience which he initially detested until he noted that the other people in the clinic were understanding of his struggles and were trying to help him . He moved in with his mother after twenty days at the clinic , a time which marked the first time he was completely abstinent from drugs since he was eleven years old . After Kiedis completed his stint in rehabilitation , he felt a " whole new wave of enthusiasm " due to his sobriety and wrote the lyrics to a new song entitled " Fight Like a Brave " on the flight home . He rejoined the Red Hot Chili Peppers in Los Angeles to record the group 's next album .

## = = Recording and production = =

While Kiedis was in rehab , the band sought a new producer for their next album . Aspiring producer Michael Beinhorn was looking for work at EMI Records after several unsuccessful projects on other labels , when a man working at EMI approached Beinhorn and suggested that he work with the Red Hot Chili Peppers , as " no one [ knew ] what to do with them " . Beinhorn recalled of the situation : " Though their music all seemed kind of abstract , there was definitely an excitement to it . I thought they needed a lot of arrangement help ... I also quickly learned that [ executives ] at the record label actually hated the Chili Peppers , like openly reviled them so bad that they didn 't even want them to succeed . It was the weirdest thing . " He contacted the band to meet up , and instead of arranging a formal meeting , the band proposed to meet him at a club in New Orleans called Tipitina 's . Beinhorn was impressed by the band 's originality and non @-@ conformist attitude and decided to work with the band . Kiedis then sat down with Beinhorn to discuss the recording of the album ; Kiedis planned to record the album in ten days and write the songs during the recording sessions .

The album was recorded in the basement of the Capitol Records Building in Hollywood . Although Kiedis had recently become clean , his withdrawal symptoms increased and affected his musical contributions to the group . After fifty days of sobriety , Kiedis decided to take drugs again as a one @-@ time attempt to celebrate his new music , which led to his resumed addiction . The recording process for the album became difficult as Kiedis would often disappear to seek drugs . Beinhorn recalled that " There were points in pre @-@ production where I really thought the record wasn 't gonna get made . " Kiedis felt " excruciating pain and guilt and shame " when he would miss a recording session so he would try to write lyrics while searching for drugs ; although the band was upset by his drug use and frequent disappearances , they were impressed with his musical output at the time .

Although Kiedis ' drug use disrupted the early recording process , the Chili Peppers still had an enjoyable time recording the album . The band was musically inspired by the rejoining of their original drummer Jack Irons , which added " such an important and different element to our chemistry . " Beinhorn encouraged the band to expand their musical horizons on the album , and although the band were initially uncomfortable stepping out of their comfort zone , the members began to feel that Beinhorn was helping them produce their best work . Slovak helped Kiedis record his vocals on the album . In between takes , Slovak would run around the studio out of excitement and say " This is the most beautiful thing we 've ever done . " Slovak reflected on his deep connection to the album in his diary ; " It was so fun . I 'm so extremely proud of everybody 's work ? it is at times genius . " During a jam session , the guitarist created a melodic riff which differed greatly in style from the band 's previous work . While Slovak nearly abandoned the riff out of fear that it was too much of a departure stylistically , Beinhorn saw potential in the new melody @-@ based style and encouraged Slovak to turn the short tune into a full song . While the band was skeptical at first , each member began writing their own musical parts and the song became one of the album 's three singles , " Behind the Sun " .

= = Composition = =

= = = Music = = =

In the book Give It Away : The Stories Behind Every Song , author Rob Fitzpatrick writes " As far as sheer power goes , The Uplift Mofo Party Plan is the Chili Peppers at their most virile , most chest @-@ beating , most unabashedly macho . " However , Kiedis recalls that during the composition of the album , Beinhorn encouraged him to step away from his improvisational speed @-@ rap style in favor of slower , crooning vocals . At the time , Kiedis was very uncomfortable with his singing voice , and felt that the new style was " sappy " . Kiedis also observed that guitarist Hillel Slovak 's playing evolved during his time away from the group in What Is This ? , and that Slovak had adopted a more fluid style featuring " sultry " elements as opposed to his original hard rock techniques .

On The Uplift Mofo Party Plan , Slovak experimented with genres outside of traditional funk music

including reggae and speed metal . His melodic riff featured in the song " Behind the Sun " inspired the group to create " pretty " songs with an emphasis on melody . Kiedis describes the song as " pure Hillel inspiration " . Slovak also used a talk box on the song " Funky Crime " , in which he would sing into a tube while playing to create psychedelic effects . Flea incorporated a " slap " bass style on the album , which would become a staple of the band 's early work . " Backwoods " features a " loose , swinging groove " and a " sky @-@ scraping " guitar solo . " Skinny Sweaty Man " contains a rapid tempo and has been described as " hardcore garage psychedelic funkabilly " , while " No Chump Love Sucker " displays punk rock and thrash influences . The album also features a cover of Bob Dylan 's " Subterranean Homesick Blues " , which abandons nearly all of the original song 's folk stylistics in favor of the band 's signature funk @-@ rock leanings .

= = = Lyrics = = =

The majority of the lyrics in the album focus on friendships between the band members , sex , and life in Los Angeles . The reunion of the four original members of the group had a great influence over the lyrics ; Kiedis explained that " a lot of the jubilation in the lyrics of that record are about being united . " Kiedis was also inspired by personal experiences of himself and rest of the band members . During the recording of Freaky Styley , Kiedis and Slovak indulged in heavy cocaine use . When Slovak was under the influence , he would often wear brightly colored clothing and dance in a " shuffling " fashion , which became the inspiration for the song " Skinny Sweaty Man " from Uplift . The song " No Chump Love Sucker " was also inspired by Slovak ; during the recording of the album , Slovak had been " left high and dry " by a girlfriend who left him for someone who had " more money and more drugs " . The song served as a revenge song against " that type of evil , materialistic woman . "

" Funky Crime " was reflective of a conversation between the band and George Clinton while writing and recording Freaky Styley . Kiedis described the song as a lyrical description of the conversation , about how music itself is " color @-@ blind " but is " segregated by the media and radio based on their perceptions of the artists . " Kiedis wrote " Me and My Friends " , a song which " came together nicely " , while driving home from San Francisco with his childhood friend Joe Walters . " Backwoods " details the history of rock and roll . Kiedis said that " Love Trilogy " became one of the group 's all time favorite songs ; it is about " loving the things that aren 't necessarily perfect or always lovable " . He explained that " For years , whenever someone would question our lyrics , Flea would say , ' Read ' Love Trilogy ' and you 'll know what real lyrics are all about . ' "

= = Release and reception = =

EMI originally refused to release the album unless the Chili Peppers changed the name of the song " Party on Your Pussy " ; the band subsequently renamed the song " Special Secret Song Inside " . The Uplift Mofo Party Plan was released on September 29 , 1987 and peaked at number 148 on the Billboard 200 , which was far more successful than any of the band 's previous releases . It was the band 's first album to enter the Billboard 200 , and has since been certified Gold in the United States . The band filmed a music video for the album 's lead single , " Fight Like a Brave " , but the song failed to make an impact on any Billboard charts . " Behind the Sun " was not released as a single until 1992 , after the band had released two subsequent albums , Mother 's Milk and Blood Sugar Sex Magik . The single , which was released to promote the Chili Peppers ' What Hits ! ? compilation album , peaked at number 7 on the Billboard Alternative Songs chart .

The album also helped the Red Hot Chili Peppers earn a dedicated cult fanbase in Los Angeles . One of these fans was John Frusciante , who would later join the band as guitarist after Slovak 's death . Frusciante recalled : " The first time I saw the Red Hot Chili Peppers live was at the Variety Arts Center , and that was really amazing ... They were going for this real hard sound . Hillel was doing all this awesome feedback and stuff . It was the most magical experience I ever had in the experience of a show . " Frusciante based a lot of his playing style on Slovak 's work , and explained , " I learned everything I needed to know about how to sound good with Flea by studying Hillel 's

playing and I just took it sideways from there . "

The album received mixed reviews from critics upon its release . Duncan Strauss of the Los Angeles Times described the album as " hit @-@ and @-@ miss " ; while he praised the " tender tunefulness " of " Behind the Sun " , he felt that the majority of the songs " wear pretty thin pretty fast , further suggesting that this is a band that 's in command on stage ? but in trouble in the studio . " Bill Meredith of Allmusic gave the album four out of five stars , observing that " The energy of having these four friends from Los Angeles back together jumps out of the opening anthem ' Fight Like a Brave ' and the experimental ' Funky Crime ' ... Slovak and Irons brought things to the Chili Peppers that no one else ever has . " Blaine Sayers of Consequence of Sound praised Slovak 's guitar work on the album , saying that " Slovak proves with these tracks that he was not just a funk guitarist , but he could rock with the best thrash metal bands of the 80s as well . " However , in The New Rolling Stone Record Guide , 4th Edition , author Nathan Brackett was highly critical of The Uplift Mofo Party Plan , giving it two out of five stars . He felt that the album was a minor improvement over the band 's last two efforts , but felt that the group 's offbeat humor detracted from the album : " The California quartet brings a modicum of structure to The Uplift Mofo Party Plan , but their humor ? as their famous ' party on your pussy ' chorus demonstrates ? wouldn 't merit an audience in a high @-@ school locker room . "

= = Tour and Slovak 's death = =

The band embarked on an extensive international tour to promote the album . The Chili Peppers noted that during the tour , their fan base had rapidly increased both in size and enthusiasm . Kiedis recalled " During the Uplift tour I remember actually feeling a change taking place not just in the amount of people showing up at the gigs but the intensity of the fan base . " Flea added that " We were in love with those songs and how much fun we were having playing them . "

Despite the band 's new enthusiasm , Kiedis and Slovak continued to struggle with their worsening drug addictions . Both Kiedis and Slovak stopped using heroin prior to the tour and decided to help each other " steer clear " of the drug . During the tour both experienced intense heroin withdrawal , with Slovak much more unstable than Kiedis . His withdrawal symptoms took a toll on his ability to play his instrument ; at one point Slovak had a mental breakdown and was unable to play a show , leaving the rest of the band to play an entire set with no guitar . He recovered a few days later , but his bandmates felt he was not healthy enough to perform and replaced Slovak with DeWayne McKnight for a few shows . After a few days with McKnight , the band decided to give Slovak another chance , and he rejoined for the European leg of the tour . Kiedis attempted to take Slovak to drug addiction counseling , but Slovak had difficulty admitting that his addiction was serious enough to require medical help .

Upon returning home , Slovak isolated himself from the rest of his bandmates , and struggled to resist the drug without the mutual support provided by his friends , Kiedis in particular . A few weeks after the band returned from the tour , the members attempted to get in contact with Slovak , but were unable to find him for several days . Slovak was found dead by police in his Hollywood apartment on June 27 , 1988 . During his autopsy , authorities determined that he had died on June 25 , 1988 due to a heroin overdose . Irons subsequently left the group , saying that he did not want to be part of a group where his friends were dying . Kiedis and Flea debated whether they should continue making music , but ultimately decided to move ahead , hoping to continue what Slovak " helped build " . The two recruited eighteen @-@ year @-@ old guitarist John Frusciante , who was a fan of the group and idolized Slovak . To replace Irons , the group held a lengthy open audition process , and eventually chose drummer Chad Smith .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Anthony Kiedis , Flea , Hillel Slovak , Jack Irons except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Red Hot Chili Peppers

Anthony Kiedis ? lead vocals

Hillel Slovak ? guitar , sitar ( on " Behind the Sun " ) , vocoder , backing vocals

Flea - bass guitar , backing vocals

Jack Irons ? drums , backing vocals

Additional musicians

Michael Beinhorn ? background vocals

John Norwood Fisher ? background vocals

David Kendly ? background vocals

Angelo Moore ? background vocals

Annie Newman ? background vocals

Recording personnel

Michael Beinhorn ? production

Russell Bracher ? mixing assistant

Judy Clapp ? recording engineer

Stan Katayama ? mixing assistant

John Potoker ? mixing

Howie Weinberg ? mastering engineer

Additional personnel

Nels Israelson ? photography

Henry Marquez ? art direction

Gary Panter ? cover illustration