

= Weezer ( 2001 album ) =

Weezer ( also known as The Green Album ) is the third studio album by the American alternative rock band Weezer , released on May 15 , 2001 , through Geffen Records . Produced by Ric Ocasek , this is the only Weezer album to feature bassist Mikey Welsh , who replaced Matt Sharp . The album is grounded in the power pop genre , featuring strong melodies , crisp vocal harmonies , and prominent guitar riffs . It is also Weezer 's quickest @-@ selling album .

Weezer received generally favorable reviews . The album was often recognized as a rebirth for the band , after a five @-@ year hiatus following their 1996 's album Pinkerton . The album attained chart success by debuting at number 4 in the US and number 2 in Canada . The album also charted within the top ten in Norway and Sweden . Since its release in 2001 , the album has sold over 1 @, @ 600 @, @ 000 copies in the United States .

Three singles were released from the album , including " Hash Pipe " , " Island in the Sun " , and " Photograph " . Its first single , " Hash Pipe " , was a worldwide modern rock hit , charting on seven different charts , despite their record label 's reluctance to release it as the first single .

= = Background and development = =

Following the commercial and critical failure of Pinkerton ( 1996 ) , Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo placed the band on hiatus . He returned to Harvard University to finish his studies , but eventually dropped out to focus on songwriting . During this time , Cuomo played with a different group of musicians in the band Homie , based in Boston . One of the members of Homie was Mikey Welsh , a bass player who would eventually be asked to replace Matt Sharp in Weezer .

By February 1998 , Cuomo had quietly disbanded Homie and headed to Los Angeles to begin work on Weezer demos with Brian Bell and Patrick Wilson . At this point , bassist Matt Sharp was absent from numerous Weezer rehearsals and was becoming estranged from the band . On April 8 , 1998 , Sharp announced his official exit from Weezer to devote all his energies to his band , The Rentals . It was quickly announced that former Homie member Welsh would take over on bass for Weezer . Frustration and creative disagreements led to a decline in rehearsals , and , in the latter half of 1998 , drummer Patrick Wilson left for his home in Portland pending renewed productivity from Cuomo , who went into a period of admitted depression , during which he painted the walls of his home black and put " fiberglass insulation all over the windows and then black sheets of fiberglass so that no light could get through . "

By the beginning of 1999 , Weezer had once again gone their separate ways . Drummer Patrick Wilson resumed his efforts with his side @-@ band The Special Goodness , guitarist Bell worked on his band Space Twins and Welsh toured with Juliana Hatfield . Meanwhile , Cuomo focused his energy on songwriting , crafting 121 songs , nearly half of which would become demos . During this time , he isolated himself and abstained from contact with the outside world . Cuomo also received braces on his teeth , further damaging his self @-@ esteem . Bell would occasionally visit Cuomo and play songs with him . In turn , Cuomo would eventually reveal songs he was working on to Bell .

Unbeknownst to the band , their fanbase was connecting and growing on the internet , which was helping to boost the reputation and sales of Pinkerton . When it was released , Pinkerton was considered a critical and commercial failure ; however , in the years following the release of the album , it would gain a much more positive reputation due to word @-@ of @-@ mouth on message boards and various web pages . This expanding internet activity would later set the stage for the band 's 2001 comeback . Renewed interaction between band members took place when Weezer was offered a lucrative offer to perform in Japan in August 2000 for the Summer Sonic Festival . Rehearsals for the show reinvigorated the band into talking about making a new album . The band returned to performing in June 2000 , playing low @-@ key shows around Los Angeles under the pseudonym Goat Punishment , ensuring that Weezer would only perform for longtime fans who would recognize the name .

Eventually , the band started performing at higher profile gigs such as the Warped Tour . Cuomo

later remarked , " We went in there fully expecting to be booed and to have things thrown at us . But it was exactly the opposite , people were singing along to all the songs and just going crazy , giving us the best support . And I think that gave us the confidence we needed . " The positive response to the Warped Tour performances led to further shows being scheduled . When touring began to wind down , MP3 demos captured live on the band 's mobile unit and sound checks began to surface on file @-@ sharing services and eventually for downloading on the band 's official website . These songs were often referred to as Summer Songs of 2000 ( commonly abbreviated as SS2K ) .

= = Recording = =

On October 23 , Cuomo announced that the band would start recording material " with or without " a producer . However , the band 's record label decided to have the band employ a record producer due to the commercial failure of their self @-@ produced album Pinkerton . The band began rehearsing and arranging both the Summer Songs of 2000 and newer material Cuomo had written at his home with engineer Chad Bamford . The band eventually decided to hire Ric Ocasek ? who had also produced their debut album ? as producer , and began sending demos to Ocasek during the summer of 2000 . There was much debate among the band members as to whether they should record in Los Angeles or Ocasek 's New York home , with the band eventually deciding to record in Los Angeles at Cello Studios . The band continued to demo new music daily and started to weed through more than seventy @-@ five demos , eventually homing in on twenty @-@ five potential album tracks in anticipation of Ocasek 's arrival . Ocasek worked with the band to trim these down further to eighteen songs .

Recording sessions for the album began in early December , with Ocasek providing creative feedback to the band by telephone . On December 27 , the band embarked on what would be close to six weeks of studio work by playing songs repetitively in order to track the bass and drums parts . They also did " scratch takes " of the vocals and guitar , designed to get accurate rhythm tracks before being redone more efficiently later in the recording process . While recording the album , the band continued to perform gigs under the pseudonym Goat Punishment .

During the recording sessions , an executive at the band 's label , Geffen Records , visited to observe the band 's progress and expressed dissatisfaction with several tracks . This feedback eventually forced the band to discard a few of the album 's possible songs . The band then relocated for three weeks to a smaller studio in another part of Cello Studios where Cuomo and Bell worked on guitar takes while the entire band recorded vocal tracks . Ocasek said : " Rivers always does his guitar parts in one take . "

Mixing for the album began on January 31 by Tom Lord @-@ Alge at South Beach Studios . Bell was absent from the mixing process .

= = Packaging = =

The art direction of the album was handled by Chris Bilheimer with photography from Marina Chavez and Karl Koch . The album cover was shot between band practices and featured Mikey Welsh , Rivers Cuomo , Brian Bell and Patrick Wilson standing left to right in front of a plain , lime @-@ green backdrop in a manner similar to the band 's debut album . This was done as a tribute to Ric Ocasek , who had also produced their first album , and also to symbolize the band 's back @-@ to @-@ basics approach they took while recording the album . This approach is alluded to in a quote in the liner notes of the album : " Torniamo all 'antico e sarà un progresso " , from Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi that means " Let us return to old times and that will be progress . "

The picture inside of the CD booklet is a photo of Weezer playing live , featuring ( in the lower right hand corner ) an overlay of the silhouettes of Mike Nelson , Tom Servo and Crow T. Robot from the television show Mystery Science Theater 3000 . ( Hence the liner note citation " MST3K silhouette appears courtesy of Best Brains , Inc . " )

This was Weezer 's first album to feature a transparent CD tray . Under the CD tray of the album , the word " No " can be found on the back of the spine . Some fans speculate that this is a response

to the inside tray of Radiohead 's album OK Computer which contains the text " I like you . I like you . You are a wonderful person . I 'm full of enthusiasm . I 'm going places . I 'll be happy to help you . I am an important person , would you like to come home with me ? " Weezer 's official explanation was vague , with webmaster Karl Koch stating " No means no . "

The album contains the dedication " In loving memory of Mykel and Carli . " Mykel and Carli Allan were sisters devoted to developing fan clubs for up @-@ and @-@ coming bands . The sisters had been influential in starting and developing Weezer 's official fan club in the 1990s and , along with their young sister Trysta , died in a car accident in 1997 .

= = Release and promotion = =

The album was met with enthusiasm from the record label ; according to Weezer collaborator Karl Koch , " They had nothing but supportive and excited things to say about it . " However , the album 's original release date of April 17 was postponed due to executives not liking Cuomo 's choice of " Hash Pipe " as the first single . Citing the song 's lurid content about a transvestite prostitute as inappropriate , they suggested that " Don 't Let Go " be chosen as the first single . However , Cuomo continued to fight and " Hash Pipe " eventually became the album 's first single . The label tried to postpone the release date further until June , but the band convinced them to adhere to the original May 15 release date .

= = = Singles = = =

The first single from the album was " Hash Pipe " . The video for " Hash Pipe " was directed by Marcos Siega and was the first of many Weezer videos that Siega would direct . In the video , Weezer performs in an arena while a group of sumo wrestlers are fighting in the background . The song title was often censored as " H \* \* \* Pipe " ( the title employed on the music video 's title card ) or " Half Pipe . " The song became a huge hit on the MTV show Total Request Live , and also received heavy rotation on radio , eventually peaking at number two on the US Modern Rock Charts . The song even landed the band a nomination for High Times magazine 's " Pot Song of the Year " .

The next single , " Island in the Sun " , was a successful radio hit and became one of the band 's biggest oversea hits . It peaked at number 11 on the US Modern Rock Charts and at number 31 on the UK Top 40 . Two music videos were created for the song : the first video , directed by Marcos Siega , shows Weezer playing the song at a Mexican couple 's wedding reception and features all four band members . This version remains the more obscure of the two , receiving less airplay than the second . The executives at MTV disliked Siega 's video , prompting the band to film a second video . This second version was directed by Spike Jonze and featured the band playing with various wild animals on a supposedly remote hill ( although it was actually filmed a short distance outside of Los Angeles , possibly near Simi Valley ) . Only Brian Bell , Rivers Cuomo and Patrick Wilson appear in this video , as then bassist Mikey Welsh had left the band shortly before shooting . It is also rumored that original bassist Matt Sharp was approached to be in the video , though it is unclear if the offer was ever actually made . Scott Shriner , who was filling in for Welsh and would later become a permanent member of Weezer , stated in the commentary for " Video Capture Device " that he almost asked the band to let him appear in the video . The second video received much wider airplay than the original and has become the standard video for the song .

The third and final single from the album was " Photograph " , which was released to radio in early November . The single peaked at number 17 on the US Modern Rock Charts . In Japan it was released as the first single instead of " Hash Pipe . " The band felt the song didn 't have the staying power of the previous singles , and thus decided to pass on a big @-@ name director for the music video , opting instead to have Karl Koch shoot and edit a video from on @-@ the @-@ road footage .

= = Reception = =

### == Critical reception ==

Weezer received generally favorable reviews . At Metacritic , which assigns a rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 73 out of 100 . AllMusic senior writer Stephen Thomas Erlewine , who gave the album a rating of four and a half stars , stated that " this may seem like nothing special -- it 's just punk @-@ pop , delivered without much dynamic range but with a whole lot of hooks -- but nobody else does it this [ sic ] so well , no matter how many bands try . " PopMatters ' writer Jason Thompson also gave the album a positive review , praising the decision of the band to have Ric Ocasek produce them again : " The guitar solos ring out as joyful as the words . And even the songs ' lengths are nice and compact . Weezer comes in , plays the song , and exits . No overkill makes for many moments where you want to hear these songs again and again . Perhaps having producer Ric Ocasek back on board was one of the best ideas the band had , as The Green Album is certainly water tight all around . " Drowned in Sound gave the album a very positive review , saying " After creating the two greatest pop @-@ rock records in existence it 's time to add a third . One listen to The Green Album has you eating out of Rivers Cuomo 's hand just like in the past . [ ... ] Rivers Cuomo is one of the greatest song @-@ writers that has picked up a guitar . Anyone who can with hold the charms of the Geek @-@ rock quartet are obviously made of stone and complete assholes . Sorry to be blunt but it 's the way it is . God I think the sun 's finally taking its toll . " The album would later rank at number 3 in their list of the best albums of 2001 , tying with System of a Down 's Toxicity and Mogwai 's Rock Action . Q listed Weezer as one of the best 50 albums of 2001 .

Not all the reviews were complimentary . Spencer Owen , writing in Pitchfork Media , called the album " average from beginning to end . " In addition , Sarah Dempster from NME was disappointed with the album and said , " The most irritating aspect of The Green Album is , however , the maddening itch of wasted opportunity . "

### == Chart performance ==

In the United States , Weezer debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 on the week of May 15 , 2001 . In two weeks the album had sold 215 @,@ 000 copies . It was certified platinum on September 13 , 2001 . As of August 2009 , the album has sold over 1 @,@ 600 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . In Canada , the album debuted at number two on the Canadian Albums Chart . In June 2001 , the album was later certified platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) for sales of 80 @,@ 000 units .

The album debuted at number thirty @-@ one on the UK Albums Chart . In Australia , the album peaked at number twenty @-@ five . The album has since been certified two @-@ times platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipment of 140 @,@ 000 copies . Weezer also peaked in the Top Ten in Norway and Sweden , charting and eight and seven respectively .

### == Track listing ==

All songs written and composed by Rivers Cuomo .

UK and Japanese bonus tracks

Japanese bonus track

### == Charts and certifications ==

#### Singles

### == Personnel ==

= = Accolades = =