[Template:Pp-vandalism](/wiki/Template:Pp-vandalism" \o "Template:Pp-vandalism) [Template:Infobox album](/wiki/Template:Infobox_album) ***Blurryface*** (stylized as ***BLURRYFΛCE***) is the fourth album released by the American duo [Twenty One Pilots](/wiki/Twenty_One_Pilots). It is the band's second studio album released through [Fueled by Ramen](/wiki/Fueled_by_Ramen). Originally set to be released on May 19, 2015, it was released two days early by the band on May 17, via [iTunes](/wiki/ITunes).[[1]](#cite_note-1) The album was preceded by its lead single, "[Fairly Local](/wiki/Fairly_Local)", released on March 17, 2015. As of March 2016, the album has sold 792,000 copies in the United States. The album contains the [*Billboard* Hot 100](/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100) top-five single "[Stressed Out](/wiki/Stressed_Out_(Twenty_One_Pilots_song))", which reached number two in February 2016.

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## Background and recording[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Following the release of their third album [*Vessel*](/wiki/Vessel_(Twenty_One_Pilots_album)) (2013), the band toured extensively in support of the album worldwide.<ref name=AMbio>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> While on tour the band had a portable recording studio that allowed them to lay down ideas.[[2]](#cite_note-2) "Heavydirtysoul", "Ride", "Fairly Local", "Tear in My Heart", "Lane Boy" and "Doubt" were recorded with producer [Ricky Reed](/wiki/Ricky_Reed) at Serenity West Recording in Hollywood, California.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> "Stressed Out", "Polarize", "Hometown" and "Not Today" were recorded with producer [Mike Elizondo](/wiki/Mike_Elizondo) at Can Am in Tarzana, California.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> "Ride" was recorded with Reed at Sonic Lounge Studios in Grove City, Ohio.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> "The Judge" was recorded with producer [Mike Crossey](/wiki/Mike_Crossey) at Livingston Studios in London.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> "We Don't Believe What's on TV" and "Goner" were recorded with Reed at Paramount Recording Studios in Hollywood, California.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> "Message Man" was recorded with [Tim Anderson](/wiki/Tim_Anderson_(musician)) at Werewolf Heart in Los Angeles, California.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> The album was mixed by [Neal Avron](/wiki/Neal_Avron), with assistance from Scott Skrzynski, at The Casita in Hollywood, California.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> The album was mastered by Chris Gehringer at [Sterling Sound](/wiki/Sterling_Sound) in New York City, New York.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/>

## Concept[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The album is named after a character the band created called Blurryface. According to Joseph, he "represents all the things that I as an individual, but also everyone around, are insecure about."[[3]](#cite_note-3) Joseph wears black paint on his hands and neck during his live shows and music videos for the album, to represent Blurryface, saying: "Very dramatic, I know, but it helps me get into that character."[[4]](#cite_note-4)

## Artwork and packaging[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Art direction and design was done by Brandon Rike, Reel Bear Media and Virgilio Tzaj.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> Rob Gold was the art manager, while Josh Skubel was in charge of packaging production.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> Jabari Jacobs provided photography.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/>

## Release[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

On March 17, 2015, the band announced the album's title, track listing and release date.[[5]](#cite_note-5) The band's fans crashed their website attempting to pre-order the album.<ref name=RSWAY>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> The band released their new single "[Fairly Local](/wiki/Fairly_Local)" on the same day accompanied by its music video which premiered on official [Fueled by Ramen](/wiki/Fueled_by_Ramen) [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube) channel.[[6]](#cite_note-6) On April 6, the band released the second single of the album, "[Tear in My Heart](/wiki/Tear_in_My_Heart)", with an official music video released through YouTube.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The third single, "[Stressed Out](/wiki/Stressed_Out_(Twenty_One_Pilots_song))", was released on April 28[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) with a music video.[[10]](#cite_note-10) On May 4, 2015, the band posted a YouTube video streaming the audio of the album's 6th track, "Lane Boy",[[11]](#cite_note-11) and released "Ride" seven days later through the same media;[[12]](#cite_note-12) both were also singles, being released on the 4th and 12th, respectively.[[13]](#cite_note-13)[[14]](#cite_note-14) Between the 11th and the 14th the band toured the UK.[[15]](#cite_note-15) The music video for "Ride" was released on May 14,[[16]](#cite_note-16) directed by Reel Bear Media.[[17]](#cite_note-17) On May 19, 2015, the duo performed at the iHeartRadio Theater LA in Burbank, CA to celebrate the album's release.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The concert was livestreamed on iHeartRadio's website. The band has shows and festival stops lasting from May 19 to December 14.[[19]](#cite_note-19) On July 20, the music video for "Lane Boy" was released.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The band is set to play the UK in November.[[21]](#cite_note-21) The tour sold out in a matter of minutes.<ref name=Travers5>Travers 2015, p. 5</ref>

## Reception[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

### Critical reception[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Album ratings](/wiki/Template:Album_ratings)

*Blurryface* received mostly positive reviews from music critics. At [Metacritic](/wiki/Metacritic), which assigns a [normalized](/wiki/Standard_score) rating out of 100 to reviews from [music critics](/wiki/Music_critic), the album has received an [average](/wiki/Weighted_arithmetic_mean) score of 80, based on 5 reviews, signifying "generally favorable reviews".[[22]](#cite_note-22) Garrett Kamps of [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) hailed the album as a "hot mess (in a good way)", but gave it a mixed review, saying that *Blurryface* "doesn't quite reach the heights of Vessel".[[23]](#cite_note-23) [Sputnikmusic](/wiki/Sputnikmusic) and [Alternative Press](/wiki/Alternative_Press) gave *Blurryface* favorable reviews, with the latter being the more positive. Their critic, Jason Pettigrew, described the album as "wonderful" and hailed the band's mix of genres in their songs, highlighting "[Ride](/wiki/Ride_(Twenty_One_Pilots_song))", "Polarize", "Message Man", "[Tear in My Heart](/wiki/Tear_in_My_Heart)", "We Don't Believe What's on TV", "Goner" and "[Lane Boy](/wiki/Lane_Boy)" in his review.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The album was ranked at number 1 in *Alternative Press*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') "10 Essential Records of 2015" list.<ref name=Pettigrew96>Pettigrew 2015, p. 96</ref> Jason Pettigrew of *Alternative Press* wrote that the band combined "hip-hop vistas, tinges of reggae, everyman pop and furious electronic urgency and bellicose sadness into an impossibly cohesive record."<ref name=Pettigrew96/> The album was included at number 2 on *Rock Sound*[Template:'s](/wiki/Template:') top 50 releases of 2015 list.[[25]](#cite_note-25) *Blurryface* was nominated for Album Of The Year at the 2016 [Alternative Press Music Awards](/wiki/Alternative_Press_Music_Awards).[[26]](#cite_note-26) The album also won the category of "Top Rock Album" at the [Billboard Music Awards](/wiki/Billboard_Music_Award).[[27]](#cite_note-27)

### Commercial performance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

*Blurryface* debuted at number one on the [Billboard 200](/wiki/Billboard_200), earning 147,000 [album-equivalent units](/wiki/Album-equivalent_unit) (134,000 pure album sales) in the United States in its first week, making it Twenty One Pilots' highest charting album and marking the band's highest opening week in the U.S.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The group also made their first appearance on the UK top 40 with *Blurryface* debuting at number 14. By November 2015, the album sold 500,000 copies worldwide.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The following month, it was announced the album's U.S. sales was over 505,000 copies.[[30]](#cite_note-30) By January 2016, the album had sold 592,000 copies in the U.S.<ref name=BillJan4>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Two months later, the album's U.S. sales had risen to 753,000 copies.<ref name=USsales2016>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> By the end of March, the album's U.S. sales stood at 792,000.<ref name=BBMar29>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> The album has since been certified gold in Canada<ref name=CanadaGold/> and platinum in the U.S.<ref name=USPlatinum/>

## Track listing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

All songs written by [Tyler Joseph](/wiki/Tyler_Joseph).<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet/> [Template:Track listing](/wiki/Template:Track_listing) [Template:Track listing](/wiki/Template:Track_listing)

## Personnel[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Personnel per booklet.<ref name=BlurryfaceBooklet>[Template:Cite AV media notes](/wiki/Template:Cite_AV_media_notes)</ref>

Twenty One Pilots

* [Tyler Joseph](/wiki/Tyler_Joseph) – programming (tracks 1–6, 8–9 and 12), piano (tracks 1, 5–7 and 12–14), keyboards (tracks 2, 9 and 12), vocals (track 2, 9, 12 and 13), organs (track 3), lead vocals, backing vocals, Hammond organ, synths and gang vocals (track 7), ukulele (tracks 7 and 10), synth bass (track 9)
* [Josh Dun](/wiki/Josh_Dun) – drums (tracks 1–7, 9–10 and 12–14), percussion (track 7), gang vocals (track 7), vocals (track 13)

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Additional musicians

* [Ricky Reed](/wiki/Ricky_Reed) – programming (tracks 1, 3–6, 8 and 14), additional vocals (tracks 1 and 8), bass (tracks 3–6, 10 and 14)
* [Mike Elizondo](/wiki/Mike_Elizondo) – upright bass (track 2), programming (tracks 2, 12 and 13), keyboards (tracks 2, 9, 12 and 13), bass (tracks 9, 12 and 13), synth bass (tracks 9 and 12), guitar (tracks 12 and 13), Hammond B3 (track 13), vocals (track 13)
* [Mike Crossey](/wiki/Mike_Crossey) – programming, bass, synths and gang vocals (track 7)
* Jonathan Gilmore – gang vocals (track 7)
* [Tim Anderson](/wiki/Tim_Anderson_(musician)) – synths and programming (track 11)
* Danny T. Levin – trumpet, trombone and euphonium (track 13)
* David Moyer – tenor sax, alto sax, baritone sax and flute (track 13)
* [LunchMoney Lewis](/wiki/LunchMoney_Lewis) – additional vocals (track 8)

Additional personnel

* [Pete Ganbarg](/wiki/Pete_Ganbarg) – [A&R](/wiki/A&R)
* Brandon Rike – art direction, design
* Reel Bear Media – art direction, design
* Virgilio Tzaj – art direction, design
* Jabari Jacobs – photography
* Rob Gold – art management
* Josh Skubel – packaging production

[Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

Production

* [Tyler Joseph](/wiki/Tyler_Joseph) – executive production, co-production
* Chris Woltman – executive production
* [Ricky Reed](/wiki/Ricky_Reed) – executive production, production (tracks 1, 3–6, 8, 10 and 14)
* [Mike Elizondo](/wiki/Mike_Elizondo) – production (tracks 2, 9, 12 and 13)
* [Mike Crossey](/wiki/Mike_Crossey) – production (track 7)
* [Tim Anderson](/wiki/Tim_Anderson_(musician)) – production (track 11)
* [Neal Avron](/wiki/Neal_Avron) – [mixing](/wiki/Audio_mixing_(recorded_music))
* Chris Gehringer – [mastering](/wiki/Audio_mastering)
* Drew Kapner – engineering (tracks 1, 3–6, 8, 10 and 14)
* Adam Hawkins – engineering (tracks 2, 9, 12 and 13)
* Joe Viers – engineering (track 3)
* Jonathan Gilmore – engineering (track 7)
* Chris Spilfogel – engineering (track 11)
* Scott Skrzynski – assistance
* Michael Peterson – assistance (tracks 1, 4, 6 and 8)
* Brent Arrowood – assistance (tracks 2, 9, 12 and 13)
* Alex Gruszecki – assistance (tracks 3–5)
* Victor Luevanos – assistance (tracks 10 and 14)
* Seth Perez – assistance (track 11)

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## Charts and certifications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

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### Weekly charts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

{| class="wikitable sortable plainrowheaders" style="text-align:center" |- ! scope="col"| Chart (2015–16) ! scope="col"| Peak  
position |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- ! scope="row" |Japanese Albums ([Oricon](/wiki/Oricon))[[31]](#cite_note-31)| 61 |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- [Template:Albumchart](/wiki/Template:Albumchart) |- ! scope="row"| US [*Billboard*](/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) [200](/wiki/Billboard_200)[[32]](#cite_note-32)| 1 |- ! scope="row"| US *Billboard* [Vinyl Albums](/wiki/Vinyl_Albums)[[33]](#cite_note-33)| 1 |} [Template:Col-2](/wiki/Template:Col-2)

### Year-end charts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Chart (2015)** | **Position** |
| **US** [***Billboard* 200**](/wiki/Billboard_200)**<ref name=Bill200YE>**[**Template:Cite web**](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)**</ref>** | 31 |
| **US** [***Billboard* Digital Albums**](/wiki/Digital_Albums)[**[34]**](#cite_note-34) | 19 |
| **US** [***Billboard* Top Rock Albums**](/wiki/Rock_Albums)[**[35]**](#cite_note-35) | 7 |

### Certifications[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Certification Table Top](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Top) [Template:Certification Table Entry](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Entry) [Template:Certification Table Entry](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Entry) [Template:Certification Table Entry](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Entry) [Template:Certification Table Entry](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Entry) [Template:Certification Table Bottom](/wiki/Template:Certification_Table_Bottom) [Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

## Release history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Date** |
| [Template:AUS](/wiki/Template:AUS)[[36]](#cite_note-36) | May 15, 2015 |
| [Template:DEU](/wiki/Template:DEU) |
| [Template:JPN](/wiki/Template:JPN) |
| [Template:IRL](/wiki/Template:IRL) |
| [Template:NLD](/wiki/Template:NLD) |
| [Template:FIN](/wiki/Template:FIN) | May 18, 2015 |
| [Template:DNK](/wiki/Template:DNK) |
| [Template:FRA](/wiki/Template:FRA) |
| [Template:POL](/wiki/Template:POL) |
| [Template:UK](/wiki/Template:UK) |
| [Template:EUR](/wiki/Template:EUR) | May 19, 2015 |
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## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Citations

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[Template:Refend](/wiki/Template:Refend)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

* [*Blurryface*](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLekNfBXtDGkRExD63PyRAHobK-S5uIGr6) at [YouTube](/wiki/YouTube) (streamed copy where licensed)

[Template:Twenty One Pilots](/wiki/Template:Twenty_One_Pilots)

[Category:2015 albums](/wiki/Category:2015_albums) [Category:Albums produced by Mike Elizondo](/wiki/Category:Albums_produced_by_Mike_Elizondo) [Category:Concept albums](/wiki/Category:Concept_albums) [Category:Fueled by Ramen albums](/wiki/Category:Fueled_by_Ramen_albums) [Category:Twenty One Pilots albums](/wiki/Category:Twenty_One_Pilots_albums)