

Arts & Life

Radiohead's *In Rainbows* goes soft rock

by David Ulloa
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Radiohead's internet sensation album *In Rainbows*, is an interesting mixture of the bands established qualities, but fails to be astonishing as something new given its long awaited release.

If you go backwards in Radiohead's discography you might have listened to their first two albums *Pablo Honey* and *The Bends*. The two albums represent their grudge roots and keen detail to sound like R.E.M. The new album has integrated a mellow acoustic sound with a touch of electronic mechanics that could remind you of the previous albums mentioned above, and the later album *Amnesiac*. With the new album's constant swagger of jazzy beats by drummer Philip Selway, and ambient sounds by lead guitarist/sound manipulator, Johnny Greenwood, the lapse of the album is quite calming. Expect for the bodacious attitudes from songs such as "15 Step" and "Bodysnatchers", which are the first two songs of the record. The songs give boost to the exclusive album, but I found them unsettling when I realized I wasn't tapping my foot. Like most of the songs on the record, they lack a strong conviction. I didn't expect it from Radiohead because of their incredibly tenacious songs from *Ok Computer* and *Hail to the Thief*. Those albums had songs that individually pioneered different styles of using synth and rhythm. *In Rainbows* stays frequently

dreary because of the unfortunate trend that happens to all bands that are together for over ten years...they end up being old

songs are lovey dovey and about being a father. Compared to *Hail to the Thief's* angry and paranoid songs, it's clear that the band

has shed their heated skins, and submitted them for their naked souls to be soothed on a rather short record. What more is to come of Radiohead

is unclear, but what is certain is their u-turn to soft rock and pacifism. The album isn't a total failure because of the bands always pleasing performance and studio perfection, but essentially lacks the characteristics of a farewell album. They are leaving us with no surprises, no big bangs, no d r o w n i n g



and tired. It's just like the case with Pearl Jam. Eddie Vedder and the rest of the band will never collaborate the same way again to make an outstanding album like *Ten*. Bands like Pearl Jam and now Radiohead will start making records from their matured and rusty hearts; making die hard fans all around the world subject to their cynical style of writing music.

In regards to Thom York, the style of writing his solo album *The Eraser*, has obviously leaked on to do construction of *In Rainbows*. The similarities are there in both albums, mainly the last seven songs. Thom has said before that Radiohead might be parting ways after this album because of personal reasons pertaining to his fatherhood. That reasoning is very apparent in the songs lyrical content. Most of the

is over everything now, including politics. The band

electronic rock, and with no certainty.

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Start a compost pile at home to dispose of food wastes instead of adding that waste to the landfill.

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Attend the Step It Up rally this weekend and the recycling compound clean up Wednesday.