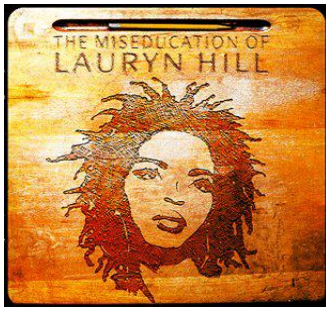


The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill

Ivy Gifford



Lauryn Hill is a singer, songwriter, actress and record producer, although she is most popularly known as an R&B vocalist. Lauryn was born in South Orange, New Jersey on May 26th, 1975. She began publically singing in middle school with her rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" which she performed before a basketball game. She got her "claim-to-fame-" in the mid-90's rap group The Fugees, partnering with young rappers Wyclef Jean and Pras. Although she got her start in The Fugees, that eventually escalated to a very successful solo career. The band's breakup in 1997, pushed Lauryn to illustrate her emotions into a critically acclaimed, award-winning album. The Fugees breakup is believed to have been due to Lauryn's struggles with drug abuse and troublesome relationship with fellow band member Wyclef Jean.



Flash Forward to 1996, prior to the band's breakup, Lauryn meets Rohan Marley and becomes pregnant with his child. Her pregnancy and drug abuse are what inspired the emotion behind this album. This review will highlight the tracks that show the raw emotion and unique diversity of this album.



“To Zion”

“To Zion” Is the fourth track on this album and was inspired by Lauryn's pregnancy with her son Zion, now nineteen years of age. This song is filled with great detail and specifically descriptive lyrics about the emotion she felt during this process. In the song she touches on the pressure she felt to give the baby up for adoption or have an abortion. She explains that her peers did not believe she could be a mother and maintain a successful career.



“Ex-Factor”

Ex-Factor is the second single off this album and discusses Lauryn’s relationship with Wyclef . She goes into specific detail about the emotional and mental abuse she suffered whilst in this relationship. Although she does not say his name, it is easy to tell who the song was written about. This stirred up controversy with the media and the public.

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill was nominated for 10 Grammys after it’s release. It won 5 of those 10, and was the first Hip Hop album to win “Album of the Year”. Lauryn Hill made an amazing impact throughout her career as a powerful woman in Hip Hop. Firstley in The Fugees and later with her solo career. Not to mention her inspiring recover from drug and alcohol addiction.



The Fugees album *The Score* was nominated for “Album of the Year” in 1996, but not won. Three years Lauryn won that title and 4 more with her solo album.

Other rewards from the 1999 Grammys include “Best New Artist”, “Best R&B Album”. The 5th track “Doo Wop (that thing)” won “Best Female Video” and “Best R&B Video”.

This album sold more than 8 million copies in total.

This is one of my favourite albums of all time, I love all Lauryn's work both solo and with The Fugees. I am genuinely thankful to have heard this album growing up. This album will always have a special place in my heart. I have listened to it through and through countless times and do not see myself ever getting sick of it. My dad showed me this album on a road trip we took together and it enhanced the memory so much. This illustrates the diversity of the album and it's listeners. Absolutely phenomenal album, 9/10. It is inspiring to see a woman do so well in a predominantly male profession and genre of music.