



Biggie Looms Large

BY CAEL CLANCY
Staff Writer

In the greatest era of gangster rap, *The Notorious B.I.G.'s Ready to Die* sets itself apart as the defining classic from the time period. Through genius rhyme schemes and creative storytelling, Biggie's debut studio album perfectly matches the harsh climate of Brooklyn in the '90s.

The album starts off with an intro that contains dialogue from Biggie's childhood,

and the track "Things Done Changed" gives the listener a good image of what it was like to grow up in that setting. What sets this album apart is its storytelling. Biggie has this outstanding ability to tell an entire story in full detail without sacrificing catchiness or replayability. Songs like "Warning" and "Everyday" are all worthy of anyone's playlist, and each time you listen, you gain something new or catch a detail you didn't last time.

Of course, you can't talk about this album without mentioning its most recognizable hits, "Juicy" and "Big Poppa," each one having gone six times platinum. Biggie oozes cha-

risma on these tracks, rapping about all the luxuries that come with his fame and riches, and creating two songs with memorable lyrics and the most famous beats in hip hop. To quote the man himself, "[he's] got techniques dripping out [his] buttcheeks." Biggie's articulate flow, catchy choruses, and boasting swagger are all factors that contributed to the greatest rap album of the '90s and paved the way for him to become the most influential rapper in the age that defined the genre.

'Freaks and Geeks' is a Hidden '90s Gem

BY VEE WILLIAMSON
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Airing for only one season, *Freaks and Geeks* is a hidden gem of the '90s. Packed full of heartfelt emotion and outstanding acting from Linda Cardellini, who plays main character Lindsay Weir, this show is unapologetically earnest.

Not enough people have seen *Freaks and Geeks* to give it the extra boost of publicity needed to gain recognition, and that's because it's underwhelming at first glance. Looking at the description, it might seem as if it's your average story about high school outcasts trying to fit in, and it is. What makes

the storytelling so appealing is the characters. Cardellini's realistic portrayal of a rebellious, emotional teen and Neal Schweiber's (Sam Levine) dry moments of comedic relief draw you further and further into their world.

For a show that aired in the '90s, the depiction of trauma and struggling with your sense of identity is still extremely relevant to today's audience, giving everyone something to relate to. I applaud the writers for their detailed care in creating the characters instead of making them bland and lifeless. *Freaks and Geeks* is real and separates the distinct personalities of everyone, straying from the typical stereotypes of every teenage-based show.

Best Of The '90s

1. Ready to Die
The Notorious B.I.G.
2. Basket Case
Green Day
3. Smells Like Teen Spirit
Nirvana
4. California Love
2Pac, Roger, Dr. Dre
5. Zero
The Smashing Pumpkins



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