

I don't know about you, but Taylor Swift's debut

 is feeling 20, too

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Twenty years ago on Oct. 24, 2006, a 16 year old girl from Pennsylvania released her debut album, just four months after her first song, “Tim McGraw” came out.

Twenty years ago, the Taylor Swift singer, songwriter and national phenomenon was born.

Since her debut, she has become the only artist in history to win Album of the Year four times at the Grammys with “Fearless” -her second album-, “1989” -her fifth album-, “Folklore” -her eighth album- and Midnights -her 10th album-.

Swift has also had 33 MTV Music Video Award wins, four of which were for Video of the

Year. She became the youngest female artist to receive the Songwriters Hall of Fame honor when she was inducted earlier this year.

In fact, Swift wrote the entirety of her third album, “Speak Now,” by herself. Just to put it into perspective, Swift was 20 when that album came out.

Even earlier than that album, however, was her debut album which spent 24 non-consecutive weeks at number one on Billboard’s Top Country Albums chart.

Her first few albums were of the country genre. Her debut or self-titled album mentions trucks in many of the lyrics and stereotypical other country lyrics. “Should’ve Said No” and “Picture to Burn,” my favorite songs from her debut album,

are distinctly country. Probably more country than the current country artists from today’s era (I’m looking at you, Ella Langley).

Her fourth studio album,

“Red,” started her transition from country to pop. From there, her music genres and mood changed with every album. “1989” was pop while “Folklore” and “Evermore”

were more indie folk.

Swift has an album for everyone. While someone might not be a fan of country, they might love “The Tortured Poets Department” or “The Life of a Showgirl.”

For me, I love just about every album. However, “Midnights” and even some of “The Tortured Poets Department” I just don’t vibe with. To be a fan of Taylor Swift, you don’t have to enjoy all of her songs and I doubt she expects her fans to because her albums all sound so different.

Taylor Swift has only grown in her popularity over the past 20 years. Even when she went on her three year hiatus and social media blackout between “1989” and “Reputation,” she was still

a major talking point in the music industry space due to the feud caused by Kanye West and Kim Kardashian.

Imma finish but first, Kanye did NOT make Taylor Swift famous. In fact, Swift is definitely more influential and popular than the rapper.

Although some see Swift as falling off in her writing and other aspects of her career, I don’t believe so. While the encore of “The Life of a Showgirl” was some of the worst work by the songwriter I’ve ever seen, I enjoyed many aspects of the album.

Just like me, Swift’s debut album is 20. And while Swift may have grown from her Nashville country genre, she’s just as influential and as great of a musician today as she was when she was 16.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE MAGAZINE

Boy Throb: Union, Tour and “Throbiversary”

ROBYN CANARD
SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Since their debut in October of last year, Boy Throb– a rising four-member boy band– has made headlines across the globe in their quest to bring their fourth member, Darshan Magdum, to the United States.

Boy Throb got their start on TikTok taking popular songs and turning them into parodies about wanting Magdum in the U.S.. For his application, they needed to establish that Magdum had “extraordinary abilities” and Boy Throb’s fame was a way to do that. If they could get famous enough, the U.S. immigration system might approve him.

In this journey, they’ve sold out shows in a “Rehearsal Tour” with Magdum participating via Zoom, gained over 2 million followers across TikTok and Instagram, and even signed a record deal with Kesha Records, owned, of course, by seasoned popstar Kesha.

However, their quest has finally come to an end, as on Oct. 17, 2026, Darshan arrived in the United States and was finally united with the rest of the band at the American Dream Mall in New Jersey in an event dubbed “Darshan Day.”

Since uniting, the band has started on a ten-day Great American Road Tour, or GART, that will stop in major cities across the nation; the places

they’ve already “throbbled” in include Valparaiso and Chicago in Illinois, South Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, Denver in Colorado and Washington, D.C..

That’s not all, though, as they’ve also “throbbled” in the city hall of New York, of which they were given a personal tour by Mayor Zohran Mamdani, making them the first band to enter their administration.

The locations the band chooses to perform in are purely decided by fan submissions, that is to say there’s no official date and location list that would typically come with tours like these. Although, to their credit, the seemingly random stops announced a day or a few hours

before arrival does certainly add to the “road trip” theme.

Also notable in their GART is the sponsorships they’ve gained on the road, which include JBL Audio, specifically for their noise canceling headphones, and Chomps. This is not their first time handling sponsorships, though, as they’ve previously been sponsored by brands such as CeraVe and Doordash, the latter of which they worked with social media personality Trisha Paytas.

On the final day of the GART, October 28, Boy Throb will return to Los Angeles to host a welcoming event at The Vermont Hollywood, a famous venue known for hosting big-name artists like SZA and Lil

Wayne.

This event, dubbed the “Throbiversary” is a dance party celebrating not just Darshan’s arrival to the United States, but also the band’s one year anniversary. Though hosting, the members of Boy Throb will also be active participants in the party, as they wrote on Eventbrite.com that they intend for fans to “party with the boys all night.”

The “Throbiversary” will also include a photobooth, a costume contest, themed drinks and, allegedly, other entertaining features. This event will be co-hosted by Club 90s, a touring LA-based brand known for organizing parties and party-like functions, with its specialty



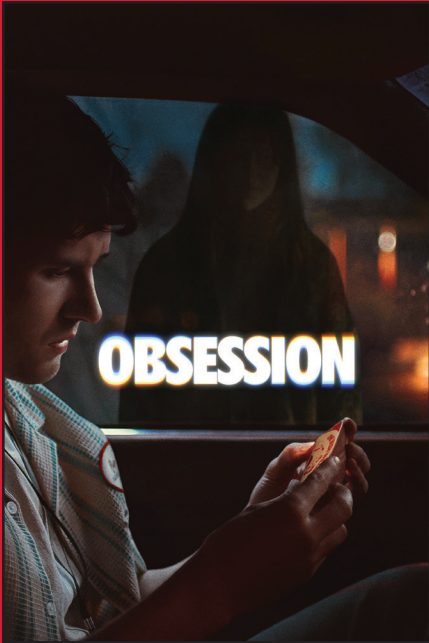
PHOTO COURTESY OF NPR

lying in nightlife.

Boy Throb’s success is one everyone can celebrate and dance to.

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