Get Up Kids inspire to go out and buy

By Bill Greenwood
Opinion Editor

Forget everything that has ever been said about the Get Up Kids. The band that originally created emo/punk gems such as *Something to Write Home About* and *Four Minute Mile* is gone. While that may sound like a bad thing to some; it’s actually quite the opposite.

The fact that this band is no longer stuck within the boundaries of punk rock and emo is something that the listener must understand to fully enjoy *Guilt Show*. This is an alternative pop/rock record and a great one at that. Most of the songs presented here are upbeat, three-minute pop songs influenced by many different styles of music.

The Get Up Kids’ members have been involved in many different side projects over the past year and they all contribute to this album’s diverse sound. Lead singer Matt Pryor released a full-fledged pop album under the name of the New Amsterdams and this style influences a great deal of the songs on *Guilt Show*. This, tempered with the punk from previous Get Up Kids releases, presents an interesting take on the pop genre.

*Guilt Show* kicks off with the high-energy track “Man of Conviction.” The song gets the ball rolling while making the listener aware that the band hasn’t completely forsaken the punk scene. The next three songs establish the mood of the album. The band kicks off with the high-energy track “Man of Conviction.” The song gets the ball rolling with the punk from previous Get Up Kids releases, establishing the mood of the album. The band completely forsaken the punk scene.

The next three tracks, “Man of Conviction,” “How Long is Too Long,” and “Martyr Me” bring closure to their previous Get Up Kids releases with their catchy melodies and harmonies.

The high point of this album is undoubtedly the song “Sick in Her Skin.” This song demonstrates the true songwriting prowess that this band possesses. It begins with Pryor and guitarist Jim Suptic playing two similar but different guitar riffs that swirl around each other and intertwine in an almost dreamlike fashion. James Dewees’ keyboards add to the atmosphere with small touches here and there while drummer Ryan Pope and bassist Robbie Pope keep the beat on track. Eventually, the song breaks down only to build back up to a climax that sees the band dusting off its old punk rock muscle while Pryor screams “It’s all over now” on top of it all.

Finally, the track returns to its more subdued two-guitar technique, ending on a melodic note after a musical roller coaster ride of style changes and emotion.

With *Guilt Show*, the Get Up Kids have taken the inevitable next step with its sound. It has broken out of the boundaries of being an emo/punk band and entered the pop realm. While many may be turned off by this new style, the album remains an impressive piece of work well-suited for the drive home.