PUSHA T RELEASES SECOND SINGLE FEATURING INDUSTRY LEGENDS JAY-Z AND PHARRELL WILLIAMS







To start your Wednesday, Pusha T released the second single off of his upcoming album, featuring both Jay-Z and Pharrell Williams. The single, titled "Neck & Wrist," provides fans with the third collaboration between Pusha T and Jay-Z, with Pharrell jumping in to provide legendary production and vocals on the chorus. As expected with a Pusha T track, the song invokes heavy references and themes of drugs and luxurious living, albeit with creative lyricism over a hard-hitting hip hop beat.

Pusha immediately provides listeners with some useful information, (or perhaps constructive criticism?) when he sharply states "You supposed to put the first five hundred in the safe and lose the combination." His commanding declaration is similar to the single Pusha T released back in February, "Diet Coke," where the track opens with one of the most applicable lines of 2022 in "Yesterday's price is not today's price." A hard hitting intro is always greatly appreciated on any hip hop song, and Pusha T is two-for-two thus far with his new album.

I personally am a big fan of the chorus on "Neck & Wrist," as Pharrell first flexes that he was "First in the Beach with a million-dollar auto," a reference to him being one of the original owners of an incredibly rare Ferrari Enzo, according to Genius. At the end of each chorus, listeners are reminded of the song's title with the line "Neck and wrist don't lie," as the jewelry on these rappers' bodies serves as a reflection of the success they've experienced throughout their careers.

Pusha T also provides some creative lyricism throughout the song, with fans being accustomed to searching for creative cocaine references throughout his discography. Pusha T provides just that in the first verse, where he states "Summertime, Winterfell, I'm the Night King." As a Game of Thrones fan, I'll always appreciate a reference, but it's pretty obvious that the snow in the show's Winterfell is not the same snow in Pusha T's Winterfell.

I'd be remiss if I didn't talk about a Jay-Z bar in this blog, as this is Jay-Z's first feature since Drake's "Certified Lover Boy" and Kanye West's "Donda" in September and August 2021, respectively. Jay-Z opens his verse with, "The phase I'm on, love, I wouldn't believe it either/I'd be like, 'Jay-Z's a cheater,' I wouldn't listen to reason either/All I know is he's a felon, how is he selling." Now I'll be honest, on first listen, I thought this was a pretty standard Hov bar, until I started my deep dive. I vaguely remember someone trying to discredit Jay-Z's street credibility a while back, and I guess this someone was actor Faizon Love. As Jay-Z always wins, he calls out the actor by making a play on his name by saying "The phase I'm on, love," and then sympathetically saying that he understands where Love is coming from, but he's wrong. This is incredibly creative, and yet another example of why many consider Jay-Z to be the greatest rapper of all time.

Overall, I really like the direction of where Pusha T's album is going so far, and I'm excited for the full album to be released. This will be the first Pusha T album since 2018's Grammy-nominated "Daytona," so the expectations are high. Due to my age, I only became familiar with Pusha T through his G.O.OD. Music era and collaborations with Kanye West before diving back into his entire discography, but he's a mainstay in the hip hop community who has only perfected his craft with time over the years.

Shortly after "Neck & Wrist" was released on streaming services, Pusha went on social media to announce that the title of his forthcoming album would be "It's Almost Dry." He also shared that tickets for "Phase 1" of his tour "with special guests" would go on sale this Friday, April 8th. Personally, I'm definitely interested in seeing King Push live, especially if I can hear some of his G.O.O.D. Music era songs and especially "Diet Coke."

Pusha T did not share when "It's Almost Dry" would be released, although if you can read between the lines, it does appear that the press tour is in full effect. Aside from the two singles, Pusha T has also appeared on Hot Ones and went Sneaker Shopping with Complex. For now, enjoy those videos, listen to the singles, and get excited for "It's Almost Dry" because it's almost here.





