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Billy Talent – *Self-Titled*

Atlantic – September 16, 2003

By: Jessica Maxwell

It's hard to believe that it has already been more than a decade since the release of Billy Talent's eponymous self-titled debut album back in 2003, but time flies and here we are.

It is fair to say that in the early 2000's, Canadian rock music was in a bit of a lull. The airwaves were ruled by alternative-pop artists like Alanis Morsette and Avril Lavigne and the only major rock bands were acts like Nickelback and The Bare Naked Ladies, so the shock value was minimal. When the members of Billy Talent—who had formed at a Streetsville, ON, highschool and had been performing together under the moniker PEZ for years—finally broke into the mainstream, they put a stamp on Canadian rock music that was difficult to ignore.

Fueled by thrashing power chords and Ian D'Sa signature guitar riffs, a tandem of thundering bass and drums from Jon Gallant and Aaron Solowoniuk respectively, and the distinctly raw and always abrasive vocal stylings of frontman Ben Kowalewicz', *Billy Talent* was the kind of debut record that establishes the trajectory of a band's career.