



THIS DAY IN MUSIC: JIMMY EAT WORLD - "BLEED AMERICAN" RELEASED: JULY 24, 2001

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After Nirvana disbanded in April of 1994 following the sudden and tragic death of Kurt Cobain, the rock world was reeling. Music had lost an icon and many had lost a friend. For drummer Dave Grohl, who was battling bouts of depression himself, dealing with that loss meant returning to the studio as soon as possible to record a handful of songs he had written during the band's final months together.

Though he was rumored to have been courted by numerous musicians including Tom Petty and Pearl Jam, Grohl opted not to join forces with an already established act but to strike out on his own and release a solo album instead.

Recording 15 of the 40 tracks he had previously prepared, Grohl played just about every instrument on the album and took on vocal duties as well. Upon completion, Grohl titled the project "Foo Fighters"—a commonly used World War II era term used to describe unidentified flying objects—and began approaching friends for feedback. Intent on a low key release, he originally planned to press a mere 1000 LP's however, as word began to circulate within the industry the major labels eventually came knocking. Shortly after, Grohl penned a deal with Capitol Records and the Foo Fighters self-titled debut album was released on July 4th, 1995 to generally positive reviews.

Though most critics were quick to compare the band to Nirvana, it was evident that the Foo Fighters' sound was far more influenced by classic hard rock and that Grohl was now coming at things from a different place. The album went on to produce 6 singles including breakout hit "This Is A Call" and "Big Me," which found crossover success on both rock and pop radio. The album was also nominated for Best Alternative Album at the 1996 Grammy Awards, but ironically lost to Nirvana's MTV Unplugged.