

**SIGHTS
&
SOUNDS**

Years Later, Lauryn Hill Still Rocks

By De'Antre Woodland

On first listen, Lauryn Hill's solo debut, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," is nothing less than a gem. By the second listen, you've already declared it to be one of the greatest albums of all time.

The soul, incomparable textures and raw passion in Hill's voice is felt all throughout the clever concept album; which by the way is written and produced by Hill herself.

The unedited rawness in her voice as she sings from her heart sacred lyrics that will grab your soul is no mistake.

"I like the rawness of you being able to hear the scratch in the vocals. I don't ever want that taken away," Hill has said. Adding, "I don't like to use compressors and take away my textures, because I was raised on music that was recorded before technology advanced to the place where it could be smooth. I wanna hear that thickness of sound."

On Miseducation," Hill shows exactly how imperfection can, too, be perfect. The

heart wrenching instruments coincide perfectly with the heartfelt experiences Hill sings about so emotionally and beautifully.

On fan-favorite track, "To Zion," Hill sings through her experience of becoming pregnant in the middle of what seemed like the climax of her success.

She even touches on her peers in the music industry insisting she abort her child. "Look at your career they said/Lauryn baby use your head/but instead I chose to use my heart."

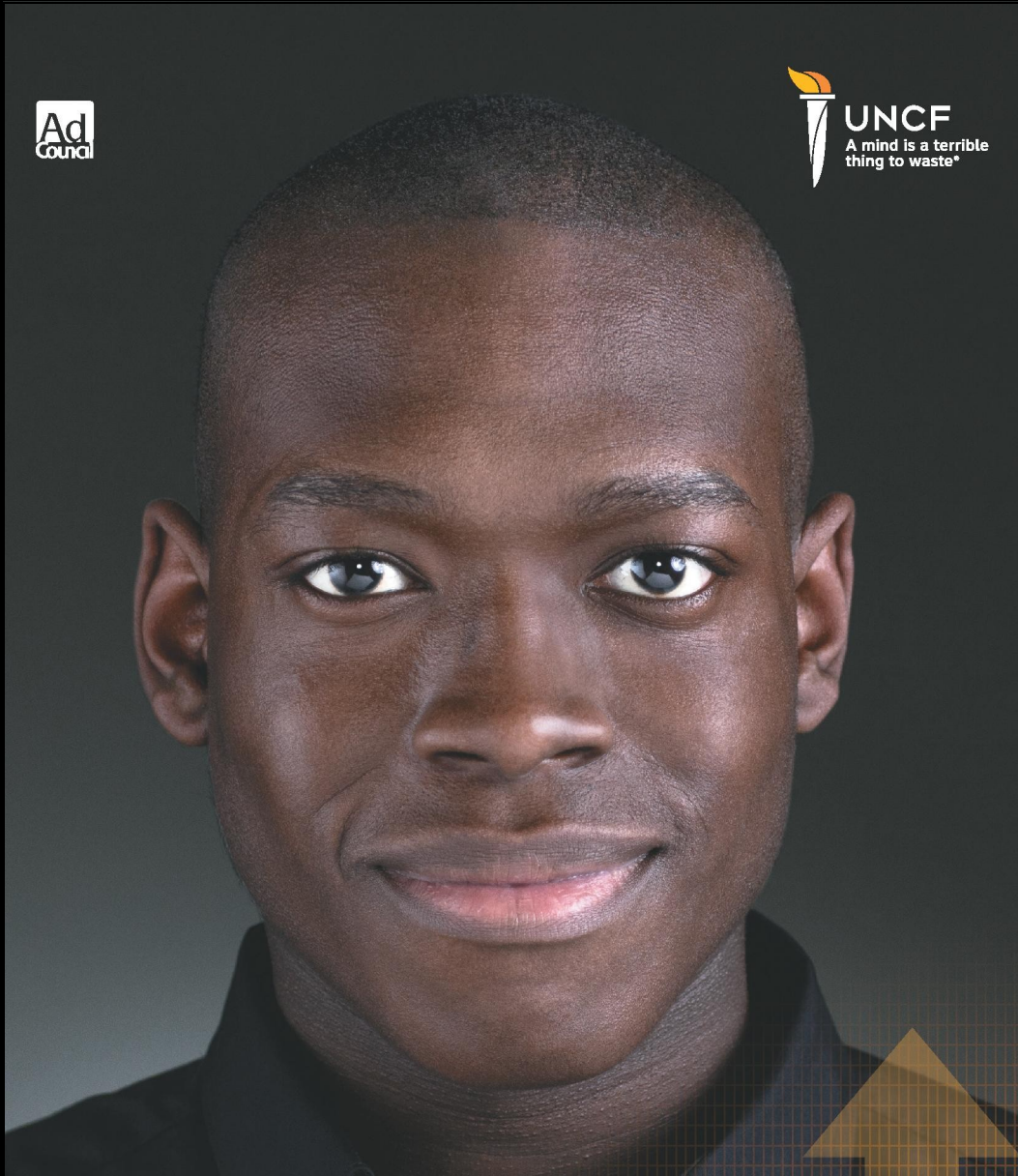
As a result of following her heart, Hill not only gave birth to a beautiful child she named Zion, but also to a powerful tune that will touch the souls of many.

Following her heart turned out to be one of the best decisions Hill has ever made and in "Zion," it is obvious she feels the same.

Backed by a choir, singing notes that listeners may think that only a bird could hit, the joy her decision to give Zion life was felt all throughout. Now, almost two decades later, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" remains a most revealing, authentic, and even therapeutic album.

"Lauryn Hill shows exactly how imperfection can too be perfect."





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