# The Darkness returns with new album Dreams on Toast



The irreverent glam-rock band The Darkness has made a notable comeback with the release of their eighth studio album, titled *Dreams on Toast*. The album, which showcases a mixture of anthemic stadium rock, Seventies-inspired pop, heartfelt ballads, and elements of country, was released on the previous day, marking a significant moment in the band's evolution. Justin Hawkins, the band's flamboyant frontman, shared insights into their journey and the recent creative shift during an interview, emphasising a newfound artistic direction.

Reflecting on their past, Hawkins recalls an incident from 2005 when a copy of their then-upcoming album *One Way Ticket to Hell... and Back* appeared on eBay before its release. Hawkins bought the album for £350 after discovering it had been leaked by a music journalist who had not listened to it before submitting a negative review. He expressed his frustration about critics who dismiss the band's music without proper engagement, highlighting an ongoing struggle for respect in the industry.

Despite experiencing a decline in popularity after their breakthrough, The Darkness has persevered since reuniting in 2011. Over the years, they have produced several albums, gradually reclaiming their place in the rock scene. Hawkins explained that the band's earlier music lacked the boldness and passion that characterised their initial work. In contrast, *Dreams on Toast* represents a broader creative vision. "There’s [experimental] stuff that I’ve been trying to do since the first record that I’m finally allowed to do,” Hawkins elaborated, indicating a newfound freedom in their musical experimentation.

Among the tracks, "I Hate Myself" stands out for its jazzy energy and poignant lyrics reflecting personal issues around body image and mental health. This depth of content indicates a shift from the band's initial novelty and humour-laden style to a more reflective and serious approach. Hawkins noted that he aims to create art rather than simply catering to audience expectations.

The release of *Dreams on Toast* arrives amid a backdrop of wider cultural discussions about artistic integrity and the pressures of public perception. Hawkins has not shied away from presenting his artistic views candidly, including recent YouTube commentary that sparked debate within the industry. He remarked on the changing landscape of music and the influence of online platforms, illustrating the fine line artists walk between creativity and audience approval.

In addition to The Darkness's resurgence, Alex Warren, a Californian singer and founding member of the Hype House collective, secured his spot at the top of the UK singles chart with his song "Ordinary." A heartfelt tribute to his wife, the song has gained significant traction, complemented by two additional tracks within the UK Top 40. Reflecting on his rapid success, Warren expressed his surprise at the speed of his rise, stating, "All of this is happening really quickly. I'm honestly blown away."

Warren's journey to success was not without its hardships. He faced homelessness at 18 after being expelled from his mother's home, compounded by his struggles with family issues arising from his father's death. Throughout this challenging period, he forged a deep connection with his eventual wife, Kouvr Annon. Their shared experiences during difficult times propelled both of them into the realms of social media fame, ultimately leading to Warren's music career.

His early music sought to address authentic emotional experiences, distinguishing him from other influencers in the industry who might be seen as capitalising on fleeting fame without deeper substance. Warren's ability to resonate with his audience through genuine storytelling has solidified his position within the music scene.

As both The Darkness and Alex Warren navigate their respective paths, they highlight the dynamic and often tumultuous landscape of the modern music industry. Each artist's evolution—one marked by a celebration of flamboyance and revival, and the other by an earnest exploration of personal and relational narratives—provides a glimpse into the diverse experiences shaping contemporary music. In a year poised for artistic exploration and significant releases, both acts emphatically affirm the importance of authenticity and creativity in resonating with audiences.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://myglobalmind.com/2024/09/18/the-darkness-return-with-dreams-on-toast-eighth-studio-album-due-march-2025/> - This URL supports the claim about The Darkness's eighth studio album, Dreams On Toast, and its release in March 2025. It also provides information about the album's creative direction.
* <https://blabbermouth.net/news/the-darkness-announces-new-album-dreams-on-toast> - This URL corroborates the details about The Darkness's new album and their upcoming UK tour, emphasizing their return to prominence in the rock scene.
* <https://store.loudersound.com/products/issue-339-the-darkness-magazine-exclusive-dreams-on-toast-cassette> - This URL supports the release of Dreams On Toast and provides details about the album's availability in a special edition cassette, highlighting the band's continued evolution.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not directly about The Darkness, this URL pertains to the source of the text discussing both The Darkness and Alex Warren's careers within the context of modern music industry dynamics.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Darkness> - While not directly linked in the search results, this Wikipedia page provides extensive background information on The Darkness, supporting their earlier work and career history.
* <https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_Warren_(cantante)> - Although not specifically found in the search results, this Wikipedia page (if available) might provide details about Alex Warren's biography and career, supporting his journey and success in the music industry.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/music/features/the-darkness-interview-justin-hawkins-b2721827.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data