Record Report

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Justin Timberlake’s new album divides fans

**M**aking a splash at the 2018 Super Bowl, Justin Timberlake performed a healthy mix of old and news songs. Similar to other artists, Timberlake’s latest album “Man of the Woods” takes a step out of his comfort zone of pop and into Americana-esque and a return to his Tennessee roots.

Interestingly, Timberlake’s new album has managed to stir up controversy just from the album artwork. Posed stoically in a flannel among a grove of trees, Timberlake gives off the air of a 2016 Beck. Fans have accused him of fake “wokeness” and simply hopping on the bandwagon of genre-crossing after artists like Harry Styles proved it to be a successful decision.

The album, which admittedly has some stranger tracks, seems to offer Timberlake’s most exploratory, genre-deviant music in years. Fans simply wanted more easy-on-the-ears pop. Having become a father in 2015, many of Timberlake’s new tracks reflect his newfound primary interests in family and hard work in songs like “Livin’ Off the Land” and “Supplies.”

Compared to the Fleet Foxes by the Rolling Stone magazine, Timberlake promises more indie-folk inspired tracks. The album’s most popular song “Filthy”- which was performed at the Super Bowl- showcases the album’s futuristic beats as well as a nod to his older style of music. Many of Timberlake’s fans see this album as an attempt to market himself to shifting pop culture tastes, however others say that he is simply experimenting with new material.

Regardless of Timerberlake’s motivations, his hard work has paid off and his album is making waves. Any media is good media, right? Even as Timberlake faces criticism, he has announced his plans to continue his experimentation and introspection.