

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: THE BEST OF THE GIN BLOSSOMS CHRONICLES
POPULAR '90S MODERN ROCK BAND

The Gin Blossoms were one of the most amazing success stories of the '90s. Rocketing out of the college charts and into the modern rock mainstream, its debut album was quadruple platinum, its sophomore album platinum, and songs such as "Hey Jealousy," "Found Out About You" and "Follow You Down" major hits on radio and video. Yet by decade's end, the band had broken up.

Outside Looking In: The Best Of The Gin Blossoms (A&M Records/UME), released October 19, 1999, is the first comprehensive overview of this popular group. Along with 12 previously released tracks from two major label albums are the first appearances on a full-length Gin Blossoms album of "Til I Hear It From You" (from the 1995 Empire Records soundtrack) and a live "Whitewash" (previously on a promo EP). The package also features rare photos and extensive liner notes.

Attesting to the Gin Blossoms' impact, the band plans to reunite for a one-off New Year's Eve performance at Phoenix's Millennium celebration. In addition, new groups from lead singer Robin Wilson and drummer Phillip Rhodes (Gas Giants), and guitarist Scott Johnson (Peacemakers) will each debut this fall.

The Gin Blossoms' guileless guitar pop was first heard in hometown Tempe, Arizona. In 1989, College Music Journal dubbed it the best unsigned band in the country. Signed to A&M, the Gin Blossoms (Wilson, Rhodes, guitarists Doug Hopkins and Jesse Valenzuela, bassist Bill Leen) cut 1991's Up And Crumbling EP, with "Just South Of Nowhere," and launched the Please God Don't Let Us See Our Ex-Girlfriends On The Road Tour.

The band's first full-length A&M album, 1993's New Miserable Experience, started slow but it, "Hey Jealousy" and "Found Out About You" would dominate radio and MTV for the

following year. The album's other chart hits included "Mrs. Rita," "Allison Road" and "Until I Fall Away." **Outside Looking In** also includes "Cajun Song" and "Pieces Of The Night."

During the recording, Scott Johnson replaced the troubled Hopkins (who later committed suicide). The Blossoms then went on the road opening for Toad the Wet Sprocket, Del Amitri, the Neville Brothers, and UB40, and headlined its own Let You Down Live and Your Party Sucks tours, as well as its first stadium tour, sharing the bill with the Spin Doctors.

Congratulations...I'm Sorry in 1996 affirmed the Blossoms' status as a big-time rock band. A Top 10 charter, platinum certified and boasting the Top 10 hit "Follow You Down," "As Long As It Matters," "Not Only Numb" and "Day Job," the album led to the band appearing on "Saturday Night Live," a stadium tour of Europe opening for Bryan Adams and Melissa Etheridge, and headlining a fall stadium tour in the U.S.

In 1997, despite success and acclaim, the Gin Blossoms disbanded. **Outside Looking In** is the group's legacy on record.

9/99

###

Contact: Sujata Murthy, Universal Music 818-777-7812

Todd Nakamine, Universal Music 818-777-7797

Sujata.murthy@umusic.com todd.nakamine@umusic.com