

What's On: *The new album just came out; are you excited to show Cho Dependent off to the world?*

Margaret Cho: Yes! I worked so hard on it, you know. It's something that I devoted a year and a half of my life to and I love it.

WO: *What gave you the idea to create a comedy record that could stand on its own musically?*

C: I always wanted to do something that was comedy but, at the same time, was really great music. Ever since I saw Bette Midler do that duet with Mick Jagger, "Beast of Burden," I thought that was such a great collaboration

WO: *Will you perform songs from the album on tour?*

C: I'll perform a couple of them. I mean, to me, I'm still a stand-up comic and it's always going to be that. I'm still very committed to being a stand-up comic and it would be uncomfortable to not do that. So, I'll do a couple songs. I'm trying to figure out what I'll do on tour—maybe it'll be different every day. But it's always going to be a stand-up comedy show.

WO: *Do you have any songs that are front-runners right now?*

C: Yeah, I think "I'm Sorry," because

out and felt awful, because I loved him. I had this really complicated, emotional response because it wasn't me, but it could have been me. So I wrote the song with Andrew Bird, because I didn't know how to process my emotions otherwise. Sometimes the only way to work through a trauma is by dark humor, which that song is. It's actually a very traditional country murder ballad. There are stories that I want to tell and that song is one of them.

WO: *How'd you settle on the album's title?*

C: There are a lot of themes of addiction [on the album]. There's the

"Sometimes the only way to work through a trauma is by dark humor."

and such a cool idea. I'm a musician, but I'm not good enough to do it on my own, so I really need help from people. Fortunately, I know some of the greatest musicians out there and they were really excited to help me.

WO: *Who were you most looking forward to working with when you started this project off?*

C: Everybody. I mean, the people that I knew already were John Brion, who is the major inspiration behind the record. I've been going to see him for many years and he's very funny, too, so his comedic sensibility I always appreciated and I thought, "Oh it would be so great to do a song with him." Then, Ani DiFranco is just phenomenal. Grant Lee Phillips. Those were the people I was really excited about.

there's a big story attached to that song that I want to talk about. It's like this horrible, horrible story. I used to be really in love with this guy who worked on my TV show "All-American Girl." And he didn't like me back at all. Seventeen years ago, it was just a huge thing for me as a young person to deal with that. So I never really got over it, and I never stopped loving him, even though he was awful. I never looked for him, because I thought that he would be married and successful and living in a lighthouse or something. And then when I turned 40 I thought, "I should find out what he's doing." So I looked him up online and his name came up and the article said, "American screenwriter and producer who worked on 'All-American Girl' with Margaret Cho was convicted in 2007 of the murder of his wife." It was so horrible. I just really flipped

song called "Intervention," which I did with Tegan and Sara, and it's about crystal meth addiction. It's this idea of having an intervention be horrible but kind of funny experience and so that's what that song is about. Then there's addiction to people, relationships, just different kinds of addiction running through the entire record.

WO: *What do you like to do when you're in Vegas?*

C: I never really get to do much. It's hard! When you're on the road you never really get a chance to see anything or do anything. But I'm excited to come and hang out. I really have a good time there.

Margaret Cho | Sept. 17, 9:30 p.m. | \$35, \$55 | The Pearl, Palms | 800-745-3000