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Pauline



Ashley Ray

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Ashley Ray Delivers Third Studio Album *Pauline* August 14

"The Daughters" Co-writer Follows Acclaimed Title Track With Heart-Wrenching "Just A House," July 10

"Gloriously superb, intimate and vulnerable, yet gorgeously, simply layered. The highlight is Ashley Ray's matchless country voice" — *Medium*

"Ray has already demonstrated many times over that she can create a moving piece of music... The entire album — but 'Just A House' in particular... is a love letter to her

"Steamy, sultry, and sneering" — *Rolling Stone*

"Ready to make waves... get it on your radar" — *Saving Country Music*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 8, 2020) — It's already been a banner year for country/Americana firebrand Ashley Ray, who kicked off 2020 by watching Little Big Town's "The Daughters" — a Top 40 hit she co-wrote with Sean McConnell and Karen Fairchild — compete for Best Country Group Performance at the GRAMMY Awards. Her momentum continues with the August 14 release of her third album, Pauline (via Soundly Music).

Produced by McConnell, Ray's *Pauline* is an autobiographical album rooted in experiences from her own life, which began on a farm in Lawrence, Kansas. Raised by working-class parents, she left town after high school and relocated to Nashville, where she established herself not only as a solo artist, but also as a versatile songwriter for some of the genre's biggest chart-toppers. *Pauline* focuses on the lessons Ray learned back home in Kansas, with songs that tell true stories about life and love in Middle America.

"This record came to life by putting memories to music. I have my family to thank for their will to keep the ones we've lost alive through stories," says Ray. "There's not a BBQ, get-together, or holiday where we don't talk about 'the good ole days' and the people we've lost. This record is my love letter to them, the ones still here, and the ones gone that we'll see on down the road."

Following the "steamy, sultry, and sneering" (*Rolling Stone*) single "Dirty Work," and the forthcoming album's title track "Pauline" — hailed as "one of the best country songs of the year" by *Medium* — Ray debuts the heart-wrenching "Just A House" on Friday, July 10.

Inspired by the death of her father and the ensuing agony of watching her widowed mother attempt to maintain their family home on her own, "Just A House" is a daughter's desperate plea in the aftermath of shattering loss. "These four walls are runnin' out of days / can't be what it was, even if you stay / It's another lonely winter if you never leave / can't take it up to heaven, Mama, can't you see that it's just a house," Ray implores during the chorus — her vocal laced with resigned heartache, and punctuated by the hauntingly nostalgic sound of softly-swaying windchimes.

"When I started playing the record for people, 'Just A House' was the song that people seemed to really relate to. It was like they saw themselves and could acknowledge their own stories in mine," Ray says. "As a writer, that's the ultimate gift and compliment. It blows me away that a plea, and a story about a loss so personal to me and my family, can inspire someone to tell me all about their own story of loss. No life is parallel with any other, but we all share the sadness of losing someone and not wanting to let them go."

Adding, "And Mama, it is not lost on me that for you it's more than 'Just A House' - it's Dad, it's your dream home with him, a way to keep him close. He's here, Mom, he'll always be with us no matter where we go."

***Pauline* track listing:**

1. Pauline
2. Lawrence, KS
3. Dirty Work
4. St. Patrick's Day
5. Slurry
6. Warm Body
7. Just A House
8. Off The Wagon Again
9. Waiting
10. Rock N Roll

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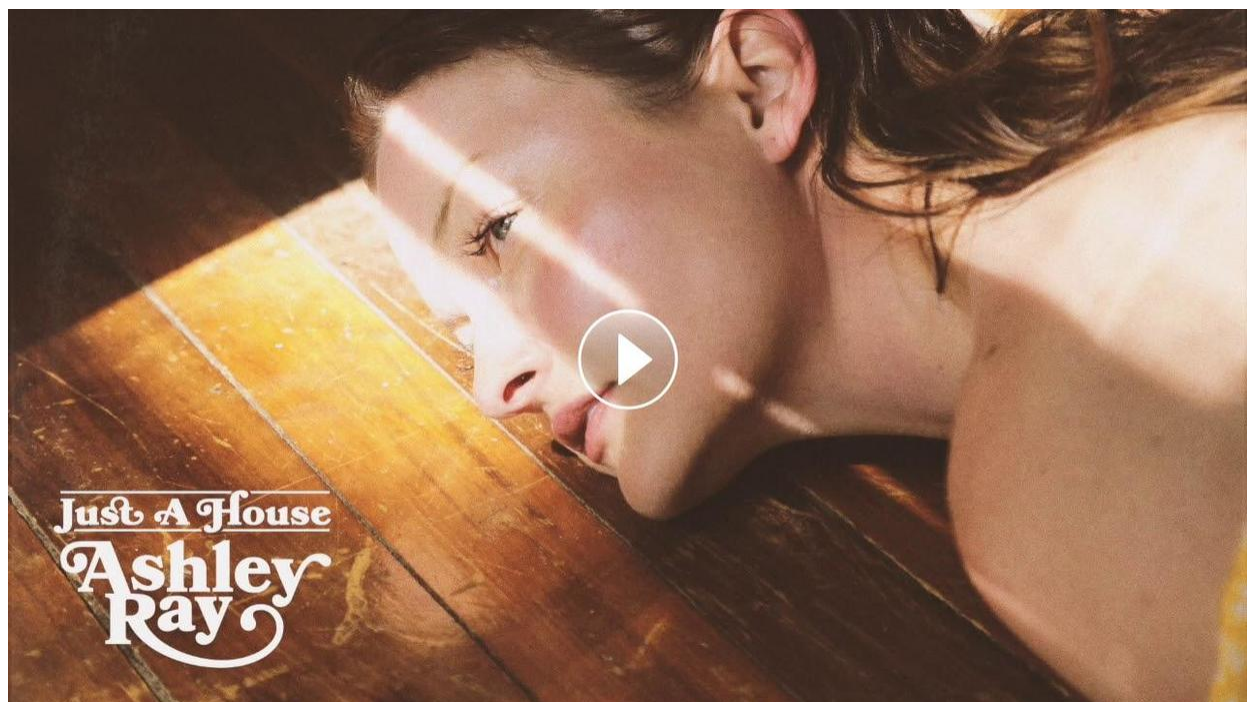
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About Ashley Ray:

Raised on a farm in Lawrence, Kansas, Ashley Ray has established herself as one of Nashville's most nuanced voices, chasing down critical acclaim not only as a solo artist, but also as an in-demand songwriter for Little Big Town, Lori McKenna, Lady A's Charles Kelley, and others. Her unique approach to melody and storytelling has resulted in partnerships with publishing companies like SonyATV Tree and BMG Nashville. Meanwhile, her albums have earned her shows with Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, and other country trailblazers who, like Ashley, create a modern sound without chasing after modern trends.

Ashley Ray shines a light on her midwestern roots with her third album, *Pauline*, whose autobiographical songs tell true stories of love, loss, and life in Middle America. The album finds her teaming up once again with songwriter/producer Sean McConnell, with whom she co-wrote Little Big Town's GRAMMY-nominated Top 40 hit, "The Daughters."



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