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Pauline



**Ashley
Ray**

HI-FI STEREO

Karen Fairchild, Wade Bowen, Lori McKenna, Brothers Osborne, Sean McConnell Praise Ashley Ray's 'Masterpiece' Album *Pauline*

'Fearless' Ray's third album, due Aug. 14, lauded by critics and artists alike

"Gut-wrenching... soul-baring... masterpiece" — Karen Fairchild

"100% genuine... one of our favorite artists" — Brothers Osborne

"Ashley writes only honest songs" — Lori McKenna

"This album is fearless" — Wade Bowen

"One of the biggest honors and joys of my life" — Pauline producer Sean McConnell

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 29, 2020) — "18 years I've been in Nashville — it took all this time to be able to write about what hurt," artist/songwriter Ashley Ray says of her critically acclaimed autobiographical album *Pauline*, due out Aug. 14 via Soundly Music. The resulting hard-won, soul-laid-bare vulnerability of her latest offering is resonating wildly with media and artists alike, with peers including Karen Fairchild, Wade Bowen, Lori McKenna, Brothers Osborne, and Sean McConnell singing the praises of *Pauline*.

"Ashley has worked incredibly hard for so many years, and you can hear it in this record," raves **Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild**, with whom Ray (along with Sean McConnell) wrote LBT's GRAMMY-nominated Top 40 hit "The Daughters." "She's found this sweet spot in her writing and artistry that is completely honest and vulnerable."

"Her delivery is gut-wrenching," Fairchild continues. "Nothing is glossed over, it's just soul-baring. Especially, on the masterpiece 'Just A House.' To write that you have to be in touch with your own story and have a desire and ability to say the truth."

GRAMMY-winner **Lori McKenna**, Ray's friend and frequent collaborator, shares, "Ashley writes only honest songs. She's like her family's personal curator of memories. Every shape in a window or cigarette butt left in an ashtray is an artifact for her collection. With Ashley's emotional voice every note comes with a picture to paint. It all seems so personal but somehow we see ourselves sitting in that house with that family of hers."

Texas Country chart-topper **Wade Bowen** — whose *Hold My Beer, Vol. 2* album with Randy Rogers contains the Ray-written hit "Rhinestoned" — hails *Pauline* as "fearless."

"I first became friends with Ashley Ray as an artist. And loved what she was doing immediately," Bowen shares. "She became my sister and one of my favorite people. And over the years I've watched her truly work on the craft of songwriting and taking it very seriously. And now I feel she's now ready more than ever to be the artist she's always wanted to be. She knows what she wants and she's not afraid to chase it down... with a sweet smile of course!"

Brothers Osborne (John and TJ) praise Ray for her unwavering commitment to artistic truth, saying, "Ashley Ray has been a dear friend of ours for as long as we can remember. Her consistency as a person shares the same consistency as her artistry and songwriting. 100% genuine and honest no matter what. Never once straying from who she is at her core, she always strives to tell stories of life unfiltered. Ashley is not only one of our favorite artists, but one of our favorite people."

Sean McConnell — who produced *Pauline* and co-wrote the record's 10 tracks — says Ray is "the real deal."

"The stories she tells, the grit in her voice, the heart on her sleeve, the tear in her throat, the fire in her belly, and the love in her soul — it's all real," he offers. "There is a 'zero bullshit factor' about Ashley and her music. I believe this record puts that on full display. Mining this well with Ashley as a songwriter, engineer, musician, producer, and most importantly friend, has been one of the biggest honors and joys of my life."

Pauline is an autobiographical album rooted in experiences from Ray's 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.

Follow Ashley Ray on social media:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ashleyraymusic/>

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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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