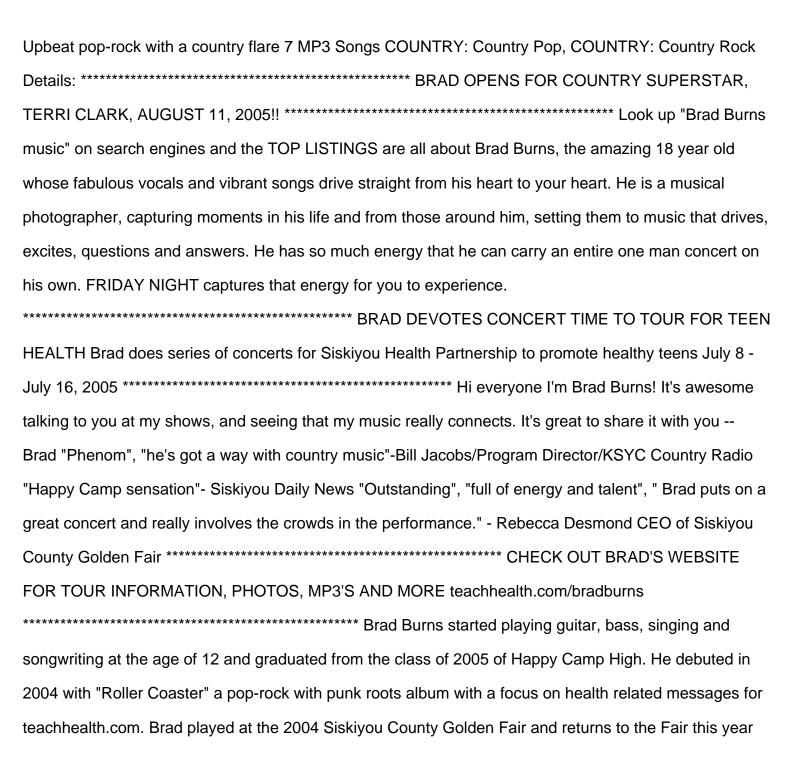
Mp3 Brad Burns - Friday Night



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opening for country superstar Terri Clark. "I love her music, she's very special too me, it is an absolute honor to be showcasing my new album, "Friday Night" at her show." From July 8th-16th, Burns toured Siskiyou County with music from the "Friday Night" EP promoting teen health. This tour was called "Rock with the Doc" where Brad worked with the Siskiyou Health Partnership as he did at the 2004 Siskiyou County Golden Fair. He appears at the Jackson County Fair July 23rd, and the Josephine County Fair August 19 and 20. Recording started on "Friday Night" the day after "Roller Coaster" went up on CDBabv.com. After 10 months the title song "Friday Night" hit the airwayes July 19th at 9:15 am on KSYC. 18-year old Brad Burns thanks the people of Siskiyou County, "I'd like to thank the people of Siskiyou County for all the support. A special thanks to the teachers of Happy Camp High School and the people of Happy Camp, love ya lots." Brad writes all his own songs, sings all his vocals, and plays all the guitar, bass and drums on the "Friday Night" EP. Keyboard great Eddie Davenport joins Brad on several songs on this album. Interview with Brad Burns on SONGWRITING AND RECORDING of FRIDAY NIGHT Q: Hi Brad, what's the name of your new album? And can you tell us a little about each of the songs? A: The CD is called the "Friday Night" EP. "Country Dog" is the opening song. You know, when you live in a place as small as Happy Camp (population 800), sometimes you just gotta get in your rig and drive to the big city, for a night on the town. "Letters" is a tribute to our men and women in uniform. Many of my friends, Buzz, Fitz, Josh, Nick, and Ralph from Happy Camp High are in the Armed Forces, this song is for them. "Will It Be Worth The Goodbyes?" When you follow your passion, give up everything for a dream; you have to say goodbye to ones you love, and you wonder, "Will it be worth the goodbyes?" "Last Chance" is for when your realize it wasn't worth the goodbyes, and you just wanna go back; you just want another chance. The title song, "Friday Night" has the excitement of being free for the weekend after a long hard work week. It's five o'clock, you're free! You know the only thing better than Friday is Friday Night! "Information Girl" started out when I was thumbing through a twenty pound Oxford dictionary. I ran across the entry "information girl" and said, "Hey that's cool." I started to pound on the kitchen table and sing "oh oh information girl". This song is just plain fun. "Locker 52" carries the message of, if you love someone, let them know. Q: Sounds great, why is it called an EP? A: It's too long to be a single and it's not the traditional ten song album. Instead I put out seven songs. I spent 8 months recording these seven songs and really put a lot of work into each one. Q: What type of music is on this EP? A: It's definitely rock, it's definitely pop, and it definitely has a country flare, most of all it's Brad Burns. Q: How do you feel

you've grown from your debut album Roller Coaster? A: These songs have a wider appeal but bring along the pop/punk energy of Roller Coaster. My leads are hotter and my songwriting has grown a lot. There's also the country flare to many of the songs, for instance "Country Dog". Q: Did you do anything different in recording this time? A: It was very exciting to record acoustic guitar this time. In addition to the Fender Lone Star Strat which I use for clean and distorted guitar, I used a Martin M-38. This Martin has a great balanced tone for recording. It really helped make these songs. We also used keyboard on this EP. A special thanks to Eddie Davenport, for the great keyboard work he did. Eddie was keyboardist at Circus Circus in Las Vegas and brought his talent and expertise into the studio for many of the tracks, where you'll hear piano, organ and strings. Q: So what made you decide to have a country flare to some of your songs after starting out mainly in pop rock? A: Well, I started recording "Friday Night" the day after Roller Coaster went on CDBabyin October 2004. During that time I had been given a Creedence Clearwater Revival album "Chronicle" and had been listening and listening and listening to it. I said, I really love this music, so John Fogerty has been a major influence from then on and fueled a large part of that flare. Also my mom has brought me up with country music and introduced me to Toby Keith, Brooks n Dunn, Tracy Lawrence, Reba McEntire, Brad Paisley, Terri Clark and many more great artists. (too many to list). Q: So how did you get to open for country superstar Terri Clark? A: Well, after we had studio mixes done on the first two songs, "Country Dog" and "Letters", I sent them to Rebecca Desmond, CEO of the Siskiyou County Golden Fair. Rebecca Desmond liked the music and passed it on to Terri Clark's people. They liked it and gave me the green light to open for Terri August 11th at the Siskiyou County Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka, CA. Q: What's it like for a small town guy like you to get to open for a famous County entertainer? A: I'm proud to be from Happy Camp, from Siskiyou County, from a little town. I can't wait to get my music to more and more people. Q: What do you plan to do with this album and with your music in the future? A: Well I'm really happy to be on country radio, KSYC and KTNK in Siskiyou County, that's been one of my long term goals, from back in freshman year, get on the radio. I'm going to keep playing music as long as I can. Keep going for more shows and wider distribution. If I can make people less lonely, or more happy, then it's all worthwhile. Q: I understand you are using your music to promote teen health and other charities? A: Sales from my Roller Coaster album help support teachhealth.com, a site on drug abuse, depression, and how to handle and recognize stress. I worked with the Siskiyou Health Partnership in at the Siskiyou County Golden Fair in 2004 and promoted their health booth. I'm

going on the FRC tour to Siskiyou County Resource Centers to promote teen health. I will also be doing benefits for Country Music Station KSYC. Q: What do you have to say to everyone? A: Every life counts. You have worth, you matter. Always remember that. Interview with Brad Burns on SONGWRITING AND RECORDING by Teachhealth.com, November 2004. Q: What is your approach to songwriting? A: I want to capture a life experience, or a feeling. I end up pouring myself into the song. Sometimes it is my own life experience. "Every Life Counts," for example. I had to tell myself, "Every Life Counts, Brad. Don't think that you're worthless, Brad". I realized that everyone probably feels this way at some time and so I captured it in a song. Everyone needs to hear that every life counts. Sometimes I absorb other people's situations and it comes out in a song. "Whoever Heard" portrays the feeling of many kids I meet in my small town. Q: So it's kind of like photography? You capture an emotional photo and turn it into a song? A: Yeah, it's like that. When I listen to a good song on the radio, they take the words right out of my mouth; it's like they're speaking for me. Q: What would you say are the elements of a good song? A: A good song is a poem with rhthym and melody that has hooks that people remember; and evokes an emotion. Q: For example? A: "Rollin on the River" by Creedence Clearwater Revival. Whenever I think of that song I think of a steady beat I can just dance to, just roll along to. It has a great instrumental hook. Another might be "Chick Magnet" by MxPx. (I love that bass line). There are so many great songs out there..... Q: I've heard the term "hook" before; what exactly is a hook? A: A hook is a catchy phrase, instrumental riff, or rhythm twist that people remember after hearing the song. Q: Do you just sit down and write a song all in one sitting? A: A lot of rough drafts happen that way. On Every Life Counts I had an exceptionally good rough draft and was able to put the words, chords and melody down all at the same time. Usually, I'll start by singing the song in my head; write it down when I get a chance; and then work on it over time till it's right. Sometimes the song comes to me while I'm playing guitar, even while I'm singing another song, the new one can just pop up. Then I jump up and get this great feeling, "Yeah, Yeah!"; then I realize it is a rough draft; but it is fun and I know it has great potential. Q: How long does it take you to write and finish a song? A: Words and melody usually come first with basic chords. Then when I hit the studio, I have ideas for the instruments that I hear in my head. At first I wasted a lot of studio time because I didn't have good song structure. So I'd lay the song down and then I'd say, "Oh no, we're not building up enough," or "these lyrics don't make the picture I want". So I learned the hard way that I need to have the song structure down before I hit the studio. Then with a solid beat, and great

melody everything flows. As far as how long it takes, Well, as I've said, writing the song may be quick or long....but once it is written, it now takes me about about 40 studio hours to lay the tracks for the song and then mix the song. Q: You recorded all the instruments on Roller Coaster. How do you go about doing that in the studio? A: On Roller Coaster I first recorded the rhythm guitar track with a rough guide vocal. Along with the rough vocal, the engineer put a clap track so I had a steady timing through all the rhythm changes in my songs. (This rough track of vocal and clapping is called a "scratch track"). I then recorded my drum track, while listening to the scratch track. Then I layed the bass track. Next I put down the lead guitar parts. After the instruments I do the final lead vocal. Then I do the harmony vocals. After this whole process, the engineer and I mix the song down from multiple tracks to stereo. Q: What do you look for in your mixes? A: When it comes to the instruments, I want to hear each instrument clearly with the bass and kick on the bottom, guitar on top and the vocal settled in the mix, but clear. I don't want the vocal to sound like it is "on top" of the mix. Q: What do you mean by the vocal "in" the mix? A: I like my music to be high energy, so I want the instruments to be at good volume. But I notch out the vocal frequencies so the vocals can be clearly heard even with the instruments driving the song. Q: What do you mean "notch" out the vocal frequencies? A: The vocals and each of the instruments make music at certain frequencies. All these frequencies compete to be heard by your ear. If you don't prevent this overlap the music will sound "muddy". So, in the mixing process, I cut a "notch" in the frequencies that overlap. For instance, vocal intelligibility is around 1500Hz. Vocal presence is around 4000Hz. So I scoop the guitar between 500 and 5000 Hz so the guitar can be very loud if needed, but it won't cover up the vocal. Likewise, I scoop the bass so the 82Hz kick drum comes through. And I roll off the low end of the guitar around 150 Hz so it doesn't muddy up the bass. Another technique I use in mixing to separate instruments that have similar frequencies is to spatially place them on opposite sides of the room, so to speak. This is side to side separation. I can also push a vocal or instrument into the "back" of the room by adding some reverb to it. If I want to fatten a guitar, I can make a duplicate of it. Take one track and compress it very hard and emphasize it's higher frequencies above 5000Hz (This track will add attack due to the compression, and brightness due to the high frequency emphasis).......Take the other track with scooped EQ in the vocal range and add reverb and chorus. Then spread the tracks on opposite sides of the room and mix them to create a fat guitar. Q: Does doing a song in tracks have a downside? A: Well, because I am hearing the song over and over, I can lose the big picture, you know, get lost in the details.

On a recording the details have to be perfect because people will listen to the song over and over and every detail just has to be right on. So I have to let time pass, if I can, so I can have "fresh ears" to listen before I make final mixes. Since I have to sing the same song over and over when I do my shows, I really want a song I love....not just one that's OK. So tracking a song takes longer. But the upside is that I can make the song come out the way I hear it in my head. Q: How did you know you wanted to be song writer? A: When you spend all your waking time writing songs, when it is always on your mind, then you are a song writer. I couldn't stop if I tried. But I had to learn the craft. You have to learn to communicate in a song if you want people to enjoy your music. Q: When you have all your songs mixed, what do you do then to make an album? A: Since I recorded the songs over a period of time, they had slightly different sounds to them. I sent all the songs to a Mastering House, Disc Makers, where the Mastering Engineer used very sophistocated equipment to make the songs radio ready and to give the album a flow. I arranged the order of the songs so the album was like a live show. And I did the album graphic design. I particularly like the roller car on the CD itself. Q: So you not only wrote all the songs, performed all the instruments and vocals, but you did graphics as well? And you are 17 years old? A: I couldn't have done it without the support of my family. Q: Will you ever stop learning? A: No, definitely not. I'm constantly looking for ways to improve my skills on all my instruments and in my songwriting and recording techniques. Learning is awesome. Q: How about performing. Is that fun for you? A: Big "Yes!". That's the whole reason I do music and songwriting is to share it with other people and enjoy it with them. Performing is the ultimate rush for me. Everything goes away except the crowd, and what I have to say in the song, and the feeling of it, and of course, the sweat.

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