

Femininity as a Changing Force in the Modern Punk Scene

Through recent years, a new wave of feminine punk has taken the modern music scene by storm. Philadelphia-born punk rock band Mannequin Pussy is a notable fan favorite in this new era, bringing a beautifully hardcore sound to the fore. The beloved band has gained even more admiration following the release of their 2024 album, *I Got Heaven*. Since this release, the band has been touring nonstop, supporting a variety of artists, including Turnstile, Foo Fighters, Deftones, and many others.

Mannequin Pussy's work illuminates the sharp edge of feminine duality, reframing emotion as something hardcore rather than inherently weak. Punk is often perceived as tough and rugged, fueled by rage. Mannequin Pussy's music presents the question of where tenderness belongs within this rage. The band uses the creation of something beautiful as an act of rebellion against the often cruel nature of the surrounding world. Their music creates a sphere where beauty and emotion generate strength, opposed to flaw. Over the course of their discography, the group has honed in their fierce sound complimented by heartfelt lyrics.

The female lead band explores themes of independence, deep desires, and the realities of living within an emotionless society. Their sound and message are an inspiration to women of the younger generations, as well as other emerging punk rock bands. Wednesday, an up-and-coming indie rock band, seems to be tapping into the same emotional grunge heard within Mannequin Pussy. The two groups recently announced a co-headlining tour in the Fall of 2026, named 'The Bitch Cabal Tour'. In tandem, the bands curate a space where punk coincides with beauty and emotion, creating an opportunity for their music to be used as an act of retaliation against the ruthless world developing amongst us.