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## MUSIC

The Canadian Press - ONLINE EDITION

# The Cranberries still love playing 'Zombie' but needed new songs for a comeback

By: Michael Oliveira, The Canadian Press  
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UNIVERSAL MUSIC CANADA [Enlarge Image](#)

The Cranberries are back with a new album, their first in more than 10 years. From left to right: Dolores O'Riordan, Noel Hogan and Fergal Lawler.

TORONTO - As much as The Cranberries still get a thrill from seeing audiences erupt to the opening chords of "Zombie," its members knew they could only resurrect the band if they had some new songs to play.

"I've sang 'Zombie' so many times that I actually feel like a zombie," joked singer Dolores O'Riordan in a recent interview to promote "Roses," the band's first studio album in more than 10 years.

"We've been doing our old hits for so long, you feel like you're stuck in a loop or something, so with new material you feel very much alive."

It took a long breather from life on the road before the band felt ready to reunite from the hiatus they declared in 2003, which ended 13 years of relentless recording and touring.

The bandmates originally hooked up as teenagers in the early 1990s and quickly grew into international rock stars. Their debut, "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?," included the hit "Linger, which helped start the quick transition from playing bars and clubs and opening for the likes of Duran Duran, Radiohead and Suede to headlining arenas and stadiums.

"We just said, 'Look, let's go off and do our own thing,'" recalled O'Riordan, while sitting alongside fellow Cranberries songwriter Noel Hogan.

In the ensuing years, O'Riordan, her husband and kids found an isolated home away from the media spotlight in a remote Ontario town, north of Toronto. The picturesque surroundings and time away from her whirlwind life with the globe-trotting band helped influence two solo albums, "Are You Listening?" in 2007 and "No Baggage" in 2009.

"It's very inspiring being up north because of the beauty of nature," she said.

"The seasons are so dramatic here — from the snow in the winter to the beauty of the autumn, the colours of the leaves falling — so I have a piano outside my window and sometimes I start off there with ideas, just using nature as a backdrop.

"It's good for the head."

But O'Riordan and Hogan did trade song ideas back and forth over the years and decided they were ready to get back together again in 2009. They first committed to a massive reunion tour — with 107 gigs around the world — and trotted out all their big hits again, including "Linger," "Dreams," "Salvation," "Free to Decide" and, of course, the hard-rocking "Zombie."

"As many times as we've played it, still, to see the reaction of the crowd every time when Dolores plays the intro, whether it's 20 people or 20,000, the whole place just goes mad," said Hogan.

"We've probably played it more than any other song at this point but still, that small intro starts and then it explodes and the whole place goes mad — it's a cool feeling."

But once the comeback tour was through, the band committed to hitting the studio and coming up with some new tunes to play live. It was last year that they got together in Toronto to start recording "Roses," and O'Riordan said it felt just like old times, before everyone got burned out.

"I think (in years past) we did start to feel like, 'Oh, (we just) have to do another album,' but with this one we didn't have that feeling, it was like we were doing it for ourselves, for a laugh, more like the early albums," she said.

"We weren't trying to write anything too catchy or anything like that and a lot of the tracks on the album are really quite different. You know, maybe there's one or two that would be (considered) catchy but the rest are very experimental and different from what we've done before. We were trying to challenge ourselves creatively speaking."

The album's lead single is "Tomorrow," a track that everyone agreed was the right song to reintroduce the world to the Cranberries, Hogan said.

"The record company really pushed for it but I think we all knew to be honest when we heard it in the studio," he said.

"It's got everything a single should have; a first single in particular."

Added O'Riordan: "Unlike 'Zombie,' it's not an anthem or anything, but it's just a nice and catchy positive song.... It seemed like a nice one to start with, particularly with the way the globe is, the whole recession and all that.

"It's nice to just kind of throw something positive out there."

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