

Fiona Apple, 20, one of rock's female superstars, is named MTV's Best New Artist in a Video. Her single "Criminal" soars to the top of the charts.

Chumbawamba's hit single "Tubthumping" brings long-awaited success to this British band. The song becomes popular at pro sports events, kicking off games for several teams.



Rap artist the Notorious B.I.G. is killed in a March 1997 drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. He is posthumously awarded MTV's 1997 Best Rap Video Award for "Hypnotize" and is named Spin magazine's Artist of the Year.





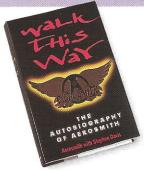
With their hit single "MMMBop," three young brothers from Tulsa become one of the biggest breakthrough acts of 1997 as the band Hanson.



Lilith Fair, an all-female summer rock concert, draws large crowds on its 37-stop tour. Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan masterminds the festival and releases a hit album, Surfacing.



Country music superstar Garth Brooks releases Sevens, his first album in two years. The album sells 800,000 copies the first week.



Walk This Way: The Autobiography of Aerosmith chronicles the long career of the band notorious for its excesses in the '70s and '80s. The group's new album Nine Lives is nominated for a 1998 Grammy.

Drummer Bill Berry leaves R.E.M. after 17 years with the popular rock group. R.E.M. plans to continue as a trio.

Kenny G. enters the Guinness Book of World Records for holding the longest musical note-45 minutes, 47 seconds—on his saxophone.



Smash Mouth popularizes a genre of alternative rock known as neo-ska with its hit single "Walkin' on the Sun" and debut album Fush Yu Mang.