

= In the Zone =

In the Zone is the fourth studio album by American recording artist Britney Spears . It was released on November 12 , 2003 , by JIVE Records . Its music incorporates R & B , dance , house , trip hop , and hip hop styles with instrumentation from guitars , drums , synthesizers , strings , and Middle Eastern musical instruments . Its themes range from love , dancing , empowerment , and in the case of songs such as " Touch of My Hand " , sex and masturbation . Contributions to the album 's production came from a wide range of producers , including Bloodshy & Avant , R. Kelly , Trixster , Moby , Guy Sigsworth and The Matrix .

With the conclusion of the Dream Within a Dream Tour in July 2002 and the end of her relationship with Justin Timberlake , Spears planned to take a six @-@ month break from her career ; however , work for In the Zone began later that November . She began writing songs for the album while touring internationally , despite not knowing the direction of the album . She experimented with different producers , trying to find those with whom she had chemistry . The first song recorded was " Touch of My Hand " , which Spears claims set the mood for the album . She co @-@ wrote all but four tracks , and often changed the lyrics to suit herself . Spears stated she was an autobiographical songwriter , although not to the point where she felt self @-@ exploited . She also explained that the sexual nature of In the Zone was subconscious and happened while she was in the process of developing the album . Spears collaborated with artists such as Madonna in " Me Against the Music " and the Ying Yang Twins in " (I Got That) Boom Boom " .

In the Zone received mixed to positive reviews from music critics , who complimented its mix of different styles and Spears 's songwriting , but criticized her vocals for being distant and processed . Commercially , In the Zone became an international success , debuting atop of the charts in France and the United States , and peaking inside the top ten in fifteen countries . In the United States , she became the first female artist to have four consecutive number @-@ one albums . In the Zone went on to become the eighth best selling album of 2003 .

Four singles were released from the album : " Me Against the Music " , " Toxic " and " Everytime " met international chart success , all peaking at number one in Australia and Ireland and reaching top five positions elsewhere . To promote In the Zone , Spears performed the songs in a number of television appearances and also embarked on The Onyx Hotel Tour . The album and its music videos are largely seen by critics as the end of her transition from teen pop star to a more adult female artist . In 2009 , Amy Schrieffer of NPR listed In the Zone as one of The 50 Most Important Recordings of the Decade , calling it " a primer on the sound of pop in the ' 00s " .

= = Background and development = =

In November 2001 , Spears released her third album , Britney , which portrayed more adult and provocative themes and featured the lead single " I 'm a Slave 4 U " . The album sold 4 million copies in the United States ; nevertheless , it was viewed as " poor @-@ selling " in comparison to her previous efforts . The following year , her relationship of three years with pop singer Justin Timberlake ended after months of speculation . After the Dream Within a Dream Tour in support of Britney finalized in July 2002 , Spears announced she would take a break from her career for six months . In November 2002 , she revealed that she had started working on her next studio album . She explained , " Well , actually , I just said that I wanted two or three weeks off . [....] And the whole world was like , ' Ohmigod , [sic] she 's gone ... " .

While in Europe , Spears met with William Orbit and Daft Punk about possible collaborations , and originally confirmed Darkchild and The Neptunes as producers . When asked by The Hollywood Reporter about the direction of the record , Spears responded it was an organic evolution , adding , " It should just happen naturally from the way you feel . [...] Whatever happens , happens " . Additionally , Spears scheduled meet @-@ and @-@ greets with Timbaland and Missy Elliott in an effort to help evolve her sound . Elliott would also enlist in further production work with Nisan Stewart for Spears ' project , however none of the initial material saw the light of day . Fred Durst was asked by Spears ' management to submit material , and he wrote and produced three trip hop

tracks that were recorded by Spears in January 2003 . However , after news of an affair between them broke , Durst told JIVE Records he was not going to let them use the songs for the album . In March 2003 , Lauren Christy from The Matrix spoke about the development of the album with MTV News , and likened their work with Spears to Madonna 's Ray of Light . Scott Spock , also from The Matrix , continued comparing her to Madonna , saying ,

" She 's taking it to the next level in her career . Madonna constantly takes what 's in the club and puts what she does on top of it and makes it mainstream . I think Britney is starting to embrace that concept where she 's looking to work on different stuff , instead of using the same familiar , and applying it to her . [...] I don 't think [her fans] will be freaked out or upset . I think they 'll be really into what 's going to happen . "

Spears also previewed several songs to Quddus Philippe of MTV in May 2003 , including " Touch of My Hand " , " Brave New Girl " and " Everytime " . Spears commented , " I 've really been able to take my time and have creative control and make [the new album] special , special , special . " On August 27 , 2003 , Spears opened the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards performing a medley of " Like a Virgin / Hollywood " with Madonna , Christina Aguilera and Missy Elliott . The performance started with Spears appearing on stage on top of a giant wedding cake while wearing a wedding gown and veil ; she sang the first few lines of " Like a Virgin " before Aguilera appeared from behind the cake and joined her . Madonna then emerged from the cake wearing a black coat and a hat and started singing " Hollywood " before proceeding to kiss Spears and Aguilera on the lips . Missy Elliott came out from a wedding chapel to sing her song " Work It " halfway through the performance . The kiss generated strong reaction from the media . The performance was listed by Blender magazine as one of the twenty @-@ five sexiest music moments on television history . MTV listed the performance as the number @-@ one opening moment in the history of the MTV Video Music Awards .

= = Recording = =

For In the Zone , Spears worked with hit producers such as Bloodshy & Avant , R. Kelly , Diddy , Christopher Stewart , Moby , Guy Sigsworth and The Matrix . She first started writing songs for In the Zone during the Dream Within a Dream Tour . Spears commented about writing while touring , " The only thing that was scary to me is that I didn 't know if they were good . [But] You can 't trust anybody . You have to go with your feelings . " Spears commented that she was an autobiographical songwriter , although not to the point she felt self @-@ exploited . Following the end of the tour , Spears invited her friend and backing vocalist Annet Artani to her home in Los Angeles . They started writing songs at the piano , and shortly after , they traveled to Lake Como in Lombardy , Italy . Among the tracks they worked on was " Everytime " , which Artani confirmed to be written as a response to Justin Timberlake 's " Cry Me a River " , as well as " Shine " , written by Spears about her sister Jamie Lynn , which was left unfinished . Earnest recording of the album began in May 2003 . Spears commented that although she did not know initially what direction she wanted to go with the album , she took time to work with different producers and to find those who she had chemistry with . The first song recorded for In the Zone was " Touch of My Hand " , and Spears said it " really did provide a balance for the rest of the record . We just went from there . " Following the recording sessions for " Everytime " , Spears complimented Sigsworth , saying , " I just basically told him exactly how I wanted the song to sound . And he was so amazing because there 's a lot of producers you tell them things and they don 't get it . And you 're like oh , that 's not the right way . He got it just right . He was amazing . "

Christopher Stewart and Penelope Magnet , known collectively as RedZone , presented Spears with the third song they had written and produced , " Pop Culture Whore " . While her management liked the track , she rejected it , telling them the song " sucked " . After bonding with Spears during a night in New York City to " get in her world " , as Magnet explained , it was easier to " actually write and know what she would and wouldn 't say , to know where her real vibe is " . Stewart and Magnet began working on the first version of " Me Against the Music " ; Stewart came up with the track , while Magnet developed the melody on a piano and some of the lyrics . During the recording

sessions , Stewart recalls that the studio 's air @-@ conditioning died for three days , but Spears " didn 't complain or anything , and for me that shows she 's where she is for a reason . " While rehearsing for their performance at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards , Spears played a finished version of " Me Against the Music " to Madonna . After Madonna commented that she liked the track , Spears asked her to do the song with her . RedZone then handed " Me Against the Music " to Madonna , who arranged and recorded her vocal additions on her own , therefore making the song a duet . Spears , who has been a fan of Madonna for years , was " beyond surprised " when she heard Madonna 's verse . She said " I just asked her to do a little thing , but she really went there . She did a lot of stuff to it . " RedZone were then enlisted to work on several more songs for the album , including co @-@ writing " Early Mornin ' " , recording background vocals for " Outrageous " and producing " The Hook Up " .

The Matrix commented that after they presented songs to Spears , she tailored them to suit herself , especially the lyrics . Christy said , " ... she really knows what she wants . She knows if she 's trying something on that doesn 't fit right for her . She 's like , ' No , that 's not me . ' She 's not one to strap on some sort of fake image . " Christy also claimed to be impressed with Spears 's vocal ability during the recording of " Shadow " . Steve Anderson , Lisa Greene and Stephen Lee wrote " Breathe on Me " at Metrophonic Studios in London , England . Before meeting with the other writers , Anderson thought of two concepts for songs specifically for Spears : one he had worked on " for ages " , and " Breathe on Me " , which he drafted on the morning of the sessions . Greene and Lee did not like the first concept , and they wrote " Breathe on Me " with Anderson . The song was produced by Mark Taylor , who kept most of the programming done by Anderson . With Taylor , Spears recorded " Breathe on Me " and " And Then We Kiss " , which did not make the album . Before the album was released , Spears 's manager Larry Rudolph commented that it was important for Spears to continue moving away from a traditional pop sound , citing " I 'm a Slave 4 U " and " Boys " from Britney as departures from her previous music . Barry Weiss , then @-@ president of JIVE Label Group , added , " She has achieved what she set out to achieve , which was to make a mature album that didn 't sound like something she would have done three years while still making a commercial album that has hit singles . [...] It 's the kind of record she should be doing right now , and it came down to her to make it . " In the Zone was recorded at Battery Studios and The Dojo in New York City , 3 : 20 Studios , Decoy Studios , Pacifique Studios , Record Plant and Westlake Audio in Los Angeles , California , The Chocolate Factory , in Chicago , Illinois , Triangle Sound { sic } Studios in Atlanta , Georgia , Metrophonic Studios and Olympic Studios in London , England , and Murlyn Studios in Stockholm , Sweden . Throughout the beginning of 2003 , Spears started testing tracks by playing them in nightclubs such as Show in New York City .

= = Composition = =

According to Billboard , In the Zone marks a musical departure for Spears . Instead of traditional pop , the album is darker and more dance @-@ oriented . Spears talked about the overall sound of the album with Rolling Stone , saying , " I 'd describe it as trance @-@ y , kind of vibe record ? something you could listen to that 's no so song @-@ structured [...] Of course I 'm not doing ' ... Baby One More Time ' and those massive hits anymore . I think this record is where I am at right now in my life . It 's sensual , it 's sexual . I 'm probably writing about that subconsciously because I don 't have that right now . " Amy Schrieffer of NPR stated the album is a mix of dance , house , crunk , Diwali beats and hip hop . According to William Shaw of Blender , the main theme of In the Zone is " Spears 's awakening to her sexuality as a single woman . " The first single from the album , " Me Against the Music " , features Madonna , but was constructed as a duet after she was added to the track . Spears and Madonna trade lines during the verses , and Madonna sings solo in the bridge . The instrumentation in the song includes influences of hip hop and funk guitars . The song 's lyrics feature Spears and Madonna singing of the pleasures of letting go on the dancefloor , in " I 'm up against the speaker / Trying to take on the music / It 's like a competition " . The second song , " I Got That (Boom Boom) " , is an Atlanta @-@ style hip hop track featuring the Ying Yang Twins .

" Showdown " has " bubbly " beats and its lyrics , about " fighting and making up with carnal relations " , include the lines " I don ' t really want to be a tease / But would you undo my zipper , please ? " The fourth track , " Breathe on Me " , was described as the most sensual song of the record . Containing trip hop influences , Spears sings , " Oh , it ' s so hot , and I need some air / And boy , don ' t stop ' cause I ' m halfway there " and " Just put your lips together and blow . " " Early Mornin ' " depicts Spears looking for men at a club in New York City . The song has a percolating beat and featured subdued vocals from Spears , who purrs and yawns through the track . The nightclub Show is referenced . " Toxic " , which Spears later named as her favorite song from her career , was originally offered to Kylie Minogue . Released as the album ' s second single , it contains elements of electropop and bhangra music , and features varied instrumentation , such as drums , synthesizers , high @-@ pitched strings and surf guitars . Lyrically , " Toxic " talks about being addicted to a lover . " Outrageous " , the fourth and final single from the album , is a hip hop @-@ inspired track that according to MTV features Spears " whisper [ing] and moan [ing] [...] with a snake charmer melody giving the song an exotic feel . " The lyrics talk about materialism and amusement , with the singer referencing in the chorus a number of things that give her pleasure . In " Touch of My Hand " , which Spears felt it was comparable to Janet Jackson ' s " That ' s the Way Love Goes " (1993) , she sings in a lower register . The instrumentation contains elements of Middle Eastern music and its lyrics refer to masturbation , " I will be bold / Going to the places where I can be out of control / Don ' t want to explain tonight / All the things I try to hide . "

The ninth track " The Hook Up " has a reggae feel and features Spears singing in a Jamaican Patois accent . The ballad " Shadow " talks about how reminders of a lover can still linger after he ? s gone . " Brave New Girl " lyrics talk about a young woman finding her passion and losing inhibitions . Backed by choppy , electro @-@ funk beats , she sings in a bouncy near @-@ rap , " She ' s gonna pack her bags , she ' s going to find her way , she ' s going to get right out of this / She don ' t want New York , she don ' t want L.A. , she ' s going to find that special kiss . " The song incorporates elements of the music of No Doubt , Blondie and Madonna . " Everytime " begins with a piano introduction accompanying Spears ' s breathy vocals , which build from soft to strong throughout the song . " Everytime " lyrics are a plea for forgiveness for inadvertently hurting a former lover . In the song , the singer explains she feels unable to continue in lines such as " Everytime I try to fly I fall / Without my wings I feel so small " . During an interview with MTV , Spears said about the song , " It ' s about heartbreak , it ' s about your first love , your first true love . That ' s something all people can relate to , because you all have that first love that you think you ' re going to be with the rest of your life . " When asked if " Everytime " was about Timberlake , she responded " I ' ll let the song speak for itself . " The Rishi Rich ' s Desi Kulcha Remix of " Me Against the Music " removes the original melody of the song and adds a clattering backbeat and Punjabi shouts . In " The Answer " , Spears sings that her lover is the answer to all her needs : " Who can hold me tight , keep me warm through the night ? / Who can wipe my tears when it ' s wrong , make it right ? / Who can give me love till I ' m satisfied ? / Who ' s the one I need in my life ? " . In " Don ' t Hang Up " , she pleads on the phone for her lover to keep her satisfied long @-@ distance .

= = Critical reception = =

In the Zone holds a score of 66 out of 100 (indicating " generally positive reviews ") based on 13 critical reviews , according to the music review aggregator Metacritic . Jason Shawhan of About.com gave a positive review , saying that while the album ' s vibe is sexy , the result is a personal statement from Spears . He also added , " T [here] ' s another thing about Spears ' new record , as none of her previous albums ever managed to produce any kind of sustained emotional response than the pleasure that comes from a good pop record . I miss Max Martin , for sure , but it feels like Ms. S. has been paying attention to La Ciccone . To put it another way , this is Britney ' s True Blue . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic said that the album " [is] all club @-@ ready , but despite some hints of neo @-@ electro and the Neptunes , it doesn ' t quite sound modern ? it sounds like cuts from 1993 or Madonna ' s Bedtime Stories and Ray of Light . Production @-@ wise , these tracks are not only accomplished but much more varied than any of her previous albums . " Ruth

Mitchell of BBC Online called " Early Mornin ' " the best track of the album , but added , " Sadly , her attempts to prove her new @-@ found maturity are what overwhelm and cloud all that is good about In The Zone . " Mim Udovitch of Blender commented , " This I ? m @-@ coming @-@ out record is an unhesitant move from songs of the heart to songs of the groin [...] No longer a girl , freed from slavery , now fully a woman , she makes a pretty convincing mistress . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly called " Brave New Girl " and " Touch of My Hand " the best and most straightforward moments of the album , but added that " On a CD intended to celebrate her lurch into adulthood , Spears remains distant and submerged . For all her freedom , she 's still finding her way . "

Jon Pareles of Rolling Stone said , " [Spears 's] voice is so processed , its physicality almost disappears . [...] In the Zone offers strip @-@ club , 1 @-@ 900 sex , accommodating and hollow . Beyond the glittering beats , Spears sounds about as intimate as a blowup doll . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine stated , " Britney 's fourth album , In The Zone , finds the pop tart coming of age with a bold mix of hip @-@ hop and dance music , wiping clean the last traces of her bubblegum @-@ pop past . [...] For the most part , In The Zone is a big , fat , thumping love letter to the dancefloor , which makes Madonna 's involvement [...] even more appropriate . " Dorian Lynskey of The Guardian commented , " Unlike previous Britney albums , In the Zone has no filler and no shoddy cover versions , just 57 varieties of blue @-@ chip hit @-@ factory pop . There is southern hip @-@ hop , deep house , Neptunes @-@ style R & B , the ubiquitous Diwali beat and , most importantly , oodles of Madonna . " Jason King of Vibe deemed it as " A supremely confident dance record that also illustrates Spears 's development as a songwriter . " " Toxic " won Spears her only Grammy Award for Best Dance Recording in 2005 .

= = Commercial performance = =

According to Nielsen SoundScan , In the Zone sold 609 @,@ 000 during its first week of availability in the United States , debuting at the top of the Billboard 200 . The album had the second highest debut sales of 2003 by a female artist (only behind Alicia Keys 's The Diary of Alicia Keys) , as well as the fifth highest debut sales of the year . Spears also became the first female artist in Billboard 's history to have four consecutive number @-@ one albums . By its third week , In the Zone had already sold 1 million copies in the country . The album was certified two @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on December 16 , 2003 , for shipments of 2 million copies in the United States . It has sold over 3 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies there according to Nielsen SoundScan . In Canada , the album debuted at number two in the Canadian Albums Chart with sales of 31 @,@ 000 units . It was certified three @-@ times platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) for shipments of 300 @,@ 000 copies .

In Australia and New Zealand , In the Zone debuted at number ten and twenty @-@ five in the official charts , respectively . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) indicating shipments of 70 @,@ 000 units . The album debuted at number three on the Oricon weekly album chart in Japan , selling around 59 @,@ 128 copies . In Mexico , In the Zone was certified platinum on December 17 , 2003 , by the Asociación Mexicana de Productores de Fonogramas y Videogramas (AMPROFON) for shipments of 150 @,@ 000 copies . The album was also certified platinum in Argentina by the Argentine Chamber of Phonograms and Videograms Producers (CAPIF) for shipments of 40 @,@ 000 copies in total . In the Zone debuted at number fourteen on the UK Albums Chart , staying on the chart for forty @-@ three weeks and jumping to its peak of number thirteen on its thirty @-@ fourth week in the chart . It was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments of 300 @,@ 000 copies . The album also debuted at the top of the charts in France . In April 2004 , it was certified platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) for shipments of a million copies in Europe . In the Zone was the eighth best selling album of 2003 .

= = Singles = =

" Me Against the Music " was released as the lead single from In the Zone on October 20 , 2003 , by JIVE Records . The label 's choice for the first single was originally " Outrageous " , but Spears convinced them to release " Me Against the Music " . The song received mixed reviews from critics . Some felt it was a strong dance track of the album , while others referred to it as lackluster and disappointing . " Me Against the Music " achieved international success , peaking atop of the charts in countries such as Australia , Denmark , Hungary , Ireland and Spain , as well as the European Hot 100 Singles . It also peaked at number two in Canada , Italy , Norway and the United Kingdom , and inside the top five in many other nations . The song won the " Hot Dance Single of the Year " accolade at the 2004 Billboard Music Awards . In the song 's accompanying music video , Spears chases Madonna inside a nightclub . " Toxic " was released as the album 's second single on January 12 , 2004 . After trying to choose between " (I Got That) Boom Boom " and " Outrageous " , Spears selected " Toxic " instead . The song received positive reviews from critics . " Toxic " attained worldwide success , reaching the top @-@ five in fifteen countries , while topping the charts in Australia , Canada , Hungary , Norway and the United Kingdom . In the United States , it became her first single to peak inside the top ten in almost four years . The accompanying music video for the song portrays Spears as a secret agent in the search of a vial of green liquid . After she steals it , she enters an apartment and poisons her unfaithful boyfriend . The video also includes interspersed scenes of Spears naked with diamonds over her body . " Toxic " won Spears her first Grammy Award for Best Dance Recording , and its often referred to as one of her defining songs .

" Everytime " was the third single released from the album , on May 17 , 2004 . It received positive appreciation from contemporary critics . " Everytime " was a commercial success , peaking inside the top five in most countries , while reaching the top of the charts in Australia , Hungary , Ireland and the United Kingdom . The music video for " Everytime " portrays Spears as a star hounded by paparazzi , who drowns in her bathtub when she starts bleeding from a wound in her head . In the hospital , doctors fail to resuscitate her while a child is born in the next room , implying she reeincarnated . The original treatment would have had Spears killing herself from a drug overdose , but the plot was removed after it received criticism by several organizations , who perceived it as a glamorization of suicide . " Outrageous " was the fourth and last single from the album , released on July 13 , 2004 . The song was finally chosen as a single after it was selected as the theme song for the 2004 film Catwoman . " Outrageous " received mixed reviews from critics . Some praised its funky sound , noting its influence from Michael and Janet Jackson , while others deemed it as " forgettable " . The song only charted in the United States , entering many of Billboard 's component charts and peaking at number seventy @-@ nine on the Hot 100 . The music video was being shot in New York City in June 2004 , when Spears hurt her knee and had to undergo arthroscopic surgery . The video was canceled , as well as The Onyx Hotel Tour and the feature in the Catwoman soundtrack .

= = Promotion = =

In November 2003 , Barry Weiss spoke to Billboard and said that In the Zone was being promoted in a worldwide level , exhausting areas such as print and electronic media , TV , radio and video to raise awareness of the album 's release . In addition , JIVE worked with lifestyle marketer the Karpel Group to market the album to the gay community . Other broader @-@ based marketing efforts included a tie @-@ in with marketing company LidRock , where after ordering a soda at Sbarro , customers received a cup featuring the artwork and a three @-@ inch disc in the lid featuring " Brave New Girl " and songs by two other artists . In December 2003 , an updated LidRock disc included a remix of " Me Against the Music " without Madonna , as well as songs by fellow JIVE acts Nick Cannon and Bowling for Soup . Regal Theaters also showed a short film that included footage of the making of Spears 's music videos . Two national TV advertising campaigns began on November 1 , 2003 , one with a teaser ad in American comedy show Saturday Night Live and another exclusively on MTV . No sponsored cross @-@ marketing campaigns were planned , as Larry Rudolph explained , " [This time] it 's going to be more about the music than about corporate tie @-@ ins . " In terms of international exposure , during a fourth @-@ month period Spears was

featured in seven mini TV @-@ specials and more than one @-@ hundred and fifty interviews outside the US .

Spears first performed " Me Against the Music " at the 2003 NFL Kickoff Live on September 4 , 2003 at the National Mall . The performance segued into a medley of " ... Baby One More Time " and " I 'm a Slave 4 U " , which included pyrotechnics . On September 14 , 2003 , Spears played a surprise concert at Rain Nightclub in the Palms Casino Resort , and performed " Me Against the Music " , " Breathe on Me " and a medley of " ... Baby One More Time " and " I 'm a Slave 4 U " . On October 18 , 2003 , Spears performed " Me Against the Music " and " Everytime " during the twenty @-@ ninth season of Saturday Night Live . Spears opened the 2003 American Music Awards telecast with a performance of " Me Against the Music " . On November 17 , 2003 , a concert special titled Britney Spears : In the Zone aired in ABC . The following day , she performed " Me Against the Music " and " (I Got That) Boom Boom " on the American music show TRL at Times Square . " Me Against the Music " was also performed on American late @-@ night show The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and American morning show Live with Regis and Kelly on November 17 and 24 , 2003 . She performed " Toxic " , " Breathe on Me " and " Me Against the Music " as the headliner of the Jingle Ball on December 8 , 2003 , at the Staples Center . On January 24 , 2004 , Spears opened the 2004 NRJ Music Awards with a performance of " Toxic " . On August 5 , 2004 , Spears performed " Everytime " at the British music chart show Top of the Pops .

= = = The Onyx Hotel Tour = = =

The Onyx Hotel Tour to promote In the Zone was the fourth concert tour by Britney Spears . A tour to promote the album was announced in December 2003 . Its original name was the In the Zone Tour , but Spears was sued for trademark infringement and banned from using the phrase ' in the zone ' . Spears felt inspired to create a show with a hotel theme which she later mixed with the concept of an onyx stone . The stage , inspired by Broadway musicals , was less elaborate than her previous tours . The setlist was composed mostly by songs from In the Zone as well as some of her past songs reworked with different elements of jazz , blues and Latin percussion . Tour promoter Clear Channel Entertainment marketed the tour to a more adult audience than her previous shows while sponsor MTV highly promoted the tour on TV shows and the network 's website . The tour was divided into seven segments : Check @-@ In , Mystic Lounge , Mystic Garden , The Onyx Zone , Security Cameras , Club and the encore . Check @-@ In displayed performances with dance and advanced in the hotel theme . Mystic Lounge featured an homage to Cabaret and other musicals , while remixing some of Spears 's early hits . Mystic Garden displayed a jungle @-@ inspired stage . The Onyx Zone displayed a ballad performance with acrobats . Security Cameras was the raciest part of the show , with Spears and her dancers emulating different sexual practices . Club displayed a performance with urban influences . The encore consisted of a system malfunction interlude and Spears performed wearing a red ensemble . The tour received mixed reviews from contemporary critics , who praised it for being an entertaining show while criticizing it for looking " more [like] a spectacle than an actual concert " . The Onyx Hotel Tour was commercially successful , grossing \$ 34 million . In March , Spears suffered a knee injury onstage which forced her to reschedule two shows . In June , Spears fell and hurt her knee again during a music video shoot . She underwent surgery and the remainder of the tour was cancelled .

= = Legacy = =

Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic commented , " If 2001 's Britney was a transitional album , capturing Spears at the point when she wasn 't a girl and not yet a woman , its 2003 follow @-@ up , In the Zone , is where she has finally completed that journey and turned into Britney , the Adult Woman . " Erlewine compared Spears to her peer Christina Aguilera , explaining that both equated maturity with transparent sexuality and the pounding sounds of nightclubs , but while Aguilera " comes across like a natural @-@ born skank , Britney is the girl next door cutting loose at college , drinking and smoking and dancing and sexing just a little too recklessly , since this is the first time

she can indulge herself . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine stated , " For a girl who 's always seemed too sexed @-@ up for her age , In The Zone finds Britney finally filling her britches , so @-@ to @-@ speak . Her little girl coquettishness actually works now ? maybe because , at 21 , she 's finally a woman . " Jason King of Vibe said the album showcased a transformed Spears , " no longer a girl , and all the woman any man can handle . " In 2009 , Amy Schrieffer of NPR listed the album on The 50 Most Important Recording of the Decade list . Calling it " a primer on the sound of pop in the ' 00s " , she deemed Spears as the ideal vehicle for a futuristic sound , since she was still trying to break away from her teen pop past . Schrieffer praised " Toxic " and " Everytime " , and also stated , " While the decade 's history of celebrity obsession , paparazzi voyeurism and conflicted constructions of female sexuality and motherhood are written on Spears ' body , the decade 's history of impeccably crafted pop is written on her body of work . "

Julie Andsager in Sex in consumer culture (2006) said that the music videos from In the Zone presented a different Spears , and that although the album was intended to target the gay market , the videos were clearly designed for heterosexual men . Andsager suggested that Spears took cues more directly from sexual fantasies , and that the use of sanitized images of attractive young women posed in sexual ways (lesbian chic) serves two audiences : primarily , it sought to fulfill heterosexual fantasies , but as a secondary function , it may also serve young women as a source of instruction in attracting males . From a marketing perspective , the fantasy @-@ fulfillment purpose of the album was apparent not only on the videos , but also in the kiss between Spears at Madonna at the Video Music Awards . Finally , Andsager explained that " [Spears] has , perhaps , taken her sexuality to its extreme ? for network television , at least ? at the age of 22 " .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ [a] signifies a co @-@ producer .

^ [b] signifies a vocal producer .

^ [c] signifies a remixer .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =