

= Olivia (Olivia album) =

Olivia is the debut album by American R & B singer Olivia . It was released on May 15 , 2001 , by J Records . Olivia was known as " the First Lady of J " as she was the first artist signed to the label . Promotional efforts for the album associated Olivia with a provocative image . The record is a primarily hip hop and R & B record , with lyrical themes that revolve largely around sexuality and romance . It features guest vocals from American rapper Petey Pablo and American R & B singer Jimmy Cozier . Olivia received comparisons to music by rapper Lil ' Kim and R & B singers Aaliyah and Mýa . Olivia later expressed disappointment with her lack of control over the recording and promotion of the album and felt she was limited to a " bad girl " image by label executives . After promoting the album , Olivia left the label and was invited to join G @-@ Unit Records by its founder 50 Cent .

The album received mixed reviews from critics , who praised Olivia 's attitude while rapping and singing , though some criticized the record 's inconsistency , and Olivia 's lack of connection to the material . The album was moderately successful in the United States , peaking at number 55 on the Billboard 200 and number 22 on the Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums charts .

" Bizounce " was released as the lead single from Olivia on March 20 , 2001 , and peaked at number fifteen on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . The second single " Are U Capable " was released on July 3 , 2001 ; " You Got the Damn Thing (I Like) Remix " , a remix of the album track " You Got the Damn Thing " , was serviced as the third and final single from the record later that same year . Olivia further promoted the album through several performances on television and live shows and a promotional tour prior to its release .

= = Background = =

After initially attempting to rap under the name " O @-@ Lovely " , Olivia chose to attend Hofstra University and Five Towns College to further her career in music . Olivia said people would frequently compare her voice to R & B singer Brandy . During her audition for American record producer Clive Davis , she sang the gospel hymn " His Eye Is on the Sparrow " . Musician Joshua Thompson produced Olivia 's demo , and arranged her audition for Arista Records executives and Davis . In an interview with Billboard , Olivia said she was signed to the label immediately after the meeting . J Records senior vice president Ron Gillyard described Olivia as " the real deal " , emphasizing her roles as " a songwriter , a singer , and a rapper " . At age 17 , Olivia was the first artist signed to J Records by American record producer Clive Davis . Executives from the record company referred to her as " the First Lady of J " . Olivia described herself as " the one chosen to flagship the label " since her single and album were one of the first projects released by the company . She defined her music as " R & B with a strong hip hop flava " . The Morning Call 's Righi reported the popularity of Olivia , along with R & B singer Aaliyah , reflecting that " the right attitude , hip @-@ hop production and clothing? not to mention a body to die for " was considered more important in contemporary R & B than : " the plaintive human voice in the throes of transcendent ecstasy or bottomless hurt " .

Olivia later viewed the recording of the album as a learning experience for her future music ventures ; she said her time at the record label " was cut short by the politics of the industry and me not actually taking my career into my own hands " . She said record executives took away her control over the creation of the album given her youth and inexperience . In her 2014 autobiography Release Me : My Life , My Words , Olivia wrote that she did not consider building a cohesive set of songs during the recording process and identified the album as lacking a clear direction . During promotion for the record , Olivia described having a good working relationship with Davis , but she called him " extremely controlling " after leaving the label . Olivia claimed that she was forced to be the bad girl while label mate Alicia Keys was promoted as the good girl . In an official statement , J Records ' representatives pointed to Olivia 's credits as a co @-@ writer for a majority of the album as proof of her involvement with the project and maintained : " Clive doesn 't categorize artists as good or bad girls " . After her release from J Records , American rapper 50 Cent and Interscope

Geffen A & M Records chairman Jimmy Iovine signed Olivia to G @-@ Unit Records . 50 Cent said he enjoyed Olivia 's previous work and blamed J Records for sabotaging her career .

= = Composition and promotion = =

The final cut of Olivia comprises twelve tracks on the standard edition . The album consists primarily of R & B songs , with hip @-@ hop and jazz influences . The Morning Call 's Righi characterized the album 's first ten tracks as " dreary complaints [with] a mercenary attitude " while the final three were : " girlish and even gooey " . " Bizounce " was released as Olivia 's lead single on March 20 , 2001 . Director Marcus Raboy shot the accompanying music video . The song reached number fifteen on the Billboard Hot 100 and number four on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . It was Olivia 's highest @-@ charting single on the Billboard Hot 100 until her 2005 collaboration with 50 Cent on " Candy Shop " , which peaked at number one on the chart . In Canada , the single peaked at number sixteen on the Canadian Singles Chart . A reviewer in Billboard praised Olivia 's vocals , saying she " has the mouth of a bad girl and the voice of an angel " , and described the single as making her : " a bona fide R & B singer " .

The second single was originally intended to be " You Got the Damn Thing " before being changed to " Are U Capable " , which was released on vinyl , on July 3 , 2001 , and promoted with a music video . Rashaun Hall from Billboard gave the single a positive review , saying that it : " may be the song that sets her career ablaze " . " You Got the Damn Thing (I Like) Remix " , a remix of the album track " You Got the Damn Thing " , was later released separately and was treated as the third and final single from the album .

Olivia made appearances on television and on live shows to promote her debut album . Before the album 's release , she performed " Bizounce " on Soul Train , BET , MTV 's hip @-@ hop video block Sucker Free (known at the time as DFX) , and The Source Sound Lab . On February 11 , 2001 , she embarked on a promotional tour leading up to the album 's release on May 15 , 2001 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Olivia received mixed reviews from music critics . A reviewer in Honey praised the album , saying : " Hip Hop Soul has a real voice with Olivia " . A reviewer in The Source noted that " Olivia is most memorable when she 's in woman @-@ scorned mode " , calling her " a thugged @-@ out Aaliyah and pissed @-@ off Mýa " . A reviewer in CMJ called the album : " unique and ground @-@ breaking " . A reviewer in Q magazine described Olivia as " well @-@ versed in the not always noble art of the R & B ballad " and the songs as : " a list of saucy demands that would make Lil ' Kim blush " . Jon Azpiri of AllMusic praised the album , saying " her softer tracks show some versatility " , and deemed Olivia 's best works as coming from : " when she is venting her spleen rather than revealing her soul " . Negative criticism focused on the inconsistency of the album 's sound and Olivia 's lack of connection to the material . Entertainment Weekly 's Mark Baudt commended the album 's impeccable production , but felt that it : " lacks the overall energy and excitement of its best songs " . Len Righi of The Morning Call praised Olivia 's persona as " the vulgar thugette " , but was critical of the album 's content , saying " without being able to see the hand gesturing that is an integral part of modern R & B , Olivia 's music loses a lot " .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

In the United States , Olivia debuted at number 55 on the Billboard 200 chart on the week of June 2 , 2001 . The next week , it went down to number 103 and continued falling until it exited the chart on the week of July 14 . The album debuted at number 22 on the Billboard Top R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Albums chart on the week of June 2 before falling out of the top 25 in the following week .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Olivia , J Records , BMG Rights Management :
Managerial

Performance credits

Visuals and imagery

Instruments

Technical and production

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =