

= Elvis Is Back ! =

Elvis Is Back ! is the tenth studio album by Elvis Presley . It was released on RCA Victor Records in mono and stereo in April 1960 . Recorded over two sessions in March and April , the album marked Presley 's return to recording after his discharge from the U.S. Army .

In 1957 , as Presley 's fame was soaring , he received a draft notice from the Memphis Draft Board , but was given a deferment so he could finish his latest film production , King Creole . During Presley 's two @-@ year military service in Germany , RCA Victor and Paramount Pictures progressively released material he had completed prior to enlistment . During his last months in the Army , Presley experimented with new sounds and worked on further improving his performance . He also prepared material for his first session in Nashville , which was scheduled to take place upon his return . Presley returned to the United States on March 2 , 1960 . The singer reunited with his original band The Blue Moon Boys , excepting bassist Bill Black . The first session was held on March 20 ? 21 and the second session was held on April 3 ? 4 , completing the album .

Elvis Is Back ! topped the UK Albums Chart and reached number two in Billboard 's Top LP 's . Initially , the release received mixed reviews , but over subsequent years its critical reception became progressively more positive . The album was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America in 1999 .

= = Background and Army years = =

Following his third and last appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show , Presley received a notice from the Memphis draft board on January 8 , 1957 . The board announced his 1A classification and his possible draft before the end of the year . During the first half of 1957 , Presley had three number one hits with " Too Much " , " All Shook Up " , and " (Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear " . His second film , Loving You , opened on July 30 to box office success . His Christmas album was released on October 15 and his third film , Jailhouse Rock , opened on October 17 .

On December 20 , Presley received his draft notice . He was granted a deferment so he could to finish the forthcoming film King Creole , which had already received an investment of \$ 350 @,@ 000 from Paramount Pictures and producer Hal Wallis . At the beginning of 1958 , Presley 's single " Don 't " topped the charts .

Presley was inducted into the Army on March 24 , 1958 . Soon after starting basic training at Fort Hood , Texas , he received a visit from Eddie Fadal , a businessman he had met on tour in January 1956 . According to Fadal , Presley " firmly believed " his career was finished . After completing training , he joined the 3rd Armored Division in Friedberg , Germany , on October 1 .

Media reports echoed Presley 's concerns about his career , but RCA producer Steve Sholes and Freddy Bienstock of Hill and Range had carefully prepared for his two @-@ year absence . Prepared with unreleased material , they kept up a stream of regular , successful releases . Between his induction and discharge , Presley had ten top 40 hits , including " Wear My Ring Around Your Neck " , the best @-@ selling " Hard Headed Woman " , and " One Night " in 1958 , and " (Now and Then There 's) A Fool Such as I " and the number one hit " A Big Hunk o ' Love " in 1959 . RCA also released four albums compiling old material during this period , most successfully Elvis ' Golden Records (1958) (which rose to third position on the LP chart) and 50 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 Elvis Fans Can 't Be Wrong .

= = Return to music = =

During his final months in the Army , Presley started to experiment with new material and thinking ahead to his anticipated return to recording . For his first scheduled recording session , Presley considered The Four Fellow 's " Soldier Boy " , the Golden Gate Quartet 's " I Will Be Home Again " , The Drifters ' " Such a Night " and Jesse Stone 's " Like a Baby " . His friend Charlie Hodge taught Presley techniques to improve his breathing and expand his range . For inspiration , Presley used Roy Hamilton 's " I Believe " and his version of " Unchained Melody " , the traditional Irish song "

Danny Boy " , and Tony Martin 's " There 's No Tomorrow " (an English adaptation of " ? O sole mio ") . Presley also studied the phrasing and notes of records by The Inkspots and the Mills Brothers . By the end of his time in Germany , Presley had added a full octave to his vocal range .

Presley returned to the United States on March 2 , 1960 , and was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant on March 5 . While Presley was in Germany , manager Colonel Tom Parker negotiated new terms with RCA Victor for Presley to fulfill his contractual obligations with film soundtracks . Parker also obtained an increase in Presley 's salary and a profit share from producer Wallis , and negotiated an appearance on The Frank Sinatra Show . Meanwhile , to assure publishing royalties , Bienstock commissioned new lyrics for " O Sole Mio " since the tune was already in the public domain .

= = Recording = =

On March 20 , Parker sent a chartered Greyhound bus to transport Presley and his entourage from Memphis , Tennessee to Nashville . The session personnel consisted of guitarist Scotty Moore , drummer D.J. Fontana , pianist Floyd Cramer , guitarist Hank Garland , bassist Bobby Moore , percussionist Buddy Harman and the backing group The Jordanaires . Presley 's original bassist Bill Black declined to join the sessions as he was enjoying success with the Bill Black Combo . To prevent possible disruption by fans , the musicians were initially told they were going to play on a Jim Reeves session . RCA executives Sholes and Bill Bullock were joined in the control booth by Parker , his assistant Tom Diskin , A & R head Chet Atkins , engineer Bill Porter and Hill and Range 's Bienstock .

RCA 's Studio B had recently been equipped with a new three @-@ track recorder . To further improve the recording of Presley 's voice , Porter had Telefunken U @-@ 47 microphones placed in the studio . The U @-@ 47 was the first condenser microphone that could switch between omnidirectional and cardioid patterns . The microphone could be used for vocals , instruments and full area coverage . The first song recorded was Otis Blackwell 's " Make Me Know It " , which was mastered in nineteen takes . " Soldier Boy " was later recorded in fifteen takes , followed by the non @-@ album cuts " Stuck on You " and " Fame and Fortune " . The last song recorded during the March session was a non @-@ album cut , " A Mess of Blues " . A new session was arranged for April . Presley then left for Miami , Florida , where he taped The Frank Sinatra Timex Show : Welcome Home Elvis .

The original musicians returned to the studio on the evening of April 3 ; they were joined by saxophonist Boots Randolph . Presley started the session with " Fever " , accompanied only by the bass and drums . He followed with the reworded version of " O Sole Mio " , now titled " It 's Now or Never " . After Presley failed several times to achieve the full voice ending of the song , Porter offered to splice it for him . Presley refused and tried the song until he archived the desired ending . " Girl Next Door Went A @-@ Walking " , was recorded in ten takes , followed by " Thrill of Your Love " . The non @-@ album cut " Are You Lonesome Tonight " was followed by " I Will Be Home Again " ? a duet with Hodge . For the last song of the session , Lowell Fulson 's " Reconsider Baby " , Presley played the lead using his Gibson Super 400 guitar .

= = Content = =

Elvis is Back ! represented a new sound for Presley ; it moved him further toward pop music , a direction he continued to take over much of the decade . The album features a mixture of genres , including rock , rhythm and blues and pop ballads . Critics generally agreed that Presley had acquired a " deeper , harder voice quality " , and said his interpretations were " increasingly sophisticated " . The album includes a variety of material ; Presley and the session musicians , known as the " The Nashville A @-@ Team " , had the benefit of recording equipment that was state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art for its time . Elvis is Back ! was the first Presley album to be released in stereo . The album 's front cover shows Presley standing in front of a blue stage curtain , dressed in an Army trench coat and smiling as he glances to his left . The back cover features an image of

Presley grinning ; he is dressed in an Army regulation fatigue jacket and cap . The inside of the gatefold cover features fifteen photographs of Presley taken at various times during his Army service .

The album contains twelve tracks ; it opens with " Make Me Know It " . The second track is a cover of " Fever " , which Presley based on Peggy Lee 's version , although his recording incorporates finger @-@ snapping and the sounds of the two percussionists are divided between the two channels of the stereo mix . On " The Girl of My Best Friend " , Presley is supported with doo @-@ wop backing vocals by The Jordanaires . The fourth track is " I Will Be Home Again " , a slow ballad performed as a duet with Charlie Hodge . The fifth track is " Dirty , Dirty Feeling " , a song characterized by its " raunchy rock sound " and satirical humor ; it was written by Leiber and Stoller , and had been previously discarded from the soundtrack of King Creole . The final track on side one is " Thrill of Your Love " , on which Presley is accompanied by Cramer on the piano .

The second side opens with " Soldier Boy " , which featuring a change of key in the chorus . This is followed by " Such a Night " , which has saxophone accompaniment by Randolph . The next track is the blues number " It Feels So Right " , which features lead guitar and heavy use of percussion . The following track is " Girl Next Door Went A @-@ Walking " , which was brought in by Moore . The album closes with the rhythm and blues songs " Like a Baby " and " Reconsider Baby " . Presley played the lead guitar on both tracks , the latter of which features long saxophone and piano solos .

= = Release and reception = =

The first single from *Elvis Is Back !* , " Stuck on You " , was released two days after its recording with " Fame and Fortune " on the B @-@ side , attracting 1 @. @ 4 million advanced orders . The pre @-@ printed single sleeve said , " Elvis ' 1st New Recording For His 50 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 Fans All Over The World " . It was the first Presley single to be released in stereo .

Elvis Is Back ! was released on April 8 , 1960 , in stereo and monaural versions . The album reached number two on Billboard 's Top LP 's and topped the UK Albums Chart . Despite this , its commercial performance was a disappointment , with fewer than 300 @, @ 000 copies sold in the United States .

= = = Initial reviews = = =

Billboard magazine said , " Elvis is back and singing better than ever in the rock and roll style he made famous " . The New York Times called the record " drab and lackluster " . Referencing Presley 's change of style , High Fidelity magazine said : " Presley obviously finds it hard to record his old gusto ... Perhaps [the recordings] are the first attempts to master new styles " . Hi @-@ Fi Stereo Review magazine also remarked on the change in Presley 's style , calling the album " musically schizoid " despite deeming the overall recording " good " . The review said Presley 's ballads were " the worst he 's ever made " but lauded " his former vitality " in the " commercial rockabilly romps " .

= = = Retrospective reviews = = =

In his review for AllMusic , Bruce Eder wrote that the album " shows a mature Elvis Presley [who] displayed the rich , deep vocalizing that would challenge critics ' expectations of Elvis Presley playing rhythm guitar throughout " . Eder concluded : " [*Elvis Is Back !*] comes off better than on any of his other albums since arriving at RCA " . Will Hermes of Rolling Stone praised its " wildly varied material , revelatory singing , impeccable stereo sound " . Writing for Rough Guides in 2004 , Paul Simpson commented : " Among the 1800 or so records in Elvis 's collection at Graceland is a copy of *Elvis Is Back !* , almost white from the number of times it was played . You can understand why this would be his favourite album . " Simpson admired Presley 's blues singing on " Like a Baby " and " Reconsider Baby " , and added , " it 's hard to believe that this commitment and exhilaration was to be heard only fitfully for most of the 1960s , often on songs buried on B @-@ sides or as

bonuses on dodgy soundtrack albums . "

PopMatters ' Steve Horowitz said the album helped Presley grow from " teen idol " to " adult entertainer " . Horowitz continued : " Presley ? s voice was still strong and clear . He could belt out the blues one minute ... and then sound sophisticated the next ... without changing character . " The Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer also gave a favorable review , saying , " Elvis is Back ! finds [Presley] demonstrating both versatility and an affinity for handling a range of song styles " .

Writing in The Daily Telegraph in January 2015 , Neil McCormick included Elvis Is Back ! among the artist 's essential works . McCormick wrote : " It is almost universally accepted that Elvis , who never saw active service , ' died ' in the army . Yet Elvis Is Back ? is arguably Presley 's masterpiece , in which he tackles ballads , blues , rock , pop and gospel with a quality of control that somehow makes his innate sensuality even more potent . " Simon Gage of Britain 's Daily Express described the album as " [Presley 's] finest " .

= = Legacy = =

Elvis is Back ! was certified Gold on July 15 , 1999 , by the Recording Industry Association of America . Critic Robert Dimery included the album in his book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die . RCA reissued the original album on Compact Disc in 1990 , and in 1999 re @-@ released it with bonus tracks . In 2005 Elvis is Back ! was reissued on the Follow That Dream label in a 2 @-@ disc CD collection . This edition contains previously unreleased outtakes of the studio album and combines all previously released versions of the masters and outtakes . Legacy Recordings released a remastered version of the album together with Something for Everybody in 2011 .

= = Personnel = =

= = Track listing = =

= = = Original release = = =

= = = 1999 reissue bonus tracks = = =

= = = 2005 Follow That Dream reissue = = =

= = = 2011 Legacy edition reissue = = =

= = Chart positions = =