

= B 'Day (Beyoncé album) =

B 'Day is the second studio album by American recording artist Beyoncé . It was released to coincide with her twenty @-@ fifth birthday on September 4 , 2006 , by Columbia Records in collaboration with Music World Music and Sony Urban Music . The record was originally planned as a 2004 follow @-@ up to Beyoncé 's debut studio album *Dangerously in Love* (2003) , although it was delayed to accommodate the recording of Destiny 's Child 's final studio album *Destiny Fulfilled* (2004) and her starring role in the film *Dreamgirls* (2006) . While on vacation after filming *Dreamgirls* , Beyoncé began contacting various producers ; she rented Sony Music Studios , and completed B 'Day in three weeks . Most of the lyrical content of the album was inspired by Beyoncé 's role in the film . The album 's musical style ranges from 1970s ? 80s funk influences and balladry to urban contemporary elements such as hip hop and R & B. Live instrumentation was employed in recording most of the tracks as part of Beyoncé 's vision of creating a record using live instruments .

Upon its release , B 'Day received generally positive reviews from most music critics and has since earned Beyoncé several accolades , including the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary R & B Album at the 2007 Grammy Awards . The album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart , selling 541 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , the second @-@ highest debut @-@ week sales for Beyoncé . The album has been certified triple platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . It was also successful in international music markets and yielded six singles , including three commercial hits : " Déjà Vu " , " Irreplaceable " and " Beautiful Liar " . B 'Day Anthology Video Album , which features thirteen music videos to accompany the songs , was released alongside the deluxe edition of B 'Day . Beyoncé then embarked on her second solo concert tour in 2007 , which she titled *The Beyoncé Experience* . A live album , *The Beyoncé Experience Live* , was released which featured footage from the tour . As of June 2015 , B 'Day has sold 8 million copies worldwide .

= = Background = =

In 2002 , Beyoncé had productive studio sessions while making her debut album , *Dangerously in Love* , recording up to forty @-@ five songs . After the release of *Dangerously in Love* in 2003 , Beyoncé had planned to produce a follow @-@ up album using several of the left @-@ over tracks . However , on January 7 , 2004 , a spokesperson for her record label , Columbia , announced that Beyoncé had put her plans on hold in order to concentrate on the recording of *Destiny Fulfilled* , the final studio album by Destiny 's Child , and to sing the U.S. national anthem at the Super Bowl XXXVIII in Houston , which was a childhood dream of hers . In late 2005 , Beyoncé decided to postpone the recording of her second album because she had landed a lead role in *Dreamgirls* , a film adaptation of the 1981 Tony Award @-@ winning Broadway musical of the same name . As she wanted to focus on one project at a time , Beyoncé decided to wait until the movie was completed before returning to the recording studio . Beyoncé later told *Billboard* magazine , " I 'm not going to write for the album until I finish doing the movie . "

While having a month @-@ long vacation after filming *Dreamgirls* , Beyoncé went to the studio to start working on the album . She said , " [When filming ended] I had so many things bottled up , so many emotions , so many ideas , " prompting her to begin working without telling her father and then @-@ manager , Mathew Knowles . Beyoncé kept the recording of B 'Day somewhat quiet , telling only her artists and repertoire man Max Gousse , and the team of producers they contacted to collaborate for the album . She began working with songwriter @-@ producers Rich Harrison , Rodney Jerkins , Sean Garrett , Cameron Wallace ; the Neptunes , Norwegian production duo Stargate , American hip hop producer @-@ rapper Swizz Beatz , and Walter Millsap . Two female songwriters were also included in the production team who helped structure the album : Beyoncé 's cousin Angela Beyincé , who had previously collaborated in *Dangerously in Love* , and up @-@ and @-@ coming songwriter Makeba Riddick , who made her way onto the team after writing " Déjà Vu " , the lead single off the album .

= = Recording and production = =

Beyoncé rented the Sony Music Studios in New York City , and was influenced by her husband Jay Z 's method of collaborating with multiple record producers ; she used four recording studios simultaneously . She booked Harrison , Jerkins and Garrett , each with a room to work in . During the sessions , Beyoncé would move from studio to studio to check her producers ' progress , later claiming this fostered " healthy competition " among producers . When Beyoncé conceived a potential song , she would tell the group who would deliberate , and after three hours the song would be created . While Beyoncé and the team brainstormed the lyrics , other collaborators such as the Neptunes , Jerkins and Swizz Beatz would simultaneously produce the tracks . They would sometimes begin working at eleven o 'clock , spending up to fourteen hours a day in the studios during the recording process . Beyoncé arranged , co @-@ wrote and co @-@ produced all the songs . Makeba Riddick , in an interview with MTV News , recounted her experience in the production :

[Beyoncé] had multiple producers in Sony Studios . She booked out the whole studio and she had the biggest and best producers in there . She would have us in one room , we would start collaborating with one producer , then she would go and start something else with another producer . We would bounce around to the different rooms and work with the different producers . It was definitely a factory type of process .

B 'Day , which is titled as a reference to Beyoncé 's birthday , was completed in three weeks , ahead of the originally scheduled six weeks . Swizz Beatz co @-@ produced four songs for the album , the most from a single producer in the team . Beyoncé recorded three songs a day , finishing recording within two weeks . Twenty @-@ five songs were produced for the album ; ten of the tracks were selected for the track list , and mastered in early July by Brian " Big Bass " Gardner in Los Angeles .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Many of the themes and musical styles of the album were inspired by Beyoncé 's role in Dreamgirls . The plot of the film revolves around The Dreams , a fictional 1960s group of three female singers who attempt success in the mainstream music industry with the help of their manager , Curtis Taylor . Beyoncé portrays Deena Jones , the lead singer of the group and the wife of Taylor , and is emotionally abused by him . Because of her role , Beyoncé was inspired to produce an album with an overriding theme of feminism and female empowerment . In the bonus track , " Encore for the Fans " , Beyoncé says , " Because I was so inspired by Deena , I wrote songs that were saying all the things I wish she would have said in the film . "

B 'Day was influenced by a variety of American genres , and , like Beyoncé 's previous album , incorporated urban contemporary elements including contemporary R & B and hip hop . Some songs have 1970s and 1980s styles , inspired through record sampling . " Suga Mama " , which employs blues @-@ guitar samples from Jake Wade and the Soul Searchers ' " Searching for Soul " , contains a 1970s funk- and 1980s go @-@ go @-@ influenced melody . " Upgrade U " is sampled from the 1968 Betty Wright song " Girls Can 't Do What the Guys Do " . " Resentment " used Curtis Mayfield 's 1972 " Think (Instrumental) " , from the Super Fly soundtrack . " Déjà Vu " has 1970s influence , " Green Light " is a classic groove , and " Get Me Bodied " features twang , a musical style that originated from Texas .

Beyoncé crafted most songs on B 'Day through live instrumentation and diverse techniques . This is evident on " Déjà Vu " , which utilizes bass guitar , conga , hi @-@ hat , horns and the 808 drum ; it also features rap vocals by Jay @-@ Z. In an interview with MTV , Beyoncé said , " When I recorded ' Déjà Vu ' [...] I knew that even before I started working on my album , I wanted to add live instruments to all of my songs ... " The album 's second single " Ring the Alarm " is noted for the use of a siren in its melody . It was called a song that " shows a harder edge to Beyoncé 'ss sound " . " Freakum Dress " is a crescendo that uses a two @-@ note riff and galloping beats . The song " advises women who have partners with straying eyes to put on sexy dresses and grind on other

guys in the club to regain their affections . " Meanwhile , the use of the " uh @-@ huh huh huh " vocals and brassy stabs in the song " Green Light " is a direct echo to " Crazy in Love " , according to Peter Robinson of The Guardian .

= = Release and promotion = =

In collaboration with Sony Urban Music and Music World Music , B 'Day was first released outside of North America through Columbia Records on September 4 , 2006 to coincide with Beyoncé 's 25th birthday . The following day , it was released in North America . Seven months after the release of the original version , an expanded double @-@ disc deluxe edition of the album was released in the United States on April 3 , 2007 . In addition to the original track listing , the deluxe edition features five new songs , including " Beautiful Liar " , a duet with Colombian singer Shakira . The single made Billboard Hot 100 history when it moved ninety @-@ one positions ? from number ninety @-@ four to number three ? on April 7 , 2007 . " Amor Gitano " (" Gypsy Love ") , a Spanish @-@ language flamenco @-@ pop duet with Mexican singer Alejandro Fernández served as a soundtrack for Telemundo 's " El Zorro " telenovela , was included in the deluxe edition , alongside Spanish re @-@ recordings of " Listen " (" Oye ") , " Irreplaceable " (" Irreemplazable ") and " Beautiful Liar " (" Bello Embustero ") . The idea of recording songs in a foreign language emanated from her experience when Destiny 's Child collaborated with Alejandro Sanz for " Quisiera Ser " (2000) . Beyoncé worked with producer Rudy Perez for these recordings in order to retain the same feeling of the English version of the song into the Spanish translation . The Spanish language EP on the deluxe edition was later released independently under the title Irreemplazable .

B 'Day Anthology Video Album was released simultaneously with the deluxe edition ; the anthology features thirteen videos including the director 's cut of " Listen " and the extended mix of " Get Me Bodied " . Most of the videos were accompaniments for the up @-@ tempo tracks on B 'Day ; which featured retro stylization , use of color and black hair styles , as Beyoncé thought it would create a resemblance between herself and the character she played in Dreamgirls , Deena Jones . The shooting of the videos was completed in two weeks ; they were directed by Jake Nava , Anthony Mandler , Melina Matsoukas , Cliff Watts , Ray Kay , Sophie Muller , Diane Martel and Beyoncé . Initially the DVD was available exclusively in Wal @-@ Mart , but was later released to other markets . The Spanish songs were not included on international releases of the deluxe edition , but instead feature the thirteen music videos from the anthology DVD .

= = = Singles = = =

" Déjà Vu " , featuring Jay @-@ Z , was released on July 31 , 2006 , as the album 's lead single . " Green Light " was planned to be released as the second single for the international market , but the management opted for " Ring the Alarm " instead , which was released in the United States only . " Irreplaceable " was serviced to international markets as the second international and third overall single from B 'Day . " Ring the Alarm " was released on October 3 , and became her highest @-@ charting single debut , opening at number twelve on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Upgrade U " , also featuring Jay @-@ Z , was released as a promotional single in November 2006 , and reached number fifty @-@ nine on the Hot 100 .

The album 's third single " Irreplaceable " became the best @-@ selling single in the U.S. in 2007 and the 25th most successful song of the 2000s (decade) , according to the Billboard Hot 100 Songs of the Decade . " Irreplaceable " became the most successful single to be released from the album , received positive critical reception , and spent ten consecutive weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 . The single 's music video features the debut performance of her all @-@ female band , Suga Mama . " Get Me Bodied " was released on July 10 , 2007 as the fifth single . " Get Me Bodied " peaked at number sixty @-@ eight on the Hot 100 . The single 's accompanying music video features sister Solange Knowles and former Destiny 's Child band @-@ mates Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams in its 1960s @-@ influenced instructional music video . " Green Light " was released in the United Kingdom on July 30 , 2007 . Along with the release of the single , the remix

EP Green Light : Freemasons EP was released on July 27 , 2007 as a digital download .

= = = Tour = = =

In mid @-@ 2006 , Beyoncé looked for an all @-@ female band for her 2007 tour , The Beyoncé Experience , to promote the album . She held an audition for keyboard players , bassists , guitarists , horn players , percussionists and drummers around the world . Beyoncé named the band Suga Mama . Although the band only consisted of women , both male and female backup dancers performed onstage . As well as singing songs from B 'Day , Beyoncé also performed songs from Dangerously in Love and gave a medley of Destiny 's Child songs . She embarked on the tour in Japan on April 10 , 2007 and concluded it in Taipei , Taiwan on November 12 , 2007 . At the Los Angeles show Jay @-@ Z and Destiny 's Child bandmates Rowland and Williams made guest appearances . Footage from this show was filmed and released on November 20 , 2007 as a live album titled The Beyoncé Experience Live .

= = Commercial performance = =

Despite an average commercial performance of the album 's first two singles , " Déjà Vu " and " Ring the Alarm " , B 'Day peaked at number one on the Billboard 200 , the official albums chart in the United States , on September 23 , 2006 . The album sold 541 @,@ 000 units in its first week of release . B 'Day was Beyoncé 's highest debut week album sales , until it was surpassed by her self @-@ titled fifth album , which sold 617 @,@ 213 digital copies in its first week . The album gave Beyoncé her second number @-@ one album following Dangerously in Love , which also topped the chart on its debut . This feat was noted by Keith Caulfield of Billboard magazine , surmising that perhaps " its handsome debut was generated by goodwill earned from the performance of her smash first album Dangerously in Love " . By the end of 2006 , the album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , and became the thirty @-@ eighth best @-@ selling album of that year in the US .

The album 's commercial performance was reinforced by the subsequent release of its editions . The release of the deluxe edition helped B 'Day re @-@ enter the top ten , gaining 903 percent in sales . On April 16 , 2007 , the RIAA re @-@ certified B 'Day as triple platinum , combining the sales from the original edition of album with those of the deluxe edition . However , B 'Day 's extended life in the music market has been attributed to the release and eventual success of " Irreplaceable " , which is the album 's certifiable smash hit . The single , which was released by the end of 2006 , helped the album in regaining its strength , having re @-@ entered into the top ten of Billboard 200 . As of July 2014 , the album has sold 3 @.@ 4 million copies in the US .

In the United Kingdom , B 'Day debuted at number three on September 11 , 2007 selling 35 @,@ 012 copies in its first week . The British Phonographic Industry (BPI) certified B 'Day platinum for shipping 300 @,@ 000 units , and the deluxe edition gold for shipping 100 @,@ 000 units . As of July 3 , 2011 , B 'Day has sold 385 @,@ 078 copies in the UK . The album peaked at number three on the European Top 100 Albums , while reaching the top ten in the albums charts of Denmark , Flanders , Germany , Ireland , Italy , the Netherlands , Portugal , Spain and Switzerland . The album reached number two on the Canadian Albums Chart , where it stayed for two weeks and receiving a platinum certification from the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) . Across Oceania , it had the same reception debuting on Australian Albums Chart and New Zealand Albums Chart both at number eight on the same week , September 11 , 2006 . B 'Day remained on the charts for twenty and twenty @-@ five weeks respectively , and was certified platinum by both the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) and the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) . As of September 2013 , B 'Day had sold 8 million copies worldwide .

= = Critical reception = =

B 'Day received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a

weighted mean rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 70 , based on 23 reviews . Jody Rosen , writing for Entertainment Weekly , commented that the album 's songs " arrive in huge gusts of rhythm and emotion , with Beyoncé 's voice rippling over clattery beats " . Jonah Weiner of Blender commented that " sweaty up @-@ tempo numbers prove the best platform for Beyoncé 's rapperly phrasing and pipe @-@ flaunting fireballs " . Andy Kellman of Allmusic felt that , despite " no songs with the smooth elegance " of " Me , Myself and I " or " Be with You " , the album is " lean in a beneficial way " . The Boston Globe 's Sarah Rodman commented that the production team helped Beyoncé " focus on edgier , up @-@ tempo tracks that take her sweet soprano to new places " . Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian felt that , " apart from a few pop @-@ R & B space @-@ fillers , there 's not much to dislike about B 'Day " . Robert Christgau from MSN Music said " on most of [the songs] she 's wronged yet still in control because she 's got so much money " and felt that Beyoncé " earns her props " if " opulence can signify liberation in this grotesquely materialistic time , as in hip @-@ hop it can " .

In a mixed review , Jon Pareles of The New York Times found the album " tense , high @-@ strung and obsessive " , and said that it was neither " ingratiating or seductive " . Richard Cromelin of the Los Angeles Times observed that Beyoncé " heads into a new , more challenging terrain " , but " some of the experiments don 't click " . Although he found the album " solid " , Mike Joseph of PopMatters said that " aside from its relatively short running time , it sounds suspiciously under produced " . Brian Hiatt of Rolling Stone averred that " while the mostly up @-@ tempo disc never lacks for energy , some of the more beat @-@ driven tracks feel harmonically and melodically undercooked , with hooks that don 't live up to ' Crazy in Love ' or the best Destiny 's Child hits " . Priya Elan of NME cited only " Freakum Dress " and " Ring the Alarm " as highlights and criticized that " too many tracks sound like updated versions of former glories " , with no song on @-@ par with " Crazy in Love " .

= = = Accolades = = =

In 2007 , B 'Day was nominated for five Grammy Awards at the 49th annual ceremony , including Best Contemporary R & B Album , Best Female R & B Vocal Performance for " Ring the Alarm " and Best R & B Song and Best Rap / Sung Collaboration " for " Déjà Vu " . The Freemasons club mix of " Déjà Vu " without the rap was put forward in the Best Remixed Recording , Non @-@ Classical category . B 'Day won the award for Best Contemporary R & B Album . The following year , B 'Day received two Grammy nominations for Record of the Year for " Irreplaceable " and Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals for " Beautiful Liar " (with Shakira) . The same year , she also received a Grammy nomination for her work on Dreamgirls . In April 2013 , Vibe magazine named B 'Day the 41st best album since 1993 , as well as the greatest party album of the last twenty years .

= = Controversy = =

The cover art for the single " Ring the Alarm " fueled controversy after Beyoncé used alligators during the photo shoot . Beyoncé revealed that using the animal and taping their mouths shut was her idea . PETA , an animal rights organization which had previously confronted her after she had used furs for her fashion line 's clothing design , contacted a biologist who later wrote a letter to her , stating " As a specialist in reptile biology and welfare , I 'm concerned about your posing with a terrified baby alligator for your new album cover . Humans and alligators are not natural bedfellows , and the two should not mix at events such as photo shoots . In my view , doing so is arguably abusive to an animal . "

In 2007 , Beyoncé appeared on billboards and newspapers across Australia showing her holding an antiquated cigarette holder . Taken from the back cover of B 'Day , the image provoked response from an anti @-@ smoking group , stating that she did not need to add the cigarette holder " to make herself appear more sophisticated " . In the same year , three weeks after their release , the deluxe edition and the video anthology DVD were temporarily ceased for retail in stores . A lawsuit was filed for breach of contract of using " Still in Love (Kissing You) " , a version of British singer

Des 'ree 's original song " Kissing You " . Not intended for the album 's inclusion , Des 'ree 's deal also stipulated that the title of the song was not to be altered , and a video was not to be made . After the infringement case , the re @-@ issued version of the album does not include the track , and instead includes " If " as a replacement . The lawsuit was dismissed with prejudice in October 2007 .

= = Track listing = =

North American deluxe edition

International deluxe edition

Notes

^ a signifies an additional producer

^ b signifies a co @-@ producer

" Suga Mama " samples " Searching for Soul " by Jake Wade and the Soul Searchers .

" Upgrade U " samples " Girls Can 't Do What the Guys Do " by Betty Wright .

" Resentment " samples " Think (Instrumental) " by Curtis Mayfield .

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of B 'Day .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =