

= Aries (album) =

Aries is the ninth studio album by Mexican recording artist Luis Miguel . It was released by WEA Latina on 22 June 1993 . After attaining success in 1991 with his previous album , Romance , Miguel decided to record an album of original recordings rather than a follow @-@ up to Romance . Aries , which is similar to his earlier work prior to Romance , features pop ballads and dance numbers with R & B influences . The record was produced by Miguel , who was assisted by Kiko Cibrian , Rudy Pérez , David Foster , and Juan Luis Guerra .

Three singles were released to promote the album . Its first two singles , " Ayer " and " Hasta Que Me Olvides " , topped the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart while " Suave " peaked at number nine on the chart . " Hasta el Fin " and " Tu y Yo " both peaked at number four on the Hot Latin Songs chart , and " Pensar en Ti " received airplay in Mexico . To further promote the record , Miguel launched the 1993 Aries Tour to some Latin American countries and the United States .

Aries peaked at number one on the US Billboard Latin Pop Albums , where it stayed for 19 weeks . Internationally , the album was certified triple platinum in Mexico , where it sold over one million copies . It was also certified diamond in Argentina . Aries has sold over two million copies worldwide as of 2000 . Upon its release , the album received mixed @-@ to @-@ positive reviews from music critics ; they were divided on the dance tunes and ballads , although Miguel 's vocals and the album 's arrangements garnered positive reactions . Miguel received several accolades , including a Grammy Award for Best Latin Pop Album .

= = Background and recording = =

In 1991 Miguel released his eighth studio album , Romance , a collection of classic boleros , the oldest of which originated in the 1940s . The album , which was produced by Armando Manzanero and arranged by Bebu Silvetti , was a success in Latin America and sold over seven million copies worldwide . It revived interest in the bolero genre and was the first record by a Spanish @-@ speaking artist to be certified gold in Brazil , Taiwan , and the United States . In spite of Romance 's success , Miguel did not want to release an immediate follow @-@ up to the album . When asked why he chose not to record more boleros , he replied " I wanted to try my music , just forgetting a little bit about those boleros that everyone knows " . He began working with the composers for the album a year before recording in a studio in 1992 ; in Miguel 's words , he wanted to " discuss the works , the themes , and melodies ; ... The creation of an album has to part of me or else I would not be able to interpret it , or in it " .

On 24 August 1992 , Mexican newspaper El Siglo de Torreón reported that Miguel had begun collaborating with David Foster and Juan Carlos Calderón for their compositions , along with English @-@ speaking composers , and selecting cover versions for the album . He also received assistance from Cuban composer Rudy Pérez and Dominican singer @-@ songwriter Juan Luis Guerra with the songwriting . Recording began on 4 July 1992 . Miguel had difficulty finding a suitable producer for the record ; he initially worked with American audio engineer Bruce Swedien , but decided to re @-@ record the whole album after disagreements with Swedien 's direction . Unable to find a producer , he decided to co @-@ produce the album with his long @-@ time associate Kiko Cibrian . Recording the album took almost a year and was affected by several complications , including its high budget of over US \$ 1 @.@ 5 million , his father 's death , and an appendectomy . Miguel announced the name of the album would be Aries during a presentation at the 1993 Festival Acapulco . About the naming of the album he said , " This album expresses my personal self . I had a lot to do . I produced everything and wanted to have a lot of fun , take what I like , and what better than the zodiacal sign representing what one is . "

= = Composition = =

Aries is composed of ten tracks , six of which are " romance @-@ themed " ballads . The rest of the album consists of four dance numbers which San Antonio Express @-@ News editor Ramiro Burr

describes as " pop groove " and R & B influences , and compared them to Miguel 's earlier recordings before Romance . Miguel said the mixture of ballads and uptempo music was done to " keep a steady musical line " because he did not want his music to be unrecognizable . The dance tunes " Suave " , " Dame Tu Amor " , and " Que Nivel de Mujer " are " upbeat , brass @-@ heavy , attitudinal numbers " while " Luz Verde " incorporates Latin hip hop and R & B. " Suave " features a saxophone solo with American musician Kirk Whalum and " Que Nivel de Mujer " is a Spanish @-@ language adaptation of " Attitude Dance " by American band Tower of Power . The band members assisted with the horn section in the song , which was led by one of its lead members Emilio Castillo . Miguel said he included the band 's song on the album because of his fondness for R & B in the 1970s , citing the group as one of his musical influences .

" Ayer " is a Spanish @-@ language cover of David Foster 's instrumental " All That My Heart Can Hold " with additional lyrics by Rudy Pérez . Burr characterized the song as a " lush ballad sung by Miguel in his stylistic romantic swagger that simultaneously conveys pride and pain " . Similarly , John Lannert wrote for the Sun @-@ Sentinel that the track was comparable to Romance 's " sparse lyrical muse and smooth musical backdrop " . Lannert also called Juan Luis Guerra 's composition " Hasta Que Me Olvides " an " emotion @-@ drenched love ode " and referred " Me Niego Estar Solo " and " Hasta El Fin " as " desperate confessionals about being out of love " . Achy Obejas of the Chicago Tribune labeled the ballads " Hasta El Fin " and " Tu y Yo " as " luxuriantly slow narratives of love lost " .

= = Singles and promotion = =

" Ayer " was released as the lead single from Aries on 17 May 1993 . It reached number one on the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart in the United States the week of 17 July 1993 , and stayed there for three weeks . The three music videos for " Ayer " were directed by Benny Corral , Rubén Galindo , and Gustavo Garzón respectively . The music videos were filmed in a mansion in Mexico City . " Ayer " ended 1993 as the sixth @-@ best @-@ performing Latin song of the year in the United States . The album 's second single , " Hasta Que Me Olvides " , was released in August 1993 and reached number one on the Hot Latin Songs chart the week of October 23 , and remained there for three weeks . The album 's third single , " Suave " , was released in September 1993 and peaked at number nine on the Hot Latin Songs chart ; its music video was directed by Kiko Guerrero and features Miguel dancing with several women on a beach . In the United States , " Hasta el Fin " and " Tu y Yo " both peaked at number four on the Hot Latin Songs chart . " Pensar en Ti " received airplay in Mexico .

To promote the album , Miguel began his Aries Tour on May 22 at the 1993 Acapulco Festival in Mexico . After his performances in Mexico , he toured several countries in Latin America beginning with Argentina and later performed in the United States . His set list consisted mainly of pop songs and ballads from Aries and his earlier career , as well as boleros from Romance , which he performed during the second half of the concerts .

= = Commercial reception = =

Aries was released internationally on 22 June 1993 . However , pirated cassettes of the album were being sold for \$ 1 in Mexico ten days before Aries was officially released . WEA Latina prepared 500 @, @ 000 copies to be distributed on release date , but after finding legitimate copies of the compact disc were already being sold on the pirate market , they recounted the copies stored in their warehouse and found only 300 @, @ 000 units . WEA Latina responded to the piracy by having a Mexican radio station play the whole album a few days before its release . In Mexico , the album was certified triple platinum and has sold over one million copies in the country . In the United States , it debuted and peaked at the number two on the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart ; it was held off the number one position by Gloria Estefan 's album Mi Tierra . Aries remained at this position until it was replaced by the Gipsy Kings 's album Love and Liberté 20 weeks later .

Aries peaked at number one on the Billboard Latin Pop Albums chart and stayed at the top for 19

weeks . Aries ended 1993 as the second best @-@ selling Latin pop album in the United States after Romance . In Argentina , the album peaked at number two on the album chart and was certified diamond by the Argentine Chamber of Phonograms and Videograms Producers for sales of 500 @,@ 000 copies . Elsewhere in South America , the album peaked at number one on the Chilean albums chart and was certified platinum in Colombia . Aries has sold over two million copies worldwide as of 2000 .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon its release , Aries received mixed @-@ to @-@ positive reactions from music critics . AllMusic editor Jose F. Promis gave the album 2 @.@ 5 stars out of five who found the ballads to be " sometimes a little too syrupy " . He complimented some of the dance tunes such as " Suave " and " Dame Tu Amor " , but said " Luz Verde " was a " somewhat dated attempt at early- ' 90s Latin hip @-@ hop R & B " . An editor for Billboard magazine wrote a favorable review of Aries , stating that Miguel " trades in nostalgic boleros for a stylish , up @-@ to @-@ date package " and called " Ayer " a " perfect transition track from Romance " . Chicago Tribune editor Achy Obejas gave the record 2 @.@ 5 stars out of four , calling it " a kind of middle ground between Romance and its lush ballads , and the bouncy pop of 20 Años , its immediate antecedent " . She praised Miguel 's vocals as " wonderfully nuanced and dramatic " , and said the ballads mostly " work " , but that " the uptempo tunes fall flat most of the time " . Enrique Lopetegui of the Los Angeles Times gave the album three stars out of four ; he lauded Miguel 's inclusion of " healthy elements of jazz and funk into his polished sound " and said he " returns to familiar territory accompanied by his usual superb arrangements and musicianship " .

At the 36th Annual Grammy Awards in 1994 , Miguel won the Grammy Award for Best Latin Pop Album for Aries . At the 6th Lo Nuestro Awards in the same year , the album won the award for Pop Album of the Year and Miguel was named Pop Male Artist of the Year . He also received two nominations in the category of Pop Song of the Year for " Hasta Que Me Olvides " and " Ayer " ; the latter track was also nominated Video of the Year . At the inaugural Billboard Latin Music Awards in 1994 , Miguel received two awards including Pop Album of the Year and Pop Male Artist of the Year . Miguel was awarded Best Male Singer , Best Male Show for the tour , and Best Disc for the album at the 1994 Eres awards .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

The following credits are from AllMusic :

= = = Performance credits = = =

= = = Technical credits = = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =