

= Supernature (Goldfrapp album) =

Supernature is the third studio album by English electronic music duo Goldfrapp , released on 17 August 2005 by Mute Records . The album received generally favourable reviews , with most critics complimenting its blend of pop and electronic music . It debuted at number two on the UK Albums Chart with first @-@ week sales of 52 @,@ 976 copies , and was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry . Supernature has sold one million copies worldwide .

The album 's lead single , " Ooh La La " , reached number four on the UK Singles Chart , becoming the duo 's highest @-@ peaking single to date . The album spawned three further singles : " Number 1 " , " Ride a White Horse " and " Fly Me Away " . In North America , where " Number 1 " was promoted as the first single , the album was released on 7 March 2006 , but did not perform well on the charts . Supernature was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Electronic / Dance Album in 2007 .

= = Recording and production = =

Supernature contains music in the same pop and electronic dance styles featured on Goldfrapp 's previous studio album , Black Cherry (2003) ? especially its singles " Strict Machine " and " Twist " ? although it focuses on subtle hooks instead of large choruses . Lead singer Alison Goldfrapp described the album 's writing process as " an electronic / glam cross between Berlin , New York and North @-@ East Somerset " .

Goldfrapp and Will Gregory recorded the bulk of Supernature in late 2004 in the countryside of Bath , England ? the same place they recorded Black Cherry . They had rented a small house and spent some months writing music ; they later explained that the unpopulated location kept them from distractions and that the majority of the process was " very basic " . Goldfrapp called their writing relationship a " democracy " , playing off one another while in the recording studio . The lyrical content of the song " Number 1 " , which became the album 's second single , is about the importance and meaning of relationships , even though they do not necessarily last .

In an interview with The Daily Telegraph , Goldfrapp explained that they had never intended to create pop music . However , the singles released from Black Cherry became successes across nightclubs in North America , and as a result , they decided to write a more dance @-@ oriented album . Although this made the duo nervous , " Ooh La La " was the group 's first song to feature the electric guitar . Before its composition , the duo avoided the use of the guitar because of the guitar 's overly recognisable rhythm . Four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor bass drums are also present on several of the album 's tracks , and the piano ballad " Let It Take You " features evening @-@ effects composed on a synthesiser . " You Never Know " begins with Alison Goldfrapp executing a synthesised voice , supported by both pads and synthesisers . Goldfrapp and Gregory have cited " Satin Chic " as their favourite song on Supernature .

Alison Goldfrapp named the Roland String synth as one of her favourite keyboards . " Number 1 " features an old synth and a bass arrangement that the group began to use frequently after recording the song . Another Roland String model , the SH @-@ 09 , is another favourite ; she played the duo 's song " Train " (2003) on it and enjoys the sounds that it makes . Goldfrapp was also impressed by a Russian synth , enamored with its Russian @-@ language writing .

= = Composition = =

" Ooh La La " , Supernature 's opening track , inspired by T. Rex , was chosen as its lead single " because it was up and in your face and it carried on the theme of the glammy , discoey beat from the last album " . It was the duo 's first song to feature the electric guitar , and received positive reviews , often being noted as a highlight of the album . " Ooh La La " became Goldfrapp 's most successful single on the UK Singles Chart to date when it peaked at number four , while topping the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play chart in the United States . The second track , " Lovely 2 C U " , received mixed reviews from critics , with one reviewer stating that it was the " worst offender of

sounding by @-@ numbers , its lazy glam affectations sounding all the worse amid a chorus striking only in its complete dullness " .

" Ride a White Horse " , the third single , was inspired by the disco era . Like previous singles from the album , the song was another top @-@ 20 single in the UK , where it peaked at number 15 . The ballads " You Never Know " and " Let It Take You " have minimal background electronics , and were generally well received by critics , who drew comparisons to Goldfrapp 's debut album Felt Mountain . " Fly Me Away " , another synth ballad , had an associated music video which featured Goldfrapp as an animated doll ; the video , however , was never released . Serving as the fourth and final single from Supernature , the song was not heavily promoted and was less commercially successful than the other singles , peaking at number 26 on the UK chart . " Slide In " , an electroclash song about sex , and " Koko " were compared to Gary Numan 's early compositions .

" Satin Chic " is a disco song with glam rock and cabaret influences , similar to early Elton John . Cited by Goldfrapp and Gregory as their favourite song on Supernature , it was remixed by The Flaming Lips , and issued as a limited @-@ edition single on 4 September 2006 . The 10th track , " Time Out from the World " , features an orchestra and whispered vocals by Goldfrapp . Critics liked the song , writing that it was an " exception to the prevailing style of Supernature " due to its " haunting , yet glamorous , atmospheric " . The album 's closing track and second single " Number 1 " is about the importance and meanings of relationships . The song , which is based around a synth and bass arrangement , reached number nine on the UK Singles Chart and number one on the US Hot Dance Club Play chart .

= = Release and artwork = =

The album was released in two versions : a single @-@ disc version , which used Opendisc technology to offer extras via a website , and a double @-@ disc version which included the album in surround sound on both discs . The first disc is a hybrid SACD with 5 @-@ 1 multichannel SACD audio , stereo SACD audio and stereo CD audio . The second disc , a DVD @-@ Video , contains the multichannel version of the album in DTS 96 / 24 as well as a documentary and music videos for " Ooh La La " and " Number 1 " .

The album cover , photographed by Ross Kirton , is a rear @-@ view shot of Alison against a black curtain , looking over her shoulder while covering her breast with her hand . The regular edition cover shows her from the waist up , whereas the US special edition shows the cover art in its entirety , with Alison wearing a long plume of peacock feathers and golden platform shoes . In late 2005 , the album ranked number eight on the annual Best Art Vinyl poll .

= = Critical reception = =

Supernature received 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 79 , based on 27 reviews , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " . In a review for PopMatters , Adrien Begrand said that " [a] lthough Supernature lacks the imagination of Felt Mountain and the saucy brilliance of Black Cherry , it doesn 't pander to the pop crowd . " Lauren Gitlin of Rolling Stone said the album was " [t] oxic and delicious " and that " Supernature will make you do bad things ? and like it . " However , Pitchfork Media reviewer Nitsuh Abebe was less impressed , and wrote that the album 's songs " keep feeling like exercises : too thick and melodic to work like dance music , but with melodies that refuse to stick as satisfyingly as pop . " Michael Hubbard of musicOMH wrote a review for every song on Supernature , and although he felt that it was a " curious , rather than classic , record " , he criticised it for " fading out early on , with poor , low quality songs at the end which leave the listener feeling cheated " . AllMusic critic Heather Phares called Supernature " Goldfrapp 's most accessible album " and named " Ooh La La " as its best song .

In a review for Canadian @-@ based website Jam ! , Andrew Carver praised the different sounds on Supernature , which range from " a blend of future noise " to " crushed velvet corruption " ; he

described the album as " one sharp recording " . Jessica Suarez of Spin magazine compared " Ooh La La " to Black Cherry 's " Strict Machine " , saying that " Ooh La La " sounds " so simplistic that [its] minimalist repetition occasionally teeters over into redundancy " . She praised " Ride a White Horse " and " Fly Me Away " for featuring Alison Goldfrapp 's " velvet @-@ soft vocals , which stay that way even when heavily processed " . A less favourable reception came from Stylus Magazine reviewer Edward Oculicz , who stated " Supernature is not a great album " and called several of its tracks too " dull " .

Rolling Stone magazine ranked the album at number 32 on its list of The Top 50 Albums of 2006 . In January 2008 , the album was included on The Daily Telegraph 's list of the 120 essential pop albums . At the 2007 Grammy Awards , Goldfrapp received nominations for Best Electronic / Dance Album and Best Dance Recording for " Ooh La La " .

= = Commercial performance = =

Supernature debuted on the UK Albums Chart at number two (blocked from the top position by James Blunt 's Back to Bedlam) , selling 52 @,@ 976 copies in its first week . The album was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry on 13 January 2006 . By 20 December 2010 , the album had sold 500 @,@ 000 copies in the United Kingdom . The album attained moderate success across Europe , reaching the top 10 in Ireland , the top 20 in Belgium , the top 30 in Germany and Switzerland , and the top 40 in Austria , Italy , the Netherlands and Norway . In Oceania , it peaked at number 23 in Australia and number 35 in New Zealand .

Supernature became Goldfrapp 's first album to chart on the Billboard 200 chart in the United States , where it peaked at number 138 . It reached number three on the Top Heatseekers chart and number five on the Top Electronic Albums chart . The album had sold 49 @,@ 000 copies in the US as of August 2006 . Supernature was also the duo 's first release in Canada , reaching number 88 on the Canadian Albums Chart . The album had sold one million copies worldwide as of February 2008 .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory , except where noted .

European special edition bonus DVD

Supernature in 5 @.@ 1 & Stereo

Little Bits of Goldfrapp : Documentary

Jakko & the Poet in Frappworld ? animation by Andreas Nilsson

Photo gallery

US special edition bonus DVD

Supernature in 5 @.@ 1 & Stereo (excluding bonus track " Beautiful ")

Little Bits of Goldfrapp : Documentary

Jakko & the Poet in Frappworld ? animation by Andreas Nilsson

" Ooh La La " (video)

" Number 1 " (video)

" Ride a White Horse " (live in London)

" Satin Chic " (special performance film)

" Ooh La La " : Little Pictures

Photo gallery

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Supernature .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =