

= Real (Ivy Queen album) =

Real is the fourth studio album by Puerto Rican reggaetón recording artist Ivy Queen , released on November 21 , 2004 , by Universal Music Latino . Initially to be Queen 's debut full @-@ length English @-@ language studio album , it featured collaborations with hip hop and fellow reggaetón artists Hector El Father , Fat Joe , Getto & Gastam , La India , Gran Omar and Mickey Perfecto . The album was primarily produced by Rafi Mercenario , and included guest production by American producer Swizz Beatz , Puerto Rican producers Ecko , Noriega , Monserrate and DJ Nelson . The executive producers were Goguito " Willy " Guadalupe , Gran Omar and Queen .

Real is Queen 's only record with a Parental Advisory label . The album departs from the lyrical content characterizing Queen 's musical style , detailing hood life in Puerto Rico and love . It alternates musically between reggaetón and hip hop , experimenting with electronica , funk , dancehall , pop , R & B , and acoustic ballads . The wide range of styles and musical exploration earned Real mainly positive reviews from critics . Many praised Queen 's raspy vocals and production quality , whilst others criticized the lack of instrumentation .

Spawning three singles (" Chika Ideal " , " Rociarlos " and " Dile ") , Real peaked at number twenty @-@ five on the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart , number four on the Billboard Top Reggae Albums chart and number six on the Billboard Tropical Albums chart . " Chika Ideal " and " Rociarlos " failed to attain chart success , although the former reached the top ten of Terra Networks ' music @-@ video countdown . " Dile " peaked at number eight on the Billboard Tropical Songs chart , earning Queen three Billboard Latin Music Award nominations (including one for Tropical Airplay Track of the Year , Female) . Several other tracks , including " Tócame " and " Baila Así " , received airplay on Anglophone and Hispanophone radio stations in the United States .

Real is regarded as a factor in 2004 's reggaetón exposure to mainstream English @-@ speaking markets , along with Queen 's previous album (her 2003 studio recording , Diva) and albums by Daddy Yankee and Tego Calderón . It became one of the best @-@ selling albums of 2005 (along with her fifth studio album , Flashback) , with sales of both going " through the roof " . Queen then embarked on concert tours of Latin America and the United States ; she also promoted the album with a network television @-@ news segment detailing her career and struggle for respect in reggaetón , performing " Chika Ideal " on Don Francisco Presenta . The album was re @-@ released on September 25 , 2007 by Machete Music , but failed to impact the charts .

= = Background = =

After the failure of Ivy Queen 's first two studio albums , En Mi Imperio (1997) and The Original Rude Girl (1998) , Sony Music Latin released Queen from her musical contract and she took a hiatus from her musical career in 1999 . The 1999 hip @-@ hop single " In The Zone " , a duet with Haitian singer Wyclef Jean , was moderately successful in the United States . However , the album " fizzled " . Over the next few years , Queen appeared on reggaetón compilation albums , spawning hits (including " Quiero Bailar ") and collaborations with artists on Tommy Boy and Columbia Records . In 2003 , Queen released her third studio recording , Diva , which was highly anticipated and acclaimed . It was a factor in reggaetón 's mainstream exposure in 2004 (with Daddy Yankee 's Barrio Fino and Tego Calderón 's El Enemy de los Guasíbiri) , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . In early 2004 , after a string of compilation appearances , Queen appeared on the compilation album 12 Discípulos by Eddie Dee with " Los 12 Discípulos " , " Quítate Tu Pa ' Ponerme " and " Que Es La Que Hay " . " Los 12 Discípulos " managed to reach number eight of the Billboard Tropical Songs chart , becoming a top ten hit . It received a nomination for " Tropical Airplay Track of the Year , New Artist " at the 2005 Billboard Latin Music Award . The song featured eleven other reggaeton musicians , who were among the most requested in the genre at the time . These included Dee along with Queen , Daddy Yankee , Tego Calderón , Voltio , Vico C , Zion , Lennox , Nicky Jam , Johnny Prez , Gallego , and Wiso G. The song brought all twelve artist together as one to show that " unity is needed for the genre reggaetón to evolve and survive " .

That year , Queen released a platinum edition of the album which included new songs , such as " Papi Te Quiero " and " Tu No Puedes " , and began recording her next album . Queen 's fourth studio album was planned to be her debut full @-@ length English @-@ language album after she received record @-@ contract offers from a number of labels , including Sony . She said it was a good opportunity to reach the competitive Anglo hip hop music market after her success in Latin American countries . Queen received an offer to record an English @-@ language album after Sony notified her that her Sony albums from six years earlier were being played in cities such as London because of Diva 's success . Despite her concerns about her English pronunciation , she continued with the project . Queen recorded songs with some of hip hop 's most popular MCs , including American rapper Fat Joe (who appeared on her debut English album) . His song later became " Quítate Two " , and was included on Real ; American hip @-@ hop producer Swizz Beatz produced " Soldados " , showcasing her crossover appeal .

= = Recording and production = =

After the success of Diva : Platinum Edition , Ivy Queen began recording her fourth studio album in March 2004 ; it wrapped up in September at Marroneo Studios in Bayamón , Puerto Rico . The album was mastered and arranged by Esteban Piñero ; Dennis Nieves did the mixing and served as engineer .

Production was divided among several hip @-@ hop and reggaetón producers . Swizz Beatz produced " Soldados " ; longtime collaborator DJ Nelson reappeared with " Dile " (the lead single) and " Acércate " . Grammy @-@ Award winning Latin music producers Echo and Diesel , Hyde , Gran Omar , Noriega , Monserrate , Dennis Nieves , DJ Blass and DJ David Montañez also aided in production and Rafi Mercenario produced seven of the album 's nineteen tracks . Queen and Omar were executive producers .

Collaborations include " Matando " , " Rociarlos " (also featuring Hector El Father) and " Baila Así " with Queen 's then @-@ husband , Gran Omar ; a hip @-@ hop track , " Quítate Two " , with Fat Joe ; " Acércate " with Mikey Perfecto , " Tócame " with salsa singer La India and " Vas A Morir " with Puerto Rican duo Getto & Gastam . " Soldados " and " Dee Jay " were co @-@ written with Kasseem Dean and Omar Navarro , respectively . " People thought we were going to make a salsa track " , Queen said about the collaboration with La India , noting that the song was a dancehall track (not salsa or reggaetón) . She added that India was " original " and she worked well with people who are genuine , explaining the other collaborations . According to Navarro and Queen in an 2004 interview on mun2 The Roof , the album was expected to feature a duet with Puerto Rican singer Don Omar . Spin saw Queen 's collaboration with Fat Joe as a trend in reggaetón to have American rappers " team up with its stars " .

= = Music and lyrics = =

According to Rolling Stone , the album contains " raspy braggadocio and sexy rhymes " which complement Queen 's raspy vocals . It alternates between reggaetón and hip hop as Queen experiments with Caribbean music , R & B , pop , electronica , funk , dancehall and acoustic ballads : " I really think this album is for people to really just sit down and listen to it " . She explained that " there are times that the songs will make you want to dance " , but their lyrics are more meaningful . Although Queen said the album has its share of " battles against men " , she wants it to demonstrate that she is a well ? rounded artist . Describing the songs , she said " [they] are always going to be real because they are feelings that people have ... The hits that I have now , the girls love them because they are real . If I am feeling hurt and need to curse to express that , then I will . I am going to be real all the way because that 's what made Ivy Queen " .

The introduction to the album features Queen lyrically blessing and thanking her audience for the support . " Chika Ideal " (" Ideal Girl ") assures the protagonist 's lover that she wants to be with him and fulfill his dreams . " Soldados " (" Soldiers ") , a hip @-@ hop track influenced by electronic music , was produced by Swizz Beatz . " Matando " (" Killing ") , a duet with Gran Omar ,

explores dancing in a club . The song , in a minor key , features the synthetic instrumentation of techno music . " Dale Volumen " (" Add Volume ") , in a minor key , is characterized by simple harmonic progressions , synthesizers and stick @-@ drum percussion and influenced by reggae and Afro @-@ Latin music . It features a techno @-@ influenced beat . " Dile " (" Tell Her ") features lilting rhythms from Colombia (including cumbia) , combining Latin vallenato with reggaetón . Queen noted that she sang the song without rapping to prove she is a complete musician and not just a rapper . " Mi Barrio " (" My Hood ") criticizes " the problems present in Añasco , Puerto Rico " . Queen compared the song to " Corazones " by Daddy Yankee from his album , Barrio Fino . " Dee Jay " is a reggaetón number which " recognizes the DJs " of reggaetón . In it , Queen mentions DJ Nelson , Noriega , DJ Adam , DJ Negro , DJ Baby , Rafi Mercenario , Luny Tunes , Monserrate & DJ Urba and others . " Quítate Two " (" Remove Yourself ") , with Fat Joe , combines hip @-@ hop and funk music . The acoustic guitar ballad " Ángel Caído " (" Fallen Angel ") and its acoustic version are the fourteenth and nineteenth tracks on the album , respectively . " Tócame " (" Touch Me ") , a dancehall track , features La India . In a minor key , " Rebulera " , another minor @-@ key song , has Queen asserting that she is " queen " in the genre of reggaetón . The track features synthesizers and strings , and is influenced by reggae and Afro @-@ Latin music . " Baila Así " (" Dance Like That ") , produced by Gran Omar , has a Punjabi ? influenced hip @-@ hop beat .

= = Release and promotion = =

Real was released on November 16 , 2004 , after originally being scheduled for release in September and on November 26 . The album was also released in a censored version . It was later re @-@ issued on September 25 , 2007 by Machete Music , after having been announced in July 2007 as a fourth @-@ quarter release . This was a result of Ivy Queen 's success with her seventh studio album , Sentimiento , which sold 9 @, @ 000 copies in its first week and was certified platinum within two months of release . Ivy Queen appeared on Don Francisco Presenta , where she performed " Chika Ideal " (the first single from Real) to promote the album . " Rociarlos " was released as the second single , and " Dile " was released as the third (and final) single later in 2004 after the album 's release . Music videos for both singles were also released , along with music videos for " Dale Volumen " and " Matando " . Queen performed on the Reggaeton Tour 2004 , also featuring Aldo Ranks and La Factoria , in a number of South American countries (including Ecuador) ; she sang " Papi Te Quiero " and " Tu No Puedes " , promoting Diva and Real .

This was her first tour in South America , following shows in Atlanta and New York City (where she was " designated as the Puerto Rico Youth God Mother of the National Puerto Rican Day Parade " in June 2004) . At the end of June 2004 Queen appeared on a network @-@ television @-@ news segment , detailing her career and struggle for respect in reggaetón , during recording sessions for the album . In February 2005 Queen appeared at the Festival of Puerto Rican Stars ? an historic achievement for reggaetón , since no other performer from the genre was invited . In June 2005 Queen appeared on the Invasion Del Reggaetón Tour with Daddy Yankee , which grossed \$ 817 @, @ 220 for the week of June 18 . She also attended (and performed at) the Billboard Bash the night before the 2005 Billboard Latin Music Awards .

Unlike Queen 's previous albums , the artwork for Real features provocative photography ; her middle and thighs are emphasized to create a sexy image . Queen said her breasts were enlarged from a B to a C cup , adding that the packaging described the style of music on the album . The album cover also features Queen 's signature long nails , which she sports in a variety of colors . Incorporating graffiti , the album has " street cred " in the U.S.-centered hip @-@ hop world . The change in image for Queen is attributed to Universal Latino 's feeling that Real had crossover potential for U.S. mainstream audiences . The album 's title suggests this ; it means " real " in English and Spanish and " royal " in Spanish , hinting at Queen 's status as the Queen of Reggaetón . It is also Queen 's response to Puerto Rican criticism for looking like a tomboy , wearing baggy pants and large shirts (which she addresses in her autobiography , Detrás Del Glamour [Behind the Glamour]) . She accepted responsibility for her change in image , attributing it to a " new

growth in person " and admitting that the makeover stemmed from a " crisis " and " female vanity " . To change her figure , Queen used a Colombian plastic surgeon .

= = Reception = =

The album was moderately commercially successful . On the Billboard Top Latin Albums chart , Real debuted at number twenty @-@ nine and peaked at number twenty @-@ five , one position higher than Diva 's peak at twenty @-@ four . It ended its chart run at number sixty @-@ nine on February 26 , 2005 . On the Reggae Albums chart the album debuted at number four , sharing its peak with Diva and spending seventeen consecutive weeks on the chart . On the Billboard Tropical Albums chart , the album debuted (and peaked) at number six , not matching Diva 's peak position at the top . It fell off the chart after being number eighteen for the week of April 9 , 2005 . At the time Diva was still on the countdown at number twenty , to be displaced two weeks later by Marc Anthony 's 2004 Valio La Pena . Sales were boosted by " distribution by Universal Music & Video Distribution , coupled with strong airplay at English- and Spanish @-@ language stations " . Queen did not enter the Billboard 200 until 2007 , when her sixth studio album (Sentimiento) reached number 105 on the chart . " Dile " was the only commercially successful of the three singles , reaching number eight on the Billboard Tropical Songs chart . After the reggaetón " explosion " on the west coast of the United States , Real helped Ivy Queen enter " Bay Area mainstream hip hop dials " with " Dile " , " Tócame " and " Baila Así " " staples " on Hispanic radio stations . " Dile " received a Billboard Latin Music Award nomination for Tropical Airplay Track of the Year , Female at the 2005 Billboard Latin Music Awards , where Queen was also nominated for Reggaeton Album of the Year and Tropical Airplay Track of the Year , New Artist . Echo and Diesel received a Latin Grammy Award for their production work on Real . At Telemundo 's El Premio De La Gente Latin Music Awards of 2005 , the album was nominated for Urban or Duranguense Album of the Year ? Male or Female , where Queen was also nominated for Urban or Duranguense Artist of the Year ? Male or Female .

Rolling Stone gave Real three out of five stars , complimenting the " combo of raspy braggadocio and sexy rhymes " and noting the " pop @-@ savvy " nature of the LP . According to Patricia Meschino of Miami New Times , the album features a " wide range of styles , including the lilting Haitian compas rhythms of ' Dile ' (' Tell Her ') , the bhangra ? flavored ' Baila Asi ' (' Dance Like This ') , the acoustic guitar ballad ' Ángel Caído ' (' Fallen Angel ') and ' Tocame ' (' Caress Me ') , all of which are adapted to Ivy Queen 's ' confident , raspy vocals ' " . The latter track was labeled " spicy " . Meschino also noted the exploration of hip @-@ hop and dancehall rhythms set to " rough and rugged fast @-@ paced raps " . She ended her review by saying that it was " the audacious musical explorations that make Real a surprisingly nuanced and ultimately satisfying release " . Music journalist Rafer Guzman of Newsday complimented the " electro @-@ crunch of ' Soldados ' " and " snaky funk of ' Quítate Tu ' " . Leila Cobo of Billboard said the album was " highly anticipated " after the release of Diva : Platinum Edition several months earlier , with over 100 @,@ 000 copies sold . The album was considered a factor in reggaetón 's mainstream exposure to American and global audiences . Agustin Gurza of the Los Angeles Times criticized the album , saying " [it] lacks real instruments " and was bawdy and indecent . An editor for Bulb Magazine selected the album as one of reggaetón 's most classic albums in 2007 . The music magazine XLR8R put the album at number two on its " Five Important Reggaetón Albums " list behind Don Omar 's The Last Don (2003) and before Tego Calderon 's El Abayarde (2003) , Nicky Jam 's Vida Escante (2002) and Zion & Lennox 's Motivando a la Yal (2004) . While reviewing the reggaetón compilation album Jamz TV Hits , Vol . 3 , an editor for Allmusic listed " Chika Ideal " as an " Allmusic Pick " . The song was selected as a hit from " The Golden Era of Reggaetón " (2003 ? 2007) by Jesus Trivino of Latina magazine . Terra Networks called the music video for " Chika Ideal " one of the hottest of the summer , saying the song showed " why she is the queen of reggaetón " . The video reached the Top 10 for four consecutive weeks on Terra Networks ' Top Music Video countdown .

= = Track listing = =

Standard edition

= = Personnel = =

Adapted from liner notes :

= = = Track credits = = =

= = = Guest credits = = =

= = = Technical credits = = =

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =