

= Aphrodite (album) =

Aphrodite is the eleventh studio album by Australian recording artist Kylie Minogue , released on 30 June 2010 . Beginning in early 2009 , the singer met with British singer @-@ songwriter Nerina Pallot to begin recording sessions for a new album . Although successful at first , the sessions later became unproductive ; Minogue then began working with British electronic music producer Stuart Price , who became the executive producer of the album . The two collaborated with various producers and writers on the album , including Jake Shears , Calvin Harris , Sebastian Ingrosso and Pascal Gabriel . Aphrodite follows a musical approach largely similar to Minogue 's previous albums and is primarily a dance @-@ pop and disco record . It draws influences from various dance @-@ based genres including electropop , hi @-@ NRG , club and rave music .

Upon its release , Aphrodite was met with generally positive reviews from music critics , many of whom complimented it as a return to form for Minogue . However , critics were divided on its production ; many felt Price 's production helped make the album cohesive , while some felt it made the album sound too similar to Minogue 's previous work and lacked innovation . Commercially , Aphrodite was a success . In Minogue 's native country Australia , it peaked at number two on the Australian Albums chart , and was later certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association . In the United Kingdom , the album debuted at number one on the UK Albums chart , a feat accomplished by Minogue 's debut studio album Kylie (1988) during the same week 22 years prior . Aphrodite was the fourth studio album by Minogue to peak atop the UK albums chart and made her the first solo artist to have a number one album in four different decades in the region , achieving this in the 1980s , 1990s , 2000s and 2010s . She also became a Guinness World Record @-@ holder for achieving the most consecutive decades with top five albums in the United Kingdom . The British Phonographic Industry certified Aphrodite platinum . The album also achieved strong charting internationally , reaching the top @-@ five in countries like Belgium , France , Greece , Spain and Switzerland . It became Minogue 's second highest @-@ charting album in the United States by peaking at number 19 on the Billboard 200 chart .

Four singles were released from Aphrodite . Its lead single " All the Lovers " was a commercial success , peaking at number three in the United Kingdom and reaching the top ten in numerous countries like France , Italy , Scotland and Spain . In Australia , it narrowly missed the top ten by peaking at number 13 on the singles chart . " Get Outta My Way " was released as the second single and reached the top 20 in the United Kingdom , but underperformed in Australia after failing to peak inside the top 50 . Similarly , the third single " Better than Today " missed the top 50 in Australia , and additionally missed the top 20 in the United Kingdom . In response to their poor chart performances , Minogue expressed disappointment in her label and stated that no further singles would be released . Despite this statement , " Put Your Hands Up (If You Feel Love) " was released as the fourth and final single from Aphrodite and peaked at number 50 in Australia . In the United States , all four singles released from the album peaked atop the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart . To further promote the album , Minogue embarked on the successful Aphrodite : Les Folies Tour in 2011 .

= = Background and production = =

Following her recovery from breast cancer , Minogue released her tenth studio album X in 2007 . Slated to be released as Minogue 's comeback album , X went platinum in her native country Australia after it debuted at number one on the Australian Albums chart . In the United Kingdom , the album entered and peaked at number four on the UK Albums Chart and was eventually certified platinum . Critical reception towards X was generally favourable , although many critics felt that it lacked introspection from Minogue 's side due to its lack of consistency and high amount of " filler " tracks . In retrospect , critics argued that the album did not serve as a worthy comeback for Minogue .

Soon , Minogue began working on her eleventh studio album Aphrodite . The initial recording sessions began in April 2009 when Minogue met with British singer @-@ songwriter Nerina Pallot ,

with whom she recorded the track " Better than Today " . Its live instrumentation , along with the fact that X had been burdened by contributions from too many producers , prompted Minogue 's record label Parlophone to decide on a more natural and less convoluted production style for Aphrodite . Later sessions with Pallot proved to be less successful , as her suggested songs were " rapidly supplemented with tracks from a wide range " of contributors . Minogue felt her sessions with Pallot did not yield any dance @-@ pop tracks ; fearing that she was " going down the same road , doing the rounds of all the pop dynamos but lacking any cohesive quality , " she approached her close friend Jake Shears , male lead singer of American pop group Scissor Sisters , for advice . Shears encouraged her to work with Stuart Price , a Grammy award @-@ winning British electronic music producer who had collaborated with Scissor Sisters on their third studio album Night Work (2010) . Miles Leonard , chairman of Parlophone , enlisted Price as the executive producer of the album . He had previously served as the executive producer of American recording artist Madonna 's tenth studio album Confessions on a Dance Floor (2005) , and international news agency Reuters regarded him as " one of the most in @-@ demand pop producers " . In an interview with a writer for Popjustice , Price revealed that he got involved in the production of Aphrodite after he met Minogue for a writing session in October 2009 .

As executive producer , Price was responsible for " shaping the album 's sound " , deciding its track listing , and mixing the songs in order to ensure that they " feel like they 're part of the same album " . Popjustice commented that every song on the album has " gone through a bit of a Stuart Price filter so that it doesn 't sound like some dickhead [sic] A & R has just aimlessly scooped a load of tracks off a shelf " . Aphrodite marked the first time Minogue enlisted an executive producer ; discussing the process , she said " It was just the best experience , and funnily enough I think it 's the most cohesive album I 've had since the beginning of my career , back in the PWL days , where by its very nature made it cohesive . There 's a lot to be said for working with different producers and trying different stuff which has worked really well for me in the past but I definitely wanted someone to tie this together as Stuart has done so beautifully [...] so that it existed as a real body of work " . Minogue and Price subjected songs on Aphrodite to a " Parton Test " , as they " knew a song would work if it made sense when sung in the style of Dolly Parton " . Shears also contributed to the album , while two of Pallot 's collaborations with Minogue were kept . Additional collaborators on the album include Scottish disc jockey Calvin Harris , Swedish disc jockey Sebastien Ingrosso and Belgian musician Pascal Gabriel .

= = Composition = =

Billed by her record label Parlophone as her comeback album , Aphrodite is a celebration of Minogue 's " dance @-@ floor roots " , and is primarily a dance @-@ pop and disco album . Its title alludes to the Greek goddess of love , beauty , pleasure , and procreation . " All the Lovers " , one of the last tracks to be recorded for the album , is a " squiggly " electropop @-@ influenced disco song written by Jim Eliot and Mima Stilwell , who had previously collaborated with Minogue on " 2 Hearts " , the lead single from X. It is similar to Minogue 's 2004 single " I Believe in You " , but has a " more danceable edge " , and features a " gauzy , heartbeat rhythm " and 1980s @-@ stylised synthesiser riffs . The song was met with critical acclaim from music critics and was frequently commended for its production and chorus . The second track " Get Outta My Way " combines electronic music and bubblegum pop with disco elements . The song focuses on a " frustrated and furious " Minogue delivering " wispy " vocals in a form of a warning to her uncaring partner , indicating that she may leave him and start " grinding away with another chap " . Its lyrical content is suggestive in nature . The song received generally favourable reviews from music critics and was complimented for its musical composition and subject matter . " Put Your Hands Up (If You Feel Love) " is a hi @-@ NRG @-@ influenced club song . Receiving mixed critical reviews , its lyrics were criticised for being clichéd although one critic named it a " concert hit waiting to happen . " " Closer " takes a darker and more atmospheric approach , featuring " sighing background vocals and spiralling harpsichord @-@ esque synths . " Critics felt that it was one of the more interesting and experimental songs of the album .

Although Price said that no ballads were included in the album , critics opined that the downtempo pop song " Everything is Beautiful " was penned like one . " Aphrodite " , the title track of the album , is a nineties @-@ influenced dance @-@ pop song which features a " foot @-@ stomping " beat and " military drummed " instrumentation , similar to that of a marching band . Stuart Price likened the song to Janet Jackson for its " ' Rhythm Nation ' -esque qualities . " The song , one of Minogue 's two collaborations with Pallot that were kept on the track list , is penned like a dance anthem through which Minogue " brags " about her sexual prowess . It was met with critical acclaim by most music critics , and was declared to be one of the strongest tracks on the album . Minogue wrote the melancholic seventh track " Illusion " with Price . " Better Than Today " , the first track to be recorded for the album and the second collaboration with Pallot , is a " breezy summertime " pop song with influences of electropop and country music . It was complimented as likeable and a stand @-@ out , but criticised for its monotony .

Rave music acts as a significant influence on " Too Much " , a disco and synthpop track written by Minogue , Jake Shears , and Calvin Harris . Critics were divided on the track , with its energy being praised but Harris ' production being disapproved of . The dance @-@ rock song " Cupid Boy " finds inspiration from English alternative rock band New Order and features Minogue delivering " lusty " vocals over a retro bass line . Its intro , New Order @-@ influenced bass line , and rock guitar instrumentation positively surprised critics . " Looking for an Angel " , one of the first songs Minogue and Price wrote together , is composed of " celestial synth strings " and contains an extended breakdown . Price 's production of the song received mixed opinions from critic . The set closes with the electropop track " Can 't Beat the Feeling " , which is similar to the work of French electronic music duo Daft Punk . Its energetic composition and placement as the closing track was appreciated by critics .

= = Singles = =

Four singles were released to promote Aphrodite . " All the Lovers " was released as its lead single in June 2010 . Explaining her decision to release it as the lead single , Minogue said that " as I was recording it I knew that " All The Lovers " had to be the first single ; it sums up the euphoria of the album perfectly . It gives me goose @-@ bumps , so I 'm really excited to hear what everyone thinks of it " . Commercially , " All the Lovers " performed well , particularly in Europe . It peaked at number three on the UK Singles chart , where it was later certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments of 200 @,@ 000 units . The single also reached the top ten in France , Italy , where it was later certified gold , Scotland , and Spain , where it peaked atop the physical singles chart . In Australia , " All the Lovers " missed peaking inside the top ten by reaching number 13 on the singles chart . In this region , it was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipments of 35 @,@ 000 units . In the United States , the song peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart . An accompanying music video for the song was directed by Joseph Kahn and features Minogue singing the song , dressed in a white cobweb @-@ style T @-@ shirt worn over a black bra and knickers , while standing atop a mountain of lingerie @-@ clad couples caressing each other .

" Get Outta My Way " was released as the second single , on 27 September 2010 . While it was moderately successful in the United Kingdom , and reached number 14 on the UK Singles chart , it was a commercial disappointment in Australia and only managed to peak at number 69 on the singles chart . In the United States , the song peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart . The accompanying music video , directed by AlexandLiane , features Minogue , and a number of male models , performing various dance routines wearing a gold chain mini dress , a red silk mini trench and an LBD .

" Better than Today " was released as the third single from the album , on 3 December 2010 . Although critics were generally favourable towards the song as a track on the album , some dismissed its release as a single due to its overly sweet @-@ sounding composition . The single was less successful than " All the Lovers " and " Get Outta My Way " . It peaked at number 55 on the Australian singles chart , and thus became the second single release from Aphrodite to miss

charting inside the top 50 . In the United Kingdom , it missed charting inside the top 20 by peaking at number 32 on the UK singles chart . In the United States , the song became the third consecutive single release from the album to peak at number one on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart . An old school arcade game @-@ inspired music video was directed for the song by Minogue and her stylist William Baker . Following the poor chart performance of " Get Outta My Way " and " Better Than Today " , Minogue expressed disappointment in her record label Parlophone , saying :

" It 's confusing . I felt a little let down with my releases from Aphrodite . I was caught out like a lot of artists were , with record companies figuring out how to do single releases these days . I remember doing a promo for one of the last singles and it just felt really old @-@ fashioned . I 'm pretty computer @-@ savvy , something didn 't feel right , but no one said anything to me . You get Britney releasing " Hold It Against Me " and Gaga 's " Born This Way " available on iTunes the day you hear it first . That 's how it should be . And there 's me waiting for a mid @-@ week chart figure like it 's 1989 . "

Although Minogue mentioned that " Better Than Today " would be the last single to be released from Aphrodite , " Put Your Hands Up (If You Feel Love) " was released as the fourth and final single from the album , on 29 May 2011 . The single managed to reach the top 50 in Australia , peaking at number 50 on the singles chart . It peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart , thus becoming the fourth single from Aphrodite to peak atop the chart . No official music video for the single was commissioned , although a lyric video for a remixed version of the song by Pete Hammond was released .

= = Release and promotion = =

Aphrodite was released in Australia on 2 July 2010 in digital download , standard CD , and vinyl formats . In the United Kingdom , it was released on 5 July 2010 . A special " Experience Edition " CD , which contains a 28 page booklet , unseen footage from Minogue 's 2009 For You , For Me tour , behind the scenes footage of the promotional photo and video shoots of the album , an exclusive interview , and a previously unreleased bonus track entitled " Mighty Rivers " , was also released on the same day . The artwork of the album captures Minogue " transformed into a goddess " as she is dressed in a dark blue , metal @-@ adorned , silk muslin gown , taken from French fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier 's spring @-@ summer 2010 haute couture collection . Gaultier had previously designed the costumes for Minogue 's KylieX2008 and For You , For Me tours . On 6 July , Minogue celebrated the worldwide release of the album with a performance held at the Pacha Club at Ibiza , Spain . It was released in the United States on the same day .

= = = Tour = = =

To promote Aphrodite , Minogue embarked on the Aphrodite : Les Folies Tour , beginning in early 2011 . The tour was staged by the creative team behind Disneyland Resort 's World of Color show , and the budget of the tour was reported to be around \$ 25 million . Concert shows were held at Europe , North America , Asia , Australia and Africa . Minogue 's costumes and wardrobe was designed by her frequent collaborators Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana , owners of the Italian luxury industry fashion house Dolce and Gabbana . The concert shows were spectacles " loosely based around Greek mythology " . The entire tracklist of the album , excluding only the song " Too Much " , was included in the setlist of the tour ; other songs were taken from Minogue 's previous studio albums , such as Light Years (2000) and Fever (2001) . The tour was a commercial success , and ranked at number 21 on Pollstar 's year @-@ end " Top 25 Worldwide Tours " list , with a total gross of \$ 52 @.@ 8 million and ticket sales of 527 @,@ 683 units . A live album of the concert show held at the O2 Arena in London , was released as Aphrodite Les Folies : Live in London , on 7 June 2011 .

= = Critical reception = =

The album received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , Aphrodite received an average score of 67 based on 21 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . Ben Norman from About.com appreciated Price 's production , noting Aphrodite to be more consistent than X. Although the critic mentioned that the songs do not provide the " immediate appeal " , like those in X did , he labelled Aphrodite " another knockout hit album " from Minogue and the " Do Not Miss album of 2010 " . Tim Sendra from AllMusic commended Minogue 's choice of collaborators and producers , commenting that the album is the " work of someone who knows exactly what her skills are and who to hire to help showcase them to perfection " . He also appreciated the album 's cohesion and commercial prospect , and named it " one of her best " . The Billboard review of the album complimented Price 's " ability to create consistent sound without sacrificing each track 's individuality " , and termed Aphrodite a " journey cohesive , fun and fitting for a goddess " . Ian Wade from BBC Music gave the album an extremely positive review and found it to be an " astonishing return to form " for Minogue . Wade commended her for returning to her roots and becoming the " Kylie of Fever and Light Years " ; he concluded the review by calling Aphrodite an " all @-@ killer , flags @-@ aloft amazing triumph " and that " not liking this (album) would be like not being keen on breathing " . Nick Levine from Digital Spy felt that it was her best album since Fever and admitted that while Aphrodite isn 't " deep " , it " sure ain 't dumb either " , opining that it is meant to be heard for relaxation and enjoyment . Mikael Wood praised the tracks ' danceability and concluded that " The diminutive Australian diva is still delivering disco thunder from Down Under " . Priya Elan from NME felt that Price was the " perfect choice of musical partner " and complimented him for producing Minogue 's " most unified work in ages " . Christel Loar from PopMatters found the album similar to Light Years and Fever and commended the production , opining that while " dance pop with this much gloss and unabashed glee is relegated to the realms of guilty pleasure " , Aphrodite is " that rare representation of perfect production that is just pleasure , pure and simple " . Rob Sheffield from Rolling Stone labelled the album Minogue 's " finest work since 1997 's underrated Impossible Princess " . Neil McCormick from The Daily Telegraph complimented Price for enlisting a " top notch " team of collaborators and termed Aphrodite a " mainstream pop blast " . Barry Walters from Spin commended Minogue for returning to her original style of music , saying " Finally even the suits realize that no one wants ersatz hip @-@ hop or Americanized AOR from Australia 's ultimate pop tart " .

However , many critics were displeased with Minogue 's lack of innovation on Aphrodite . Helen Clarke from MusicOMH gave the album an overall positive review and appreciated Minogue for " just what she does , and somehow it works " , but did mention that it " fails to quite hit the spot " . Jon Parales from The New York Times found the album too similar to the work of Madonna , especially her studio albums Like a Virgin (1984) and Ray of Light (1998) , and commented that " No one 's asking for reality in this (Minogue 's) pop bubble ? just a little bit more innovation " . Kitty Empire from The Observer enjoyed the album and complimented Price for " lending a sleek cohesion to the whole (album) " , but opined that Aphrodite " lacks the depth andchutzpah of some of her rivals ' efforts " . Slant Magazine critic Sal Cinquemani noted it to be " more stylistically coherent than the abovementioned albums " and predicted that it would " no doubt please longtime fans " , but also criticized Price 's shallow " antiseptic " production which he felt was not able to complement Minogue 's voice .

James Reed from The Boston Globe gave the album a negative review and criticized it for being too dated , commenting that its " release date is 2010 , but its freshness seal is clearly stamped 2000 (circa Minogue 's Light Years) [sic] " . He called the album Minogue 's " least interesting work she 's made in a decade " and a " letdown " , and concluded by saying that " simply being fabulous isn 't enough " . Caroline Sullivan from The Guardian acknowledged the album 's " sharp production " , but commented that the album is " only as good as Kylie herself " and criticized it for being uninteresting ; she concluded by saying that " Perhaps thinking outside the box ? an acoustic album ? ? is what 's needed next " . Margaret Wappler from the Los Angeles Times commented on the album 's dependency on " old reliable " music and concluded " Our midnight bird (Minogue) has been in the club for a long time , however , and it shows " . Sophia Money @-@ Coutts from The

National was not impressed with Minogue for bringing " the usual stuff about being completely herself on this album and how happy that has made her " and also criticized Price for not producing anything inventive . The critic was specifically negative towards billing Aphrodite as a comeback similar to Fever , because she felt it lacked new and diverse material from Minogue 's previous efforts ; she summed up by saying that " Criticising Kylie feels like swearing at the Dalai Lama , but this is a princess that needs a slight prod " .

= = = Accolades and recognition = = =

In 2010 , Aphrodite was nominated for " Best Pop Release " at the ARIA Music Awards , but lost to Sia Furler 's We Are Born ; Minogue was nominated for " Best Female Artist " , but lost to Megan Washington . AllMusic included Aphrodite on their list of " Favorite Pop Albums of 2010 " year @-@ end list . Idolator included the album on their list of " 10 Out of ' 10 : Idolator 's Favorite Albums of the Year " list , with critic Robbie Daw writing that " hooking up with producer Stuart Price turned out to be the perfect way for Kylie to give her already impressive career a fresh jolt " and that " Aphrodite pretty much was my Summer 2010 " . Minogue finished at number 40 on music website Last.fm 's " Best of 2010 " list , which is compiled on the basis of amount of " scrobbles " an album gets on the site . At the 2011 Virgin Media Music Awards , Aphrodite was voted the " Best Album " by British music fans . The lead single " All the Lovers " also received an award , being voted " Best Single " . At the 2011 Brit Awards , Minogue received her eighth nomination for " Best International Female Solo Artist " .

= = Commercial performance = =

On the chart date of 18 July 2010 , Aphrodite debuted and peaked at number two on the Australian Albums chart ; it stayed in the position for three weeks . It spent a total of 15 weeks on the chart , and by 2011 , Aphrodite had been certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipments of 70 @,@ 000 units .

In the United Kingdom , Aphrodite debuted at number one on UK Albums chart , selling 79 @,@ 000 copies on the chart date of 17 July 2010 @.@ and at number two on the Top Electronic Albums chart . The same feat had been accomplished by Minogue 's debut studio album Kylie (1988) during the same week 22 years prior . Aphrodite was Minogue 's fourth studio album to peak at number one in the region , after Kylie , Enjoy Yourself (1989) , and Fever , and her tenth studio album to chart within the top 10 . The album spent one week at number one and a total of 29 weeks in the top 40 of the chart . In April 2011 , Aphrodite was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry for shipments of 300 @,@ 000 units . Minogue became a Guinness World Record @-@ holder for become the female artist with the most consecutive decades with top five albums in the United Kingdom . She also became the first solo artist to have a number one album in four different decades in the United Kingdom , in the 1980s , 1990s , 2000s and 2010s .

In Austria , the album entered and peaked at number three on the Austrian Albums charts and stayed on the chart for a total of 10 weeks . In the Dutch @-@ speaking Flanders region of Belgium , it entered the Ultratop chart at number six and peaked at number four , spending a total of 12 weeks on the chart . It was more successful in the French @-@ speaking Wallonia region of the country , where it entered the Ultratop chart at number 11 and peaked at number three , spending a total of 16 weeks on the chart . In Belgium , Aphrodite was certified gold by the Belgian Entertainment Association (BEA) for sales of 10 @,@ 000 units . In France , the album entered and peaked at number three on the French Albums chart , and spent a total of 23 weeks on the chart . Similarly , in Germany , it entered and peaked at number three on the German Albums chart , spending a total of 12 weeks on the chart . In Greece , Aphrodite entered the Greek Albums chart at number 28 and peaked at number one , spending a total of seven weeks on the chart . It was Minogue 's first album to chart in the region . In Spain , the album entered the Spanish Albums chart at number three and peaked at number two , spending a total of 37 weeks on the chart and becoming Minogue 's highest @-@ charting album in the region . In Switzerland , Aphrodite entered

and peaked at number two on the Swiss Albums , spending a total of 13 weeks on the chart .

In Canada , Aphrodite became Minogue 's highest @-@ charting album to date by peaking at number eight on the Billboard Canadian Albums chart . In the United States , the album peaked at number 19 on the Billboard 200 chart , spending a total of three weeks on the chart . It marked Minogue 's second @-@ highest @-@ charting album in the region , behind only Fever , which peaked at number three . It also debuted and peaked at number one on the Billboard European Albums chart , and at number two on the Top Electronic Albums chart .

== Track listing ==

Credits for Aphrodite adapted from liner notes .

== Les Folies Tour Edition ==

On 28 June 2011 , a three @-@ disc remix collection of Aphrodite , subtitled the Les Folies Tour Edition , was released . It contains remixes of the original songs by various producers such as Pete Hammond , Denzal Park , Muscles , and Bimbo Jones .

Notes

^[a] signifies a co @-@ producer

== Personnel ==

Credits for Aphrodite adapted from liner notes .

== Charts ==

== Certifications ==

== Release history ==