

= Femme Fatale Tour =

The Femme Fatale Tour was the eighth concert tour by American recording artist Britney Spears . It was launched in support of her seventh studio album *Femme Fatale* (2011) . It was officially announced in March 2011 , with dates for North American venues revealed . The tour was initially planned as a co @-@ headlining tour with Enrique Iglesias , but he canceled only hours after the announcement . The show is inspired by the concept of the femme fatale and femmes fatales throughout the ages . The setlist was mostly composed of songs from *Femme Fatale* , although Spears also performed hits from her previous albums for her fans . Fashion designer Zaldy Goco created the costumes . In July 2011 , Spears announced plans of playing a South American leg in territories she either had never been to or had not played for a long time . Spears has named the Femme Fatale Tour the best show of her career .

The tour , divided in five segments , portrays a story in which Spears is a secret agent , who is chased by a stalker named Tormento Lancie ; played by Rudolf Martin . The first section features her escaping from prison along with other female inmates . The second segment displays upbeat dance numbers and ends with a performance inspired by Marilyn Monroe . The third section features an Egyptian theme with fireworks and acrobatics . The fourth segment displays energetic routines and motorcycle costumes . The encore begins with a video interlude of Spears capturing the stalker , and is followed by two performances in which she defeats a group of ninjas .

The Femme Fatale Tour received mixed to positive reviews from critics . Some described it as Spears ' most entertaining show and praised her performance , while others criticized her dancing and lack of audience interaction . The Femme Fatale Tour grossed \$ 6 @. @ 2 million in the first ten shows , and was included on Pollstar 's Top 100 North American Tours list .

An unofficial high @-@ quality recording of the Las Vegas show was leaked onto YouTube in July 2011 ; it was removed after the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed legal action against the site to obtain information on the uploader . 3ality Digital filmed a special of the tour during the Toronto shows in August 2011 in 2D and 3D . The special , titled *Britney Spears Live : The Femme Fatale Tour* , aired on Epix in the United States . BBC Worldwide acquired the rights to both 2D and 3D versions outside the United States . Worldwide , the Femme Fatale Tour was the eleventh highest @-@ grossing tour of 2011 , with a gross of \$ 68 @. @ 7 million . 697 @, @ 957 fans attended the shows worldwide , with an average attendance of 8 @, @ 724 , paying an average of \$ 98 @. @ 43 .

= = Background = =

In an interview on Ryan Seacrest 's radio show on March 4 , 2011 , Spears stated she would tour the United States in the " early summer " in support of *Femme Fatale* . On March 29 , 2011 , following her performances on *Good Morning America* , she announced a co @-@ headlining tour with Enrique Iglesias , starting in June 2011 . Hours after the announcement , it was reported by *Billboard* that Iglesias had pulled out of the tour . Ray Wedell of *Billboard* speculated that the reason may have been that Spears was deemed by news outlets as the headliner , while Iglesias was considered the opening act . The first twenty @-@ six North American dates were also announced on March 29 , 2011 . The opening acts were announced on April 12 , 2011 . Spears stated , " This is the Femme Fatale tour and I 'm thrilled to have Nicki Minaj , Jessie and the Toy Boys , and Nervo join me and get everyone on the dance floor . Can 't wait to take the Femme Fatales on the road . " Tickets for select markets went on sale on April 30 , 2011 , at ticket seller Ticketmaster and tour promoter Live Nation 's websites .

In May 2011 , it was announced that Spears would headline Summerfest on July 9 , 2011 , at the Marcus Amphitheater in Milwaukee . She previously headlined the festival on July 8 , 2000 , during the *Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour* , and had to cancel her performance during *The Onyx Hotel Tour* in 2004 due to a knee injury . Summerfest 's entertainment director Bob Babisch said , " It 's going to be a great dance party . [...] This is going to be the biggest production we 've ever put in the Marcus Amphitheatre . There 's a thrust that goes out on the stage about 80 feet , and it 's about

80 feet wide , and there 's all kinds of things flying in and out . " The European tour dates were announced on her official website on June 5 , 2011 . On July 25 , 2011 , Spears announced through her Ustream page at 18 : 00 EST (23 : 00 UTC) a South American leg of the tour . Accompanied by two of her dancers ? one translating in Spanish and the other in Portuguese ? she also apologized for not touring in the region during The Circus Starring Britney Spears in 2009 . A notice following the stream announced the first two dates in Brazil and ten more dates to be announced in the near future . It will mark Spears first concert in Brazil in ten years , since her 2001 performance at Rock in Rio . During the next few days , concerts in countries such as Argentina , Chile , Colombia and Peru were announced . On September 26 , 2011 , it was announced that Spears would perform on the first day of the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix .

= = Development = =

In March 2011 , Spears 's manager Larry Rudolph told MTV News that the tour would have a " post @-@ apocalyptic vibe " , and commented that " Till The World Ends " " keeps becoming a theme for us . " He also confirmed Jamie King as the tour director and Brian Friedman as the choreographer . The following month , Friedman announced that he had pulled out of the tour due to scheduling conflicts with his own reality series . In a video interview posted on Spears 's official website , she said , " The Femme Fatale Tour will hopefully just be outrageously spectacular . I 'm just hoping that the choreographers will come up with just the most outrageous things , and I 'm really excited . This is one of the most excited I 've been about a project in a really long time , so I can 't wait . " The script of the show was created by Jamie King , and was inspired by the concept of the femme fatale and femme fatales throughout the ages . Rudolph stated that the idea for the show was to have Spears as an " international woman of mystery " . The setlist was composed mostly of songs from Femme Fatale , but also included hits from her previous albums , as Spears explained , " The fans really like a lot of the old songs , because that 's what they are used to . So it 's just about finding the balance , and how many songs I wanna incorporate from the past and from the present . "

The costume design was done by Zaldy Goco , and the outfits were created to fit the different personas of Spears throughout the show . He also commented that the inspiration for the costumes was " Britney herself [...] She 's a very sexy girl . " Among the outfits that Goco previewed to Extra prior to the beginning of the tour were a pink latex jacket , a nude bodysuit , a Marilyn Monroe @-@ inspired white flowing dress , several gladiator @-@ inspired gold @-@ mirrored options , pink @-@ chrome @-@ studded leather and denim , as well as a " Toxic " -inspired catsuit . For the finale , she was revealed to wear a kimono , with an anime version of herself silk @-@ screened on one sleeve , over a sparkling , black bodysuit with LED lights built into it . On April 30 , 2011 , a video of Spears rehearsing " How I Roll " from Femme Fatale with her dancers surfaced online . On May 11 , 2011 , Sabi spoke to MTV News at a St. Bernard Project dinner hosted by Spears , stating that she would join her during the performances of " (Drop Dead) Beautiful " at select dates such as Los Angeles , Las Vegas and New York . On June 7 , 2011 , a video surfaced online of Spears seeing the stage for the first time , along with a soundcheck of the music and staging for " Hold It Against Me " . According to Jocelyn Vena of MTV , the stage " has it all : lights , video screens , a funky neon @-@ colored floor , lasers , lifts and giant butterfly wings . " In an interview with Entertainment Tonight on June 8 , 2011 , Spears said about the show ,

" I 'm really excited . I 'm probably going to be extra nervous the day before . We 've been working hard for , like , two months now , and everything 's coming together really good . [...] [The show] can be kind of [grueling] , especially when you 're onstage and you 're on your eighth number , you get really winded and you 're like , ' How can I do the rest of the show ? ' But I 've been training for a while and I actually ? before I come to rehearsals ? I 've been working out and stuff like that so I won 't have that predicament . "

After Minaj was announced as the opening act in April 2011 , she said on Ryan Seacrest 's radio show she was looking forward to creating " a new , a bigger , a brighter , a more spectacular show . " She stated that as much as her set was about the music , she wanted to put more theater on stage , saying , " my goal [is] to truly put on a show and incorporate theater and dance . " The hair and

make @-@ up was done by Marco Berardini , who was inspired by European women such as Brigitte Bardot . " It 's the epitome of a strong woman . I wanted to bring out that strength and sexiness for all the girls on tour " , he said . He applied Spears with makeup and designed it to " be a little bit neutral so that it could work with anything . " As for the hair , it was changed at every show to fit the vibe of the city . For example , at the Uniondale show on August 2 , 2011 , Spears sported wavy hair , inspired by Sarah Jessica Parker and the street style of New York women .

BuzzFeed reported that 23 18 @-@ wheeler trucks arrived at each venue at 5 a.m. on show day . It took 7 hours to unload and build the stage . Unlike most tours who built the stage from the bottom up , the stage was built from the ceiling down . The tour comprised 140 workers , 125 crew members , 14 tour buses , 16 dancers and 2 band members . In July 2011 , Spears told MTV News she was having " a blast " on the tour , commenting , " The shows have been equally amazing . The crowds have been so good each night and that gives you the adrenaline you need to get through the show . It just pumps you up . " She also talked about the performance of " Till the World Ends " , saying that " at the end of the show , the last song [Minaj] comes on every once in awhile [sic] . Not every show , but it 's usually special when she does it . " In an interview with Glamour in October 2011 , Spears said : " I seriously think it 's the best tour I 've done so far . [...] right now I ? m really excited about the show ? this is the funnest show I 've done in my career . "

= = Concert synopsis = =

After a neon sign reading " Femme Fatale " is lifted from the stage , the show begins with a video introduction in which Spears is arrested by the police after a chasing sequence . As she says " I 'm not that innocent " , the video screens part and she appears sitting on a metallic throne in a silver costume to perform " Hold It Against Me " . She is accompanied by her back @-@ up dancers in white and silver costumes . " Up N ' Down " features Spears and her female dancers performing inside cages , with the male dancers looking at them dressed as policemen . After walking to the B @-@ stage in a conveyor belt , Spears puts on a white trench coat and a satin fedora to perform " 3 " . She then goes into " Piece of Me " while floating above the stage in a platform . This is followed by a video intermission that contains the beginning of the music video for " My Prerogative " , and in which a stalker reveals that Spears is a secret agent . The next section begins with Spears in a pink latex and lace jacket emerging from inside a bass to perform " Big Fat Bass " , while will.i.am appears in the backdrops . She removes the jacket to reveal a nude leotard for the performance of " How I Roll " , which features a pink convertible Mini Cooper @-@ like car and her dancers wearing colorful outfits . This is followed by a segment in which Spears and her dancers select a male member from the audience . She then bursts into " Lace and Leather " and performs sensually for him . After a costume change , Spears goes into the song " If U Seek Amy " while wearing a white skirt over a fan , recalling Marilyn Monroe 's iconic scene in The Seven Year Itch (1955) .

A video interlude in which the stalker talks about femme fatales in history sees the beginning of the third section . Spears returns to the stage wearing a golden outfit and performs an Egyptian @-@ inspired version of " Gimme More " , containing a barge and fireworks . In her next number " (Drop Dead) Beautiful " Spears is surrounded by her dancers carrying picture frames , and includes an appearance by Sabi in select cities . She then sings " He About to Lose Me " on a purple couch while her male dancers climb metallic structures . She wears a golden cape for a snake charming number of " Boys " (The Co @-@ Ed Remix) . After climbing into a swing , she starts singing " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " , while an acrobat hangs from it . Another video interlude follows , featuring Spears changing clothes and choosing between different passports inside a hotel room . The final segment features Spears and her dancers dressed in motorcycle gear to perform a medley of " ... Baby One More Time " and " S & M " , while her next number " Trouble for Me " features Spears and her dancers performing in the B @-@ stage . Accompanied by her female dancers , Spears performs " I 'm a Slave 4 U " with gay soft porn in the backdrops , and subsequently a cover of Madonna 's " Burning Up " on top of a giant silver guitar . She then brings several fans onstage for a performance of " I Wanna Go " . She sings " Womanizer " with her dancers dressed as policemen and thanks the audience . The encore starts with a video interlude in which Spears finally

captures the stalker while wearing a kimono . She reappears to perform a martial arts @-@ inspired version of " Toxic " , in which she defeats a group of ninjas . At the end of the song , she goes below the stage and returns wearing a black sparkly bodysuit for " Till the World Ends " . Halfway through the performance , Nicki Minaj appears on the backdrops rapping her verse of The Femme Fatale Remix of the song . She also joined Spears to perform the verse in select cities . After the song changes back to the original version , Spears starts flying in a platform with giant angel wings . The show ends with Spears and her dancers thanking the audience , as confetti falls and the " Femme Fatale " sign is lowered onstage .

= = Critical response = =

Barry Walters from Rolling Stone called the show " possibly her flashiest , fastest moving , and most entertaining production yet " , and added that the night belonged to Spears , as " she managed to prove that she 's still progressing as a showgirl . Not only that , she 's doing it better than even diehard defenders would ? ve predicted . At 29 , the pop star whose career seemed in danger of ending just a couple years ago has shown that she 's back ? hopefully this time to stay . " Evelyn McDonnell of Spin said that " the idol America loves to hate went all out . Her body perpetually moved , she sang steadfastly into her headset (okay , she 's got plenty of digital support , but she doesn 't merely lip @-@ sync) , and she shimmied through an endless parade of outfits . [...] Having been knocked down by the tabloid press and the public repeatedly in recent years , Spears is now desperately seeking our attention . And she earns it . Haters go home . " Kelley L. Carter of MTV commented that " the Spears that captivated the audience at the Staples Center [...] was the old , fun @-@ loving , free @-@ wheeling Spears ? with a sexy , showgirl twist . There wasn 't much pretense , though those glamazon outfits blinded in the best way possible . Instead , there was just good dance music . " Carla Meyer of The Sacramento Bee stated that " Though Spears performed like a pro throughout the show , hitting all her marks , she had shown hesitancy in her movements ? natural for the first stop on a tour . But that hesitancy vanished when she put on the denim . She seemed at ease . "

Shaunna Murphy of Entertainment Weekly criticized " Britney 's complete lack of verbal audience interaction [...] and her obviously diminished dancing ability " but also added that " with her slim waist , her dangerously toned legs , and most importantly her engaged , wide @-@ eyed smile , [Spears] looked happy to be there with us ? the crucial element that has been missing from so many Britney shows of late . " August Brown of the Los Angeles Times stated that " the Femme Fatale tour gets its drama by largely erasing ? or at least tweaking ? the past . [...] Spears manipulates pop 's virgin @-@ whore complex better than just about anyone , and her seamless sweep from lasciviously grinding on an awestruck dude from the audience to the earnest balladry of ' Don ? t Let Me Be the Last to Know ' [...] felt true to the sweep of her career ? she learned that she can control the narrative by vanishing into a club 's heat or into literal thin air . " Matt Kivel of Variety commented , " Though visually impressive , the show lacked a truly engaging human quality . Spears moved with an almost mechanical detachment , lightly shifting through dance routines without fully letting her body release itself . With her voice heavily processed and laden with backing tracks , she appeared onstage as some strange blend of Michael Jackson , Madonna and Kraftwerk 's Ralf and Florian . " However , Jam ! Canoe considered the show was " best described as Janet Jackson @-@ like . "

Steve Palopoli of Metro Silicon Valley said , " Musically , the show is heavy on the hits , although considering Britney as a musical phenomenon is like asking which of Madonna 's albums is best . She 's a cultural phenomenon , obviously , and the only edicts that seem to have been handed down in regards to the music is ' no lip @-@ synching ' (she definitely doesn 't) and ' bigger and louder whenever possible . ' " Shirley Halperin of The Hollywood Reporter stated it was " entertaining " , but Spears " doesn ? t quite have that spring in her dance step anymore and who requires a constant barrage of visual distractions while she mostly lip @-@ synchs along to her hits " . Jim Harrington of the Oakland Tribune deemed the show as " a mess pretty much from start to finish . The theatrics are awkward and confusing , the dance routines are numbingly bland and old @-@ hat , the song

selection is weak and misguided , and Britney 's star power , so blinding on tours past , is remarkably dim . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian gave the show two stars out of five , saying that " there 's a suspicion that the kind of person who goes to see Britney Spears live isn 't really there for the music or her sparkling personality : tonight she seems as dead @-@ eyed and distant as ever . What they 're interested in is proximity to a global celebrity . " Neil McCormick of The Daily Telegraph gave the show one star out of five , and called it " the saddest , laziest , dullest and most tawdry pop concert I have ever witnessed . " He added that " the most amazing thing about the whole second @-@ rate spectacle was that thousands of people , having forked out around £ 50 a head for tickets , practically raised the roof , cheering every dismal dance move , roaring for lip @-@ synched vocals and lustily applauding limp erotica . "

= = Commercial reception = =

Live Nation announced in early May 2011 a partnership with deal @-@ of @-@ the @-@ day website Groupon . A spokesperson explained , " Offering a deal on Groupon is not a reflection of the quality or status or sales of a show " but rather " segmented marketing and a way to reach new and additional consumers . " A staff editor for VH1 noted that as of June 16 , 2011 , 18 @,@ 000 tickets were sold at discounted prices through Groupon for fifteen of the first twenty @-@ four dates of the tour , including 1 @,@ 800 at opening night in Sacramento . The Groupon deals for shows in Seattle , Winnipeg , Saint Paul , and Atlanta actually expired before all available discounted tickets were sold . The editor also stated that " the shows look to be under @-@ attended in smaller cities , even as , in metropolitan areas like Greater New York City , new shows have been added . It remains to be seen whether this could have been remedied by better price optimization , or whether the tour 's ambition was more outsized than its actual draw . " The Femme Fatale Tour was ranked at number fifty @-@ five by Pollstar on the Top 100 North American Tours list , grossing \$ 6 @.@ 2 million in the first ten shows . On July 22 , 2011 , the shows in Atlanta and Nashville ranked Spears at number ten on Billboard 's Hot Tours list , with a combined gross of \$ 1 @,@ 563 @,@ 934 . On September 22 , 2011 , the tour was ranked at number six on the Top 20 Concert Tours list from Pollstar . It had an average gross of \$ 940 @,@ 165 per city , and an average ticket price of \$ 84 @.@ 19 during the shows in North America .

Groupon and Travelzoo offered discounted tickets for the shows in London , Manchester and Birmingham . Rene Freling from Travelzoo explained that " promoters are thinking , instead of shows being 90 % sold out , they 'd rather have it full and promote it to a wider audience . " 238 tickets were sold through Groupon within minutes of the offer , and 5 @,@ 000 tickets were sold for the UK shows by the time the offer expired . The move divided opinions in the music industry of the United Kingdom : festival organizer Melvin Benn said that discounted tickets work " particularly well for an awful lot of concerts . It 's definitely emerging . In tough economic times people will look at varying ways of pricing their tickets . " Independent promoter John Rostrum called it " very short @-@ term " and " incredibly damaging for shows because in the future when a show goes on sale people will sit back and go , ' I won 't buy until the week before ' " . The October 30 , 2011 concert in Birmingham was her first in the English Midlands since The Onyx Hotel Tour in 2004 . A week before the show , the venue 's box office told the Leicester Mercury that the concert was " probably about half @-@ full . There 's good availability " .

In December 2011 , the Femme Fatale Tour was number 19 on Billboard 's Top 25 Tours of 2011 . The magazine counted for 39 of the tour 's dates (14 of which were sold out) with an overall gross of \$ 37 @.@ 1 million and 396 @,@ 000 tickets sold . In the North America , the tour was the fourteenth highest @-@ grossing tour 2011 , with \$ 38 @.@ 3 million in ticket sales and 423 @,@ 017 people attending at an average of 9 @,@ 196 per show . Worldwide , the Femme Fatale Tour was the eleventh highest @-@ grossing tour of 2011 , with a gross of \$ 68 @.@ 7 million . 697 @,@ 957 fans attended the shows worldwide , with an average attendance of 8 @,@ 724 , paying an average of \$ 98 @.@ 43 .

= = Broadcast and recordings = =

In July 2011 , a high @-@ quality recording of the Las Vegas show was uploaded to YouTube . On July 14 , 2011 , the vice president of Online Anti @-@ Piracy from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , Marc McDevitt , requested a subpoena at a federal court to obtain personal details from YouTube of the user who uploaded the video , including the IP address , e @-@ mail address and any other relevant information to identify the person . Although it is common for major music labels to send takedown requests to YouTube , it is thought to be the first time the RIAA filed legal action against the video hosting site in order to obtain the personal details of an uploader . The case was closed after a week ; according to a copyright lawyer , it is most likely that the subpoena was granted by the court and that YouTube agreed to hand over the personal details that were requested . The video was removed from YouTube , but copies of the full concert can still be found on the site .

On August 12 , 2011 , Spears announced through her Twitter account that the Toronto shows at the Air Canada Centre would be taped to air on the Epix television channel , and for release on DVD . Within minutes of her announcement , traffic to EPIX social sites doubled and Britney Spears became a worldwide trending topic on Twitter . The show , initially titled Britney Spears : Femme Fatale , was shot in 2D and 3D by 3ality Digital . On September 9 , 2011 , it was announced by the BBC that BBC Worldwide had attained distribution rights of the show outside the United States . The 2D version will be available for broadcast from Christmas Eve 2011 , with the 3D version available in February 2012 . The special premiered on November 12 , 2011 at 20 : 00 EST (01 : 00 UTC) . It received mixed reviews from critics : some praised the special and the impressive stage , while others criticized Spears ' dancing . The DVD and Blu @-@ ray were released in the United States on November 21 , 2011 . The DVD was released in the United Kingdom on November 28 , 2011 . During the concert in Lima , Peru , the song " I Wanna Go " was professionally filmed by Coca @-@ Cola as part of the competition " Dance with Britney Spears . "

= = Opening acts = =

Jessie and the Toy Boys (North America) (select dates)
Nervo (North America) (select dates)
DJ Pauly D (North America) (select dates)
Joe Jonas (East Rutherford) (Europe) (select dates)
Destinee & Paris (North America , Europe) (select dates)
The Wanted (Manchester)
Howie Dorough (South America) (select dates)
Teen Angels (La Plata)

= = Set list = =

The following set list is representative of the show on June 22 , 2011 . It is not representative of all concerts for the duration of the tour .

" He About To Lose Me " and " Burning Up " were only performed in the North American leg .

= = Shows = =

= = = Box office score data = = =