

= Dignity (album) =

Dignity is the fourth studio album by American recording artist Hilary Duff . It was released on March 21 , 2007 , by Hollywood Records . After launching her third record Hilary Duff (2004) , she experienced an eventful personal life , including a stalking incident , her parents ' separation , and breaking up with her boyfriend . Consequently , Duff assumed an integral position in its production , co @-@ writing almost every track with longtime collaborator Kara DioGuardi instead of her previously @-@ limited involvement .

Duff was musically inspired by indie rock band The Faint and pop singers Beyoncé and Gwen Stefani . In contrast to the pop rock themes of her prior releases , Dignity takes on more of a dance sound , which she said was not her intention while writing the album . The lyrics reference the events Duff experienced in the years leading to the album 's release , and the album 's songs contain influences of rock and roll and hip hop music .

Critical response was mostly positive ; the album was praised for its songwriting and her new musical direction . Upon release , Dignity debuted at number three in the US , a lower peak than Duff 's previous albums and with lower sales , which Billboard attributed to the loss of fans during her musical evolution . Despite this , it produced Duff 's highest @-@ peaking US single to date , " With Love " (number 24) , and two US number one club hits . The album has reached the top ten in several countries and was certified Gold in the US by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) .

= = Background = =

Duff 's previous studio album , the self @-@ titled Hilary Duff (2004) , received generally negative reviews . Despite peaking at number two on the Billboard 200 , its commercial performance was modest : it exited the chart after 33 weeks and sold 1 @.@ 8 million copies in the United States .

Between the releases of Hilary Duff and Dignity , Duff 's personal life was eventful . In October 2006 , she and her boyfriend at the time , Joel Madden of punk rock band Good Charlotte , claimed that they were being stalked by Russian emigre Maksim Miakovsky and his roommate , paparazzo David Joseph Klein . According to a restraining order filed by Duff , Miakovsky came to the United States solely to pursue a relationship with her . He was later arrested after threatening to kill her . In November , she ended her two @-@ year relationship with Madden . Around the same time , her parents Robert and Susan separated after 22 years of marriage following an affair between Robert and another woman .

= = Writing and development = =

Duff explained of the album 's title , " I 'm older and more mature now than I was when I made my last record , but I don 't think I know it all . Having dignity is something you work on your whole life , in how you treat people and how you treat yourself . I hope I always strive to have it . " She continued , " It 's not something that you can be given or that you can just get or that you 're born with . It 's something that you have to work on . " She stated that with Dignity , her increased songwriting output was a breakthrough for her . " That hadn 't really been part of my process on previous records , except here and there . It was important this time , " she said . She co @-@ wrote all of the album 's songs , with the exception of " Outside of You " , written by Pink , Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida . In an interview , Maida stated that the song was written for a Pink album but did not make the final cut . When Duff expressed interest in the song , she recorded it . Duff explained of her writing process :

[The album] has all of me in it . I never did my records like that before . I got to choose the music , but this time around it was , like , I 'd sit down and think : ' What happened to me yesterday ? What happened to me today ? ' and just write . It was very therapeutic , in a way . And easy ? I was shocked at how easy it was to be honest about yourself and things that affect you . It is a dance record , but I wanted it to be serious . I wanted to talk about serious things , but do it in a not @-@

so @-@ serious way , with music that makes you want to get up and dance .

Much of Dignity was written in Duff 's own home , as she felt " comfortable and free " there . She said that she knew from the beginning that she wanted to write the album with the assistance of songwriter and producer Kara DioGuardi , due to their previous work history on songs such as " Come Clean " and " Fly " . Another reason that Duff wished to work with her was that she found her lyrics were complemented by DioGuardi 's melodies . She added , " I helped with the melodies , but that 's not my strongest suit . Coming up with the lyrics was mainly [what I did] . I 'd tell her this is how I want it to go , and she would help with the lyrics , too , sometimes . She 'd say , ' This doesn 't really fit , ' and if I was adamant , we 'd make it work . "

= = Composition = =

As inspiration for the album , Duff cited indie rock band The Faint and pop singers such as Gwen Stefani and Beyoncé , while critics compared her musical style with Stefani , Janet Jackson , Depeche Mode , Madonna and Justin Timberlake . Duff felt that the album 's dance @-@ pop themes were a deviation from the pop rock of her previous albums . " I didn 't necessarily plan the album to sound like this , but it was so easy to write to , " she said . Critics have noted that Dignity 's musical style is dance @-@ pop and electropop , with influences of hip hop , rock and roll and Middle Eastern music . According to Duff , the album is a combination of dance , electro and rock music .

The lyrics of several songs relate to Duff 's experiences between the releases of Hilary Duff and Dignity . The songs " Stranger " and " Gypsy Woman " , despite speculation that they were written about Madden 's then @-@ new girlfriend Nicole Richie , were actually written about Duff 's father 's affair . She said that " Stranger " was written from her mother 's perspective . " Stranger is a song I wrote about how my mom must feel around my dad , " she said . " I made it seem like it was about a relationship I was in , because I didn 't want people to know about my parents . But I 've realized that so many people can relate to what I 've gone through . " The album 's title track has also been reported to be about Richie , though Duff did not deny rumors that it was . " Dignity is a song that is definitely about people in Hollywood " , she said . " I wouldn 't say that it is about her specifically but it is about people that kind of do what she does and act the way she acts . " The song " Danger " was written about one of Duff 's friends ' relationships with an older man . " I understand that feeling of wanting to be dangerous , " she said . " You may know morally something 's not right , but you can 't help yourself . " She has stated that the song " Dreamer " was written about a stalker in a tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek fashion , and it has been speculated that it was written specifically about Miakovsky .

= = Singles = =

Three singles were released from the album . The lead single , " With Love " became her highest @-@ peaking single on the Hot 100 when it reached number 24 . The single reached number one on the Hot Dance Club Play chart . " Play with Fire " was released as the first digital @-@ only single on May 15 , 2007 in a remixed form of the original version , with production by Richard Vission . It was previously released on August 21 , 2006 which Duff considered to be a " tease " of Dignity 's musical sound . Although she felt it was different from the album 's other songs , she saw it as embodying the dance / electro / rock combination of the album , which influenced her decision to release it . Duff opted to release the song well in advance of the album " to give listeners a chance to get into my new sound " . Though it failed to chart on the Billboard Hot 100 , it charted on the magazine 's Hot Dance Club Play chart , peaking at number 34 . The third and final single , " Stranger " , peaked at 97 on the Hot 100 and also reached the top of the dance charts .

= = Promotion = =

To promote the album 's release , Duff " worked tirelessly with the whole Hollywood Records staff to

market [the] record . " On the day of the album 's release , April 3 , MTV began airing the two @-@ part documentary special , Hilary Duff : This Is Now . The documentary followed Duff as she prepared for the release of Dignity by attending photoshoots , interviews , wardrobe fittings , rehearsals and a trip to Europe . In addition , Duff hosted Total Request Live for the week of March 26 , made several appearances at retail outlets and on television , and was given massive online coverage on MySpace and Yahoo ! .

Accompanying Duff 's new musical style , the record label began promoting her with a more mature image . Duff dyed her hair dark and " sexed @-@ up " her image . According to Duff , she wanted to " try new things " , but the image change " just happened . It is not like a conscious change . People think it is so different because they have watched me grow up but that is just what happens in life . " Entertainment Weekly described Duff 's new look as comprising " dark mane , dental veneers , luxe and vampy fashions " . In mid @-@ 2007 , concurrent to the preparation of the radio release of " Stranger " , Duff was featured on the July covers of the magazines Us Weekly and Shape in a bikini , and on the August cover of Maxim accompanied by the declaration that she had gone " from the queen of teen to breakout sex symbol " . The Associated Press wrote that Duff 's more provocative image would help her singles to garner mainstream radio play . Guy Zapoleon , a radio consultant and former programmer for Top 40 radio , explained that " radio has a stigma about playing [Disney] acts , considering them teen and preteen in their appeal " , and that Duff 's provocative image would " definitely have a positive effect on the attitude of programmers , who are mostly male , as Disney tries to mature her image " . A bonus EP containing five bonus remixes was released exclusively to US WalMart stores as a package with the album .

= = Critical reception = =

The critical response to Dignity was generally positive . Metacritic gave the album a Metascore ? a weighted average based on the impressions of a select 13 critical reviews ? of 61 , signifying generally favorable reviews . Rolling Stone gave a positive review of the album , feeling that Duff 's attempt to make an adult @-@ oriented dance @-@ pop album was successful . About.com gave the album four out of five stars , called Duff " as likeable as ever " and praised the songwriting and production contributions of Richard Vission and will.i.am. Allmusic noted that the album was firmly based on " sturdy , hooky , and memorable " songwriting . The review claimed similarities between Dignity and Justin Timberlake 's FutureSex / LoveSounds (2006) , noting that Duff was musically fashionable but not a trendsetter . At the same time , the review criticized Duff 's thin vocals , calling them " not at all like a woman " . Billboard called Duff 's decision to make a dance @-@ pop album daring , considering the unpopularity of the genre at the time . The review continued , " It 's practically something straight out of the United Kingdom for all of its poppy goodness . " Entertainment Weekly noted that Duff 's break @-@ up with Madden brought out her personality , which the magazine felt was lacking in her previous work . " She 's never sounded less eager to please or more messily human , " the review claimed .

The Guardian praised Duff 's decision to opt for a more electronic dance sound as opposed to the teen pop of her previous work , despite the questionable marketability . They argued that some of the album 's strongest tracks rivaled some by Kylie Minogue . Sputnikmusic 's review noted various flaws of the album , such as what they felt were a lackluster guitar solo on the song " I Wish " and Duff 's childish , uncharacterized vocals throughout . However , they continued , " For all its inadequacies , Dignity is a solid , cleverly @-@ constructed pop album . Like all albums of the genre not written solely by the performer , it 's never quite clear which parts , if any , are Duff 's words and which represent the feelings of the under @-@ appreciated co @-@ writer , but in Dignity we at least have an album where it 's worthwhile listening to the lyrics . " They praised the songwriting of every track except " Play with Fire " , which they felt was a poor choice for a lead single .

IGN gave a more mixed review of Dignity , giving it 6 @-@ 9 out of 10 . They praised what they felt was Duff 's more mature image , but ultimately claimed , " Duff is still Duff and her music is still running the standard pop line . " PopMatters noted that the synthesizers used on the album 's tracks failed to disguise Duff 's speak @-@ singing . The website believed her vocals were not on the level

of her pop music peers such as Kelly Clarkson and Mandy Moore . " Nevertheless , " they added , " thanks to the miracle of processing , reverb effects , and multi @-@ tracking tricks to beef up her vocals , Duff 's voice is still sweetly candy @-@ coated enough to make the medicine go down . " Slant Magazine said , " Duff is mostly just an anonymous voice for an assemblage of producers and songwriters . Which is perfectly acceptable for a self @-@ proclaimed dance album , but Duff 's voice is nondescript and her delivery is blank ; the impish , quirky , or coolly disaffected vocal characteristics and sex appeal that make other dance @-@ pop divas viable performers is nonexistent . " The website 's review claimed that the album was not very adventurous , and noted that the pop rock " Outside of You " , which they felt was the catchiest song on Dignity , was not a dance song like the others .

= = Commercial performance = =

Dignity debuted at number three on the US Billboard 200 , selling 140 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The debut was lower than those of Duff 's previous albums , each of which entered at either number one or two with opening week sales of around 200 @,@ 000 copies . Billboard wrote that Duff 's " continued evolution in sound and image ... may have resulted in her losing some of her much younger fans . " The album has sold a total of 412 @,@ 000 copies in the US by June , 2015 . The album debuted at number twenty @-@ five in the UK with first @-@ week sales of over 8 @,@ 000 copies . The album spent three weeks in the top seventy @-@ five of the UK Albums Chart . Dignity broke Duff 's streak of consecutive number @-@ one debuts in Canada , entering the albums chart at number three with 20 @,@ 000 copies sold . In response , Duff said she " couldn 't be happier " and felt lucky that Dignity sold the amount it did , noting the state of the marketplace and the moderate sales figures for other albums that week . The album debuted at number seventeen on the ARIA Albums Chart in Australia , selling roughly 2 @,@ 300 copies in its first week . The Herald Sun referred to it as " dead in the water " in its second week on the chart . In Italy , Dignity received a Gold certification from the FIMI for shipments to stores of more than 40 @,@ 000 copies . The album has sold 1 @.@ 5 million copies worldwide .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ a signifies an additional producer

^ b signifies a co @-@ producer

^ c signifies a remixer

" Dreamer " contains a sample of the song " Just Can 't Get Enough " By Depeche Mode

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for Dignity adapted from Allmusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =