

= Back to Basics (Christina Aguilera album) =

Back to Basics is the fifth studio album by American recording artist Christina Aguilera . It was released on August 9 , 2006 by RCA Records as a double album . Serving as executive producer , she enlisted a wide range of producers including DJ Premier , Rich Harrison , Rob Lewis , Mark Ronson , and Linda Perry . Recording sessions began in January 2005 and ended in April 2006 , taking place at Chalice Recording Studios and Record Plant .

Inspired by Aguilera 's 1920s ? 1940s idols , including Billie Holiday , Otis Redding , Etta James , and Ella Fitzgerald , Back to Basics was described by Aguilera herself as a fusion of old @-@ school jazz and soul inspirations with a modernized style . Primarily a pop and R & B record , the first disc juxtaposes rhythm and blues with hip hop and urban elements with most songs employing samples , while the second contains all original tracks with the exception of " Candyman " , which samples " Tarzan & Jane Swingin ' on a Vine " . Lyrically , the album is inspired by Aguilera 's previous life events including her marriage with Jordan Bratman in 2005 .

To portray a new persona , Aguilera adopted her new alter ego , Baby Jane , and made several changes to her public appearance , inspired by classic Hollywood movie stars . She promoted the album by performing at concerts from mid @-@ 2006 to early @-@ 2007 , including the 2006 MTV Movie Awards and the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards . The album 's supporting tour Back to Basics Tour , which visited countries in North America , Asia , Europe , Australia and Middle East , lasted from late @-@ 2006 until late @-@ 2008 . Back to Basic spawned three international singles : " Ain 't No Other Man " , " Hurt " and " Candyman " .

Back to Basics received positive reviews from music critics who complimented its musical diversity from Aguilera 's previous albums while there were others who criticized its length . The record received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album , and its lead single " Ain 't No Other Man " won Best Female Pop Vocal Performance at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in 2007 . In its first week of release , the album debuted atop the US Billboard 200 chart with first @-@ week sales of 346 @,@ 000 copies . Back to Basics achieved similar success internationally , reaching the top spot in over fifteen countries including Australia , Canada , Germany , Ireland , Switzerland and United Kingdom . The album has sold 1 @.@ 7 million copies in the US , and 5 million units worldwide as of November 2013 .

= = Background = =

At the 46th Annual Grammy Awards in 2004 , Aguilera announced that she was going to work on a follow @-@ up album to Stripped (2002) . She stated her main idea for the project was to " evolve as an artist and a visionary " , which was taken from a poem she wrote during The Stripped Tour (2003) . In an interview with Billboard magazine , Aguilera expressed dissatisfaction with contemporary music , as technology " has advanced itself so anybody can be a singer " . Thus , Aguilera took musical inspirations from old @-@ school jazz , blues and soul records performed by her 1920s @-@ 1940s idols including Billie Holiday , Otis Redding , Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald , which she viewed as " music that really had heart " .

To create a " throwback " with elements of old @-@ school genres combined with " a modern @-@ day twist " , Aguilera sent letters to different producers that she hoped could help her with the direction she was taking for the project , encouraging them to experiment , re @-@ invent and create a modern soul feel . She initially planned to condense the album into a single , more " affordable " disc , however she expanded Back to Basics as a double album . For the first disc , Aguilera collaborated with hip hop producers including DJ Premier , Rich Harrison , Kwamé , and Mark Ronson for the first time . Most songs from the first half incorporate horn samples to create " gritty and old " sounds . DJ Premier questioned if Aguilera was familiar with his work , though she had known of his jazz @-@ influenced work with Gang Starr in late @-@ 1980s and early @-@ 1990s . In response , Aguilera wanted her album to draw inspirations from Premier 's song " Jazz Thing " and noted that their collaboration became his first time " venturing into the ' pop ' world " .

For the " 1920s and 1930s @-@ era vibe " -influenced second disc , Aguilera teamed up with

longtime producer Linda Perry , who produced Aguilera 's previous album Stripped . In contrast to the first half disc , the second one consists of all live recordings without using samples (with the exception of " Candyman " featuring a sample of " Tarzan & Jane Swingin ' on a Vine ") . Recording sessions of the project began in January 2005 and ended in April 2006 , taking place at Chalice Recording Studios and The Record Plant in Hollywood , California . All songs from Back to Basics were recorded using Pro Tools HD3 program and done with a SSL J9000 console with 96 inputs . Aguilera 's vocals were recorded using a Telefunken ELAM 251 microphone , possibly in conjunction with an Avalon M @-@ 5 pre @-@ amp . Producer Scott Storch , who contributed to Aguilera 's previous album Stripped , was asked to return for the production of Back to Basics . However , he refused the offer when Aguilera declined to pay airfare for him and his entourage to fly out to Los Angeles , which led to a breakdown of their relationship . Subsequently , Aguilera included the song " F.U.S.S. " (" Fuck You Scott Storch ") on the album , which Storch viewed as " pathetic " .

= = Music = =

According to Aguilera and the production team , Back to Basics draws influences from 1920s @-@ 1940s jazz , blues and soul genres . However , music critics identified the record as a pop and R & B album with similarities to 1960s , 1970s and 1980s albums . Dorian Lyskey writing for The Guardian thought that the album 's concept " is so wide as to be meaningless " , while Serene Dominic from Phoenix New Times compared Back to Basics ' musical style to rock band The Beatles ' 1968 self @-@ titled album .

The first half disc incorporates strong elements from hip hop , urban , blending old @-@ school and modern R & B. It features horn samples and gospel choirs , making it sound like " a dusty old vinyl album " , according to Jenny Eliscu from Rolling Stone . Most songs from the disc employ samples , with the exception of " Without You " , " Still Dirty " and " F.U.S.S. " " Makes Me Wanna Pray " featuring Steve Winwood features a gospel choir in its arrangement , while the pop / R & B and funk number " Ain 't No Other Man " features " aerobic oomph " that is similar to Beyoncé 's " Crazy in Love " . " Understand " is an R & B ballad , featuring soul influences that are similar to ballads done by Gladys Knight , while " Slow Down Baby " blends old @-@ school and modern R & B with hip hop and soul elements . The three follow @-@ ups " Oh Mother " , " On Our Way " , and " Without You " are the three piano ballads from disc one . " Still Dirty " was described as a " filthy ghetto strut " with hip hop elements .

The second disc of Back to Basics opens with " Enter the Circus " , described as a " carnival @-@ creepy orchestration that sounds like Danny Elfman soundtracking Cabaret " by Tampa Bay Times , and followed by the soft rock @-@ inspired " Welcome " . " Candyman " draws inspirations from jazz , blues and swing , and was musically inspired by The Andrews Sisters ' 1941 hit " Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy " . Similarly , " Nasty Naughty Boy " also contains elements of jazz and blues and features " blaring horn section " in its arrangement . On " I Got Trouble " , Aguilera sings over a blues @-@ inspired theme that is reminiscent of songs by Bessie Smith . " Mercy on Me " features gospel elements , while the acoustic track " Save Me from Myself " is inspired by country rock genre , different from any other tracks on Back to Basics .

= = Lyrics = =

Most songs from Back to Basics were inspired by real @-@ life events that Aguilera had experienced . The track " Oh Mother " talks about Aguilera 's childhood with her abusive father ; its lyrical theme was compared to Madonna 's " Oh Father " (1989) . Her marriage with Jordan Bratman was the main theme of the album , with tracks inspired by the event including " Makes Me Wanna Pray " , " Ain 't No Other Man " , " On Our Way " , " Without You " , " Mercy on Me " , " Save Me from Myself " and " The Right Man " . On " The Right Man " , Aguilera expresses that she has found " the right man " for her imagined daughter as she hopes that the child would not have to experience an abusive childhood like her , " One day , My little girl will reach out her hand and she 'll

know I found the right man " .

Aguilera expresses excitement toward old @-@ school music on " Back in the Day " , where she names classic artists including Etta James , Marvin Gaye , Coltrane and Aretha Franklin . " F.U.S.S. " (which stands for " Fuck You Scott Storch ") , is directly toward producer Scott Storch , who didn 't accept Aguilera 's offer to produce Back to Basics : " Looks like I didn 't need you / Still got the album out " . In the lyrics of " Slow Down Baby " , Aguilera tells a " lusty " man to leave her alone as she sings , " If you knew anything you 'd realise I 'm wearing a ring " . " Still Dirty " was described as a sequel to Aguilera 's 2002 single " Dirty " , in which Aguilera sings about her " sexual independence " , " Why is a woman 's sexuality always under so much scrutiny / Why can 't she do exactly as she please " and claims that she 's " still got the nasty " in her . " Here to Stay " tells how Aguilera is " not just a flash in the pan pop starlet " , while " Thank You (Dedication to Fans ...) " features voice mails from Aguilera 's fans , such as " You 're so amazing " or " You inspired me to carry on living ... " .

= = Releases and marketing = =

In mid @-@ 2006 , Virgin Media reported that Back to Basics would be released on August 14 that year in the United States . Later , Back to Basics was planned to be released on August 15 , 2006 in the region , according to TMZ . The album was leaked in full on August 3 .

Aguilera decided to portray her different image and persona from her previous stage name Xtina by adopting a new alter ego called Baby Jane , named after a character of the 1962 film What Ever Happened to Baby Jane ? . She also changed her public appearance as she removed her piercings , and dyed her hair platinum blonde , inspired by classic Hollywood movie stars such as Marilyn Monroe , Marlene Dietrich , Carole Lombard and Greta Garbo . The album 's photography was taken by German photographer Ellen von Unwerth during three days ; on the first and second days , the photos were shot at the Hollywood Dell hotel . Aguilera and von Unwerth moved to Forty Deuce in Hollywood to take images inspired by 1920s burlesque clubs on the last day of the session . The album 's cover artwork was revealed in late @-@ June 2006 , featuring Aguilera with bright red lipstick and curly blonde hair dressed in white and lounging on a bed . Greg Kot from The Baltimore Sun labelled the cover as " a classy retro look , a sign that [Aguilera] is ready for her close @-@ up as the leading lady of the teen brat pack that emerged in the late ' 90s " .

The first track from the album to be made available to the public was " Ain 't No Other Man " , which was released as the lead single to US contemporary hit radio on June 6 , 2006 . Aguilera was featured in Pepsi 's commercial advertisement , which used " Here to Stay " , a track from Back to Basics as its main theme . Shot in multiple territories including Saudi Arabia , Prague , Rio de Janeiro , Tokyo , and in India , the 60 @-@ second advertisement premiered on July 14 , 2006 worldwide . Alongside the commercial , " Here to Stay " was available for digital download on mobile phones as a promotional record to Aguilera 's then @-@ upcoming album . " Hurt " and " Candyman " were serviced as the album 's second and third international singles on September 17 , 2006 , and February 20 , 2007 , respectively . " Slow Down Baby " was released in Australia only on July 28 , 2007 , while " Oh Mother " was released in several European territories only in late @-@ 2007 . In January 2008 , Aguilera released a music video for the track " Save Me from Myself " , following Aguilera giving birth to her son Max Bratman .

= = Promotion = =

Aguilera began her promotion of Back to Basics with a live performance of " Ain 't No Other Man " at the 2006 MTV Movie Awards on June 8 , 2006 . On July 20 , Aguilera held a 40 @-@ minute concert at Camden Palace Theatre in London , where she performed five songs from her then @-@ upcoming album and two previous singles . On August 16 , Aguilera held a release party for the album in New York City . Aguilera performed " Hurt " at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards on August 31 . On September 8 , she performed " Candyman " and " Bennie and the Jets " at the Fashion Rocks charity event , the latter was a duet with Elton John . Aguilera also sang " Ain 't No

Other Man " , " Hurt " and " Steppin ' Out with My Baby " with Tony Bennett on Saturday Night Live on November 11 , 2006 . " Hurt " was also sung on the " NBC Christmas Thanksgiving Special " in November , and the German television series Wetten , dass .. ? in December of that year . On December 31 , 2006 , Aguilera appeared on Dick Clark 's New Year 's Rockin ' Eve and performed " Candyman " and " Fighter " .

On February 10 , 2007 , Aguilera sang " Makes Me Wanna Pray " and " Candyman " at the " Clive Davis Pre @-@ Grammy Awards Party " . She performed " Candyman " on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . During 2006 and 2007 , Aguilera visited Asia , Europe , and Oceania during her Back to Basics Tour . It was promoted by the mobile phone network Orange and Sony Ericsson . The eighty @-@ show tour received positive reviews from critics , who complimented it as the strongest of her career . Grossing over \$ 90 million worldwide , it became the ninth highest @-@ grossing tour ever for a female artist and the most profitable world tour by a female artist in 2007 . In February 2008 , the Back to Basics : Live and Down Under DVD was released .

= = Critical reception = =

On Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , Back to Basics received an average score of 69 , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " , based on 17 reviews . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic appreciated the album 's production , commenting that the project was " all the more impressive " coming after the " near career suicide of Stripped " . Entertainment Weekly 's Jody Rosen opined that Aguilera " can make her own glorious kind of 21st @-@ century noise " and compared Aguilera 's vocal ability on the album to that of Mariah Carey . Mike Joseph of PopMatters felt that Aguilera " still shouts at times when a coo will do " , but felt that her choice in collaborators made for an " ultimately rewarding listen " . Sputnikmusic 's Amanda Murray noted Back to Basics as another " transitional " and " innovative " record for Aguilera . Lucy Davies from BBC Music said that Aguilera has a " stunning voice " , but stated that she could be more varied by cutting out some of the " y @-@ e @-@ e @-@ eeh , woah yeh 's " on the second album .

Thomas Innskeep from Stylus Magazine preferred the first disc of the album over the " ridiculously overblown ballads " on the second disc , adding that Back to Basics was " one of 2006 's best when Linda Perry 's fingerprints aren 't present " . Similarly , Yahoo ! Music 's Dan Gennoe described the first disc as a " low @-@ down and dirty masterpiece " , but said the second disc found Aguilera " crashing straight back down again " . Paul Flynn from The Observer provided a mixed review , saying that the beginning of the album was " all craft and very little heart " ; however , he found the collaborations between her and Perry to be " deeply cinematic " . Rolling Stone 's Jenny Eliscu opined that the release was " overindulgent and self @-@ important " , but would have been " masterful " had it been condensed into a single disc . Kelefa Sanneh from The New York Times gave a mixed review , stating that it " contains a roughly even number of great songs and lousy ones " , and said that " her homages to World War II @-@ era pop music resemble skits more than songs " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine criticized Aguilera for using a sexual image to overshadow her vocals , but commented that Back to Basics was more " cohesive " than Stripped . Robert Christgau provided a negative review , classifying the album as a " dud " () .

The album received a nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album at the 2007 Grammy Awards and won Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for " Ain 't No Other Man " . The following year , " Candyman " was nominated for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance . In 2006 , Back to Basics was named the Best Pop Album of the Year by iTunes . In June 2008 , Entertainment Weekly listed the album at number 80 of the 100 best albums of the last twenty @-@ five years . By late 2009 , British magazine Daily Mail listed Back to Basics at number 17 on the list of 50 best albums of the 2000s decade .

= = Commercial performance = =

Upon its release , Back to Basics reached number one in over fifteen countries , including the

United States , the United Kingdom , and Australia . With 346 @, @ 000 in first @-@ week sales , the album debuted atop the US Billboard 200 . It remained on the chart for forty @-@ four weeks , falling off after a final position of number 164 . The album placed at numbers 59 and 73 on the Billboard 200 Year @-@ End charts in 2006 and 2007 , respectively . Additionally , Back to Basics debuted at number two on the Billboard R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Album , spending forty @-@ six weeks on the chart . The album went on to be certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of one million copies . With sales of 24 @, @ 000 , Back to Basics also debuted at number one on the Canadian Albums Chart . It attained a triple platinum certification there , reaching 300 @, @ 000 sales .

Back to Basics achieved similar success in Europe , peaking at number one on the European Top 100 Albums chart . In the United Kingdom , it became Aguilera 's first album to debut atop the UK Albums Chart . It charted for thirty @-@ three weeks in the top seventy @-@ five , and was eventually certified platinum in the country . The album placed at numbers 56 and 127 on the UK Albums Chart 's year @-@ end list for 2006 and 2007 , respectively . In Finland , Back to Basics charted for eighteen weeks on the country 's official albums chart , peaking at number six . It debuted at number ten on the French Albums Chart , where it spent fifty @-@ two weeks . The album proved be less successful on the Portuguese Albums Chart , where it peaked at number 26 and charted for two weeks .

The album achieved success in major markets in Oceania . It debuted at number one on the Australian Albums Chart and charted for forty weeks , while debuting at number two on the New Zealand RIANZ Albums Chart and charting for twenty @-@ seven . The album reached numbers 45 and 34 on Australia 's year @-@ end charts in 2006 and 2007 , respectively ; while charting at 43 in New Zealand in 2007 . Back to Basics went on the reach double platinum certification in the former and platinum in the latter . Japan became the only Asian market where Back to Basics , where it debuted at number seven on the Japanese Oricon Main Albums Chart with first @-@ week sales of 32 @, @ 241 units . It was later certified gold in the country for shipments of 100 @, @ 000 copies . According to RCA frontman , Clive Davis , the album has sold approximately 5 million copies worldwide as of November 2013 .

= = Track listing = =

Credits are taken from Back to Basics booklet .

Notes

^ a signifies an additional producer

^ b signifies a co @-@ producer

^ c signifies a vocal producer

Sampling credits

" Intro (Back to Basics) " contains a sample of " The Thrill is Gone (Live) " , as performed by B.B. King , The Crusaders and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra .

" Makes Me Wanna Pray " contains a sample from " Glad " , as performed by Traffic .

" Back in the Day " contains samples from " Charley " , as performed by Don Costa Orchestra , and " Troglodyte " , as performed by The Jimmy Castor Bunch .

" Ain 't No Other Man " contains samples from " Happy Skippy Moon Strut " , as performed by Moon People , and " The Cissy 's Thang " , as performed by The Soul Seven .

" Understand " contains a sample from " Nearer to You " , as performed by Betty Harris .

" Slow Down Baby " contains samples from " Window Raisin ' Granny " , as performed by Gladys Knight & the Pips and " So Seductive " , as performed by Tony Yayo .

" Oh Mother " contains a sample from " Vois Sur Ton Chemin " , written by Bruno Coluais and Christopher Barratler .

" On Our Way " contains a sample from " Sentimentale " , as performed by Claude Bolling .

" Here to Stay " contains a sample from " The Best Thing You Ever Had " , as performed by Candi Staton .

" Thank You (Dedication to Fans ...) " contains samples from " Can 't Hold Us Down " and " Genie

in a Bottle " , as performed by Aguilera , and " Think Big " , as performed by Pudge the Fat Bastard featuring The Notorious B.I.G. The track also features fan club recordings by Shane Burrows , Jessica Cavanaugh , She @-@ Tara Franklin , Michael Holmin , Warren Keller , Antoinette Litte , Gustavo Medina , Sarah Anne Moore , Joshua Pospisil , Cory Steale , Durant Searcy , Samantha Silver , Tammy Simpson and Shanna Nicole Wiles .

" Candyman " contains a sample from " Tarzan & Jane Swingin ' on a Vine " from Run To Cadence With U.S. Marines .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from AllMusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

= = Release history = =