

= Britney (album) =

Britney is the self @-@ titled third studio album by American singer Britney Spears . It was released on November 5 , 2001 , by JIVE Records . Looking to transition from the teen pop styles of her earlier albums ... Baby One More Time (1999) and Oops ! ... I Did It Again (2000) , Spears began to embrace a more mature sound with her next studio effort . Its music incorporates genres of pop and dance @-@ pop with influences of R & B and occasionally dips into elements of disco , hip hop and rock ; its lyrics address the subjects of reaching adulthood and sexuality . Contributions to its production came from a variety of collaborators , including Max Martin and Rami Yacoub . Spears herself assumed a more prominent role in the album 's development , co @-@ writing five of its tracks .

Upon its release , Britney received generally mixed reviews from music critics , who complimented the progression from Spears 's earlier works , but criticized her increasingly provocative image . The album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 745 @,@ 000 copies . Its success made Spears the first female artist to have her first three albums debut atop the chart , a record she would later break again with her fourth record In the Zone (2003) . To promote the album , Spears embarked on the Dream Within a Dream Tour , which began in November 2001 and continued through July 2002 . The album received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Pop Vocal Album .

Six singles were released from the album , all of which proved less successful than those of Spears 's prior records . Consequentially , Britney became her first record not to yield a US Billboard Hot 100 top 20 hit . Its lead single " I 'm a Slave 4 U " peaked at number twenty @-@ seven on the chart , while follow @-@ up singles " Overprotected " , " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " , " I Love Rock ' n ' Roll " , " Anticipating " , and " Boys " reached the lower end of the chart and its extension , the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles .

= = Background = =

In May 2000 , Spears released her second studio album Oops ! ... I Did It Again . Spears collaborated with producers including Rodney Jerkins , David Kreuger , and Max Martin . Following its release , Oops ! ... I Did It Again became an international success and peaked at number one on the US Billboard 200 . The album 's lead single " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " became one of the best @-@ selling singles of all time .

When recording her follow @-@ up record , Spears wanted an " older generation to pick up on it " , adding that she " had to change it up and pray people think that 's cool " . She stated that she chose to self @-@ title the album because the majority of its content describes who she is . Spears recorded twenty @-@ three tracks for the release , several of which she co @-@ wrote with the assistance of Brian Kierulf and Josh Schwartz . She added that personally writing the album and developing its concept made the project " that much more special " , elaborating of her intentions to " get better and grow " as a songwriter .

Spears worked with a variety of collaborators , including pop colleagues Martin and her then @-@ boyfriend Justin Timberlake . She commented that she initially felt " awkward " and " nervous " working with Timberlake , saying that she was accustomed to the process being " like work " . Spears also worked with hip hop producers Rodney Jerkins and The Neptunes , who made the record " nastier and funkier " . She additionally recorded songs with Missy Elliott and Timbaland , but their tracks never made the final track listing due to scheduling conflicts .

= = Composition = =

Britney incorporates pop styles with elements of dance @-@ pop and R & B. The album opens with its lead single " I 'm a Slave 4 U " . The song features an urban influence and Middle Eastern flavor , amid breathy , emotive noises , and it has been compared to " Nasty Girl " by Vanity 6 . Spears commented that its lyrics are " about me just wanting to go out and forget who I am and dance and

have a good time " . " Overprotected " was noted for having Europop styles , and addresses a girl who is tired of being manipulated . Lyrically , " Lonely " sees a girl moving on from a troublesome romance after being lied to and manipulated . It was considered " a teenage version of Janet 's " What About ? " . The soft rock piano ballad " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " , co @-@ penned by English singer @-@ songwriter Dido , Max Martin and Rami , details the emotional struggles that teenage girls experience during puberty . " Boys " incorporates R & B and hip hop styles , and was criticized by David Browne of Entertainment Weekly as " cut @-@ rate ' 80s Janet Jackson " . The disco @-@ inspired track " Anticipating " discusses the friendship and camaraderie between women , and it 's reminiscent of [Madonna 's] ' Holiday ' or Kylie in disco mood . "

Spears 's cover of " I Love Rock ' n ' Roll " , made famous by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts , infuses pop rock styles into the original hard rock rendition . " Cinderella " reflects on a girl who left her boyfriend after he failed to appreciate her efforts in the relationship . " Let Me Be " sees Spears ask to be trusted as an adult and be afforded her own opinions . " Bombastic Love " discusses a love where Spears feels that the romance will happen " exactly like in a movie " . Similarly , the penultimate track " That 's Where You Take Me " details the joy she gets from an emotionally fulfilling relationship , amid Middle Eastern chimes and a collage of electronic beats and drum programming . In some editions , " When I Found You " is the penultimate track . On the track , Britney tells she has found her " deepest love " in her soul mate who is essentially a reflection of herself . The album closes with " What It 's Like to Be Me " , which was co @-@ written and co @-@ produced by Spears 's then @-@ boyfriend Justin Timberlake ; Spears sings that a guy must " figure [her] out " to " be [her] man " .

= = Singles = =

" I 'm a Slave 4 U " was released as the album 's lead single on September 24 , 2001 . Its accompanying music video was directed by Francis Lawrence , and was nominated for three awards at the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards . The song peaked at number twenty @-@ seven on the US Billboard Hot 100 , and debuted at number four on the UK Singles Chart . " Overprotected " served as the album 's second single internationally and third single in the United States . Its " Darkchild Remix " peaked at number eighty @-@ six on the Hot 100 , while the original version reached number four in the UK . The song was nominated for the Best Female Pop Vocal Performance at the 2003 Grammy Awards . Two variations of the music video were released , one for the original and the other for the Darkchild Remix .

Staggered to fit the varying release dates of Crossroads internationally , " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " was released as the theme song of the film and the second single for Britney in the United States . The song charted at number two on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , an extension of the twenty @-@ five songs that failed to make the Hot 100 . It was met with more success internationally , peaking at number two in the UK . Spears 's cover of " I Love Rock ' n ' Roll " was released as the fourth European single . Consequentially , the song did not chart in the US , but reached number thirteen on the UK Singles Chart . " Anticipating " was released as the fourth single exclusively in France ; it reached number thirty @-@ eight on the French Singles Chart . " Boys " served as the final single from Britney internationally , and it peaked at number twenty @-@ two on the US Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , and reached number seven in the UK .

= = Promotion = =

On January 28 , 2001 , Spears performed at Super Bowl XXXV . Shortly after , she appeared on Total Request Live to premiere new material from Britney . On September 6 , Spears premiered " I 'm a Slave 4 U " at the MTV Video Music Awards ; the performance was criticized for her use of a yellow python as a stage prop . Four days later , she performed " I 'm a Slave 4 U " on The Rosie O 'Donnell Show . Spears was scheduled to perform and hold a press conference in Australia on September 13 ; however , she cancelled the event in light of the September 11 attacks two days prior , saying that holding the conference would have been inappropriate . The following month ,

Spears performed at The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . In November , she performed in her first HBO concert special from the MGM Grand Garden Arena ; Cher was supposed to join Spears onstage for the song " The Beat Goes On " , which Spears covered on ... Baby One More Time , though Cher was unable to do so due to scheduling conflicts .

In December , Spears performed at the 2001 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas . The following January , she sang " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " at the 2002 American Music Awards . Later in the month , Spears gave interviews to the The Frank Skinner Show in the UK and The Saturday Show in Australia . Crossroads premiered in February 2002 , allowing Spears to simultaneously promote both the film and her album . On February 2 , she was featured as both the host and performer of Saturday Night Live . A week later , she sang " I 'm Not a Girl , Not Yet a Woman " at the NBA All @-@ Star Game and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . Spears also appeared on Live with Regis & Kelly , The View , and the 2002 Grammy Awards in the US , and Wetten , dass .. ? in Germany .

In November 2001 , Spears began her Dream Within a Dream Tour in Columbus , Ohio ; it ended in July 2002 in Dallas , Texas . A video released , titled Britney : The Videos , released on November 20 , 2001 , by JIVE Records . Made available less than three weeks after Britney , The Videos included a selection of her earlier music videos , behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage , commercials , and notable live performances . It peaked at number one on the US Top Music Videos chart on December 8 , 2001 .

= = Critical reception = =

At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , Britney received an average score of 58 , which indicates " mixed or average reviews " , based on 13 reviews . David Browne of Entertainment Weekly found Spears 's increasingly provocative image to be unnatural , noting " virginal vamping in an awkward adolescence " and " a few tentative new moves " . PopMatters ' Nikki Tranton complimented the production of the songs , but questioned if Spears was ready to establish herself as a grown woman in the music industry . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine agreed , writing that although " Britney , [the album] , fills her role of guilty pleasure (the disc certainly satiates more than the stunted growth of last year 's Oops ! ... I Did It Again) , it 's time for Spears to quit being such a cock @-@ tease and cook something up that will satisfy the ever @-@ vacillating hype @-@ machine . "

AllMusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine gave a positive review , feeling that the album " strives to deepen [Spears 's] persona " and proves she " will know what to do when the teen @-@ pop phenomenon of 1999 @-@ 2001 passes for good " . Similarly , a reviewer from Billboard commented that the project was " a nicely varied , wholly satisfying collection " . Chris Heat of Dotmusic praised Britney for " us [ing] this opportunity to take the odd risk and adds a welcome edge to her sound . " NME 's Ted Kessler recognized the release as a " coming of age album " and joked that it " works best when making a good pop cheese and dance sandwich " . By contrast , Stephen Thompson of The A.V. Club panned the album , opining that the music " just [isn 't] catchy " and that " though neither a girl nor a woman , Spears inspires grown @-@ up anger on her own " . Craig Seymore of Spin recognized that she " sound [s] almost human , " but criticized that " the rest of the record is as coldly anthemic as ever . "

= = Commercial performance = =

Britney debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 745 @, @ 000 copies . In doing so , Spears became the first female to have her first three studio albums debut atop that chart . She also held the second @-@ highest debut album sales of 2001 , behind Celebrity by ' N Sync with 1 @. @ 88 million units moved , though maintained the highest debut @-@ week sales among female artists . After fluctuating within the top twenty of the chart in the following weeks , Britney sold 3 @. @ 3 million copies by 2002 .

Internationally , Britney debuted atop the Canadian Albums Chart with first @-@ week sales of 44

@, @ 550 copies . It later sold 316 @, @ 944 copies in the country , a significant decline in relation to the sales of ... Baby One More Time and Oops ! ... I Did It Again . The album peaked at number four on both the Japanese Oricon Albums Chart and the UK Albums Chart . In the latter , it was certified platinum for shipments of 300 @, @ 000 copies to retailers . Across the rest of Europe , Britney debuted at number one in Germany , Austria , and Switzerland . In 2002 , it was certified double platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry for shipments of two million copies through Europe . The album also peaked at number four in Australia , and was certified double platinum there .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ a signifies a vocal producer

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from AllMusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

Notes

^ As of May 2012 , the album has sold 4 @, @ 400 @, @ 000 copies in the U.S. according to Nielsen SoundScan , with additional 588 @, @ 000 sold at BMG Music Clubs . Nielsen SoundScan does not count albums sold through clubs like the BMG Music Service , which were significantly popular in the 1990s .

= = Release history = =