

= Looking 4 Myself =

Looking 4 Myself is the seventh studio album by American R & B recording artist Usher . It was released on June 8 , 2012 , by RCA Records . In October 2011 , it was announced that the disbandment have been occurred between Usher and the J / LaFace imprint . The album includes these several producers that were involved and have provided with its production ; including Diplo , Rico Love , Jim Jonsin , Salaam Remi , Pharrell Williams and Max Martin , among others . It features these several guest vocalists ; including Luke Steele and ASAP Rocky . Inspired by the electronic duo Empire of the Sun and listening to music originating from several locations , Usher intended the album to contain a more experimental sound , that remained relevant to the music of its time . Defined as " revolutionary pop " by the singer , critics noted that Looking 4 Myself incorporates the genres R & B , pop , hip hop , electronic , Europop and dubstep . Critic Barry Walters has described it as a key release in the emerging the genre of the alternative R & B.

Upon its release , Looking 4 Myself received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Most of them praised the album 's diversity in music genre , while some were ambivalent towards its pop material and lack of structure . The album debuted atop the US Billboard 200 chart , selling 128 @, @ 000 copies in its first week , becoming Usher 's fourth number one album in the country . As of October 2014 , Looking 4 Myself has sold 504 @, @ 000 copies in the United States , according to Nielsen SoundScan . Worldwide , it attained top @-@ ten positions in over eight other countries including Australia , Canada , Germany and the United Kingdom .

Looking 4 Myself was supported by five singles : " Climax " , " Scream " , " Lemme See " featuring Rick Ross , " Numb " and " Dive " . " Climax " peaked in the top @-@ twenty on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , and topped the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart for eleven weeks . " Scream " peaked in the top @-@ ten on the Hot 100 and several other countries . " Numb " obtained moderate international chart success and peaked at number 69 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . Usher promoted for the Looking 4 Myself by performing in several shows ; including the off @-@ Broadway show Fuerza Bruta : Look Up , Saturday Night Live and Good Morning America , among others . The tour has further be promoting the album , however , it was cancelled due to the singer 's obligation as a coach on The Voice .

= = Background = =

In 2010 , Usher released his sixth studio album Raymond v. Raymond , with a mixed critical response and commercial success ; the project went on to earn two Grammy Awards at the 2011 ceremony . His follow @-@ up record was originally rumored to be titled The Shanetance and due for release on March 23 , 2012 , though Usher later refuted the speculation .

While on hiatus between the release of his first EP Versus and Looking 4 Myself , Usher told AOL Music that he mainly traveled to various locations to listen to music which he " felt was really significant in terms of energy . " Some of these locations included the Coachella Music Festival , Ibiza , Germany , Las Vegas , Miami and Southern France . He described some of the music as a " little bit more electronic , some of it a little bit more dance . Some of it , a bit more world . " It was Australian electronic music duo Empire of the Sun that inspired Usher to produce the album 's title track , with producer Rico Love , which led to the singer collaborating with producers he normally wouldn 't work with or admired , such as Diplo . Usher 's intention for the album was one " that was not genre @-@ specific but just experimental " . During an episode of NBC 's The Voice , Usher called the album " by far one of my most risky records ... I wanted to challenge myself " . Looking 4 Myself was chosen as the album 's title as it described Usher 's ' musical journey ' .

RCA Records CEO Peter Edge spoke to Billboard on which two specific groups they want the album to appeal to , " By the time the album is available , Usher 's collective audience will have had a chance to really sample a number of songs from the album [...] the end result will be an Usher album that appeals to his earliest fans , and people who may have never listened to or owned an Usher album before . " Prior to the album 's release , Usher was put under the management of Grace Miguel ? whom he is in a relationship with ? replacing Randy Phillips , who managed Usher

for a short period after he split with his mother , Jonnetta Patton for a second time , in 2008 . The cover art and track listing for both the standard and deluxe edition of the album were revealed on May 3 , 2012 . On June 4 , 2012 , 30 second snippets of each track were leaked on the internet .

= = Production = =

Diplo , Rico Love , Jim Jonsin , Salaam Remi and Max Martin were the first producers confirmed for Looking 4 Myself on March 2012 . After Usher had attended the Coachella Music Festival , he worked with electronic music duo Empire of the Sun to produce the album 's title track ; he described the band 's music as an " incredible sound " . The collaboration and the band 's music inspired Usher to produce more experimental music , and to produce records with producers he normally wouldn 't work with or admired . DJ and producer Diplo was one of them , and so both collaborated on the album 's lead single , " Climax " . They discussed the concept throughout the song 's development and how it relates to Usher 's life , as Diplo " tried to help realise these lyrics and feelings . " After conceiving some melody lines , they wrote the song in about an hour . Usher and Diplo worked on the song 's production for two months , recording in studios in Los Angeles , New York , and Atlanta .

Usher wanted to work with Swedish electronic dance music trio Swedish House Mafia since their joint performance at the American Music Awards in 2011 . The group later agreed to work with the singer , where they intended to travel to Atlanta to work on track production , writing , and to " move the ball forward . " Steve Angello , a member of Swedish House Mafia , told MTV News that the group hung out with Usher in Ibiza after the awards ceremony ; they worked with him in Atlanta for five days . They produced the final tracks " Numb " , " Euphoria " and " Way to Count " , with the latter not making the final cut .

Usher contacted several producers and musicians who he endeavoured to , but ended up not collaborating with , including Skrillex , Calvin Harris , Afrojack , Kaskade , Little Dragon and David Guetta . The latter had revealed to The Hollywood Reporter in May 2012 that he and Usher had worked on a " crazy " record , though it did not appear on the album due to a scheduling conflict ; rapper Ludacris was involved in the song 's production . English singer @-@ songwriter Labrinth spent two studio sessions with Usher in April 2012 working on Looking 4 Myself .

= = Composition = =

= = = Influence and sound = = =

Usher told Sylelist in November 2011 that he is working on a new genre of music , which he depicted as " revolutionary pop " . He explained that it " combines several other music genres to form a new sound " . In a later interview , Usher clarified that his latter quote was misinterpreted , in that it is not a specific type of sound , but rather what he found as inspiration behind where he was and what he was working on " was revolutionary " . The album incorporates pop styles , which Usher described as being " relevant " to its time and " what [people are] listening to " . Randall Roberts of Los Angeles Times summed up the production of the album , writing that it " draws on a world of styles permeating pop culture in 2012 " , by implementing the genres electronic dance , dubstep , pop and hip @-@ hop to create a hybrid pop . Allmusic 's Andy Kellman described revolutionary pop as " contemporary pop @-@ oriented R & B , or european dance @-@ pop , or some combination of the two " , and that the album is " weighted more heavily toward dance @-@ pop " compared to his previous efforts .

= = = Songs and lyrics = = =

Looking 4 Myself opens with club track " Can 't Stop Won 't Stop " , which contains the melody of Billy Joel 's 1983 " Uptown Girl " ; it contains a synth heavy hook and incorporates elements of

dubstep . " Scream " is another club oriented track , with heavily sexual lyrics . The song makes heavy use of bass ? particularly in the chorus ? and is noted to be reminiscent of Usher 's " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " (2010) . The third track " Climax " is a quiet storm slow jam , built around a haunting riff , complemented by sparse drum machine and some musical accompaniment . Its lyrics focuses on Usher 's anguish over a failed relationship , with its title referring to the turning point of a relationship . Follow @-@ up track " I Care for U " is a mid @-@ tempo R & B song , which fuses 90 's R & B and hip @-@ hop with dubstep , produced by American record producer Danja . " Show Me " , another Danja produced record , is described by Randall Roberts of Los Angeles Times to feature " driving house synth @-@ claps with a propellant techno rhythm bubbling beneath it . " A mid @-@ tempo track , " Lemme See " contains a synth @-@ heavy production with contributed vocals from American rapper Rick Ross . " Twisted " , which was produced by and features record producer @-@ rapper " Pharrell " , is the seventh track . It is a 60 's retro @-@ soul track , with heavy use of percussions and bass throughout . Usher described the track as " nostalgic " , and explained that his intent was to also " modernize it " , similar to records produced by Cee Lo , Bruno Mars and Andre 3000 .

" Dive " discusses a commitment to a relationship , while containing a triple @-@ entendre , according to Matt Cibula of PopMatters , initially singing about diving or oral sex , to discussing a commitment to a relationship . The ninth track is " What Happened to U " ; it is a downtempo song , sung by Usher primarily using falsetto . It samples the late The Notorious B.I.G. ' s " One More Chance " . The album 's title track features Empire of the Sun member Luke Steele , and is both new wave and soft rock . The title refers to Usher 's " musical journey " , and the song was inspired by his travelling and the latter band . The first of the two Swedish House Mafia tracks is " Numb " , a euro disco and electronic dance track , its lyrics message was described by Erika Ramirez of Billboard to simply be " Forget your troubles and fist @-@ pump ! " . The next track is " Lessons for the Lover " , a slow @-@ tempo track with heavy production , produced by long @-@ time collaborator Rico Love . Ramirez compared the track to songs from Usher 's Confessions era . " Sins of my Father " is a soul song with prominent blues , dub , Motown and reggae influences ; it is about being a " tortured soul " in a " volatile " relationship . Looking 4 Myself closes with " Euphoria " , the second Swedish House Mafia produced track on the album . It is described as more " tense " and " powerful " compared to " Numb " .

= = Singles = =

The album 's lead single " Climax " was leaked on February 14 , 2012 and digitally released on February 22 . The song was met with positive acclaim , with praise directed towards Diplo 's production and Usher 's vocals . " Climax " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 chart at number eighty @-@ one with 31 @, @ 000 digital units sold on the week of March 10 , 2012 and has since peaked at number 17 . The song topped the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart marking Usher 's twelfth number one single on the chart , and overtaking R. Kelly as the ninth artist with the most number one 's . " Climax " sustained the number one position for eleven weeks , tying with his 1997 " You Make Me Wanna ... " as his longest running number one single on the chart . The accompanying music video was released on March 9 , 2012 , and was directed by Sam Pilling and filmed in Atlanta . The video shows Usher sitting in his car , contemplating on how to approach his ex @-@ girlfriend inside her home , with numerous scenarios shown being thought out by Usher . The video was nominated for Best Male Video at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards , losing to Chris Brown 's " Turn Up the Music " .

" Scream " , the album 's second single , premièred on SoundCloud on April 26 , 2012 . The song was produced by Savan Kotecha and Max Martin , the same duo who produced " DJ Got Us Fallin ' in Love " (2010) . " Scream " was made available for purchase as a digital download on April 27 , 2012 . It officially impacted the Top 40 / Mainstream and rhythmic radio on May 1 , 2012 . The song peaked in the top ten in several charts , including the Billboard Hot 100 , Canadian Hot 100 , Japan Hot 100 , Scottish Singles Chart and UK Singles Chart . An accompanying music video uses footage from Usher 's performance in Fuerza Bruta in New York City . In the video , Usher gets intimate with

his love interest ; his dancing and choreography was compared to Michael Jackson 's . The third single , " Lemme See " features rapper Rick Ross , and was made available for purchase as a digital download on May 4 , 2012 . The song was released to urban radio on May 8 , 2012 and reached number two on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . Internationally , " Lemme See " peaked at number ninety in the United Kingdom , and number eighty @-@ eight in France . The official music video for the song was released on June 14 , 2012 , and was directed by Philip Andelman .

" Numb " is the album 's fourth single , and was released to contemporary hit radio on August 28 , 2012 . It was produced by Swedish House Mafia , who also co @-@ wrote the song with Usher . The song received generally positive acclaim from contemporary music critics with many of them praising its club @-@ oriented production , labeling it as a potential success as a single . " Numb " was a moderate worldwide success , reaching the top @-@ forty in five countries including Belgium , Germany and Australia . Usher released " Dive " as the fifth single , releasing the song to urban radio on August 28 , 2012 . The song was well received by critics , who lauded Usher 's falsetto and overall vocals . Directed by Chris Applebaum , its music video shows Usher getting intimate with Victoria 's Secret Angel model Chanel Iman , who plays as his love interest . " Dive " peaked on the South Korea Gaon International Chart at number fifty , and the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart at number 34 .

= = Promotion = =

Usher held multiple private listening sessions for Looking 4 Myself . On April 27 , 2012 he debuted the album in the off @-@ Broadway show Fuerza Bruta : Look Up , in Daryl Roth Theater in New York City . When speaking to MTV , he explained his reasoning for performing in the show " It 's not often that you 're able to give somewhat of a visual or an emotional kind of basis of what your songs mean [...] I felt like , yeah , it would be a physical challenge , yeah it would be a lot for me , but [I want to] at least try it , there are many times I 'd seen the show and I 'd only hoped that I would make it happen " . Steven Horowitz of Rolling Stone commented that Usher " theatrically sequenced the entirety of the project to strobing lights and choreographed moves " . Horowitz also praised the singer 's performance , concluding that " the veteran entertainer reasserts himself as a master of rapturous dance fodder , capable of turning a room into a thumping rave with ease " . Usher appeared on Saturday Night Live ? hosted by Will Ferrell ? where he performed the singles " Scream " and " Climax " . He performed both singles again , in the 2012 Today summer concert , being the opening act of the series . Usher performed " Scream " in the 2012 Billboard Music Awards ; during the performance he wore a black suit , bowler hat and bow tie while dancing with a masked female , who later disappeared behind a cape and was replaced by a male dancer who mirrored Usher 's dance routines .

On June 9 , 2012 Usher performed in the UK , appearing in the Capital FM Summer Time Ball , his second appearance in his career . He entered the stage doing the moonwalk and then performed his 2010 single " OMG " . Backed @-@ up by female dancers while doing choreographed routines , he then performed several singles from his previous work and Looking 4 Myself , including " Yeah ! " , " Without You " , " Climax " and " Scream " . The singer again performed " Scream " in the 2012 Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles during Microsoft 's conference . He performed the dance routines presented in the video game Dance Central 3 , via the Kinect to the latter song . Usher promoted the album on its release date in the UK ? June 11 ? by performing in a one @-@ off concert in the HMV Hammersmith Apollo in London . The performance was directed by Hamish Hamilton , and was streamed to Usher 's VEVO channel on YouTube . The same week , he appeared on BBC Radio 1 Live Lounge , where he covered the song " Pumped Up Kicks " by Foster the People , and performed " Scream " . The singer appeared on Good Morning America , where he spoke about Looking 4 Myself , and discussed his legal battle with ex @-@ wife Tameka Foster . He performed " Climax " in the 2012 BET Awards ; Kelly Carter of MTV described the performance as " fairly muted " , due to Usher 's appearance and dancing being minimalistic . He opened the 2012 iTunes Festival , performing songs from his previous studio album efforts and tracks from Looking 4 Myself which he performed for the first time , including " Can 't Stop Won 't Stop " , " Lemme See " ,

" Twisted " , " Dive " and " Numb " .

= = = Tour = = =

On September 18 , 2012 , Usher announced that he would embark on a concert tour , the Euphoria Tour , to further promote Looking 4 Myself . Usher planned to perform in countries including France , Germany , Belgium , Norway , Finland , Sweden , Switzerland and the United Kingdom . In partnership with Live Nation Global Touring , the tour was to commence on January 18 , 2013 in Amsterdam , Netherlands and would conclude on March 14 in Nice , France . For the tour leg in the United Kingdom , British singer Rita Ora was scheduled to be an opening act . On September 25 , 2012 , Live Nation Global Touring announced that the tour will be postponed until the fall of 2013 , due to Usher 's participation in the reality talent show The Voice , where along with singer Shakira , he was a judge in the show 's fourth season . The tour , however , was not rescheduled .

= = Critical reception = =

Looking 4 Myself received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album has received an average score of 75 , based on 19 reviews . Alex Macpherson of The Guardian complimented Usher 's vocals , saying that they " are in fine fettle " , and found the album " most interesting " when it " goes in directions that don 't cleave to obvious aesthetics " . Allmusic 's Andy Kellman felt that , despite Usher 's shift to dance music , " he 's more of a creative force when he 's working with slower , soul @-@ rooted material " . Randall Roberts of the Los Angeles Times described the album as not genre defying , but instead utilises the music styles of the [current] era ? it 's " more pop than it is revolutionary " . Evan Rytlewski of The A.V. Club said that " not all of it works , but none of it is unpleasant , either " , and commended Usher for branching out and taking risks . Pitchfork Media 's Carrie Battan felt that his strength " lies in R & B , and he 's adjusted well to shifting ground " , although " not everything on Looking 4 Myself hits the mark " . At USA Today , Steve Jones stated that on the release Usher has " chosen to keep growing and moving ahead " on which he " confidently steps out of his sonic comfort zone . "

In a mixed review , Now writer Kevin Ritchie said that " Climax " is one of the only few stand @-@ out tracks . Slant Magazine 's Eric Henderson felt that the album lacks structure and found it " unavoidably uneven " . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe criticized Usher 's use of auto @-@ tune : " the unnecessary deployment of Auto @-@ tune on a singer who can actually hold his own vocally " . The Observer 's Killian Fox wrote that " for every hit ? ' Lemme See ' is another ? there are a couple of misses : ' Can 't Stop Won 't Stop ' , the Euro @-@ dance opener produced by will.i.am , is horribly overblown " .

On October 9 , 2012 , Looking 4 Myself earned Usher three nominations at the 2012 American Music Awards for Favorite Soul / R & B Male Artist , Favorite Pop / Rock Male Artist and Favorite Soul / R & B Album . On November 18 , 2012 Usher won the award for Favorite Soul / R & B Male Artist for the third consecutive year . At the 55th Annual Grammy Awards , " Climax " earned Usher his eighth Grammy Award for Best R & B Performance . Billboard ranked Usher twentieth and sixty @-@ second on their Hot 100 and Billboard 200 year @-@ end charts , respectively .

= = Commercial performance = =

Looking 4 Myself was predicted to sell 120 @,@ 000 ? 130 @,@ 000 units during its first @-@ week in the United States , based upon first day sales . The figure was under @-@ weight compared to his previous effort Raymond vs. Raymond (2010) , which sold 329 @,@ 000 units during the same period and to date has sold over two million copies worldwide . Despite the low figure estimation , Looking 4 Myself was still expected to top the Billboard 200 chart on the week ending June 17 , 2012 , and did so with 128 @,@ 000 first @-@ week copies sold domestically . The album marks Usher 's fourth consecutive number one studio album in the United States . The

following week of the album 's release , Looking 4 Myself dropped to number six on the Billboard 200 chart , selling 48 @,@ 000 copies . In its third week , the album again dropped positions , falling three spots to number nine , selling 36 @,@ 000 units . In its fourth week , Looking 4 Myself fell to number fifteen , and in its fifth week rose to number fourteen , selling 20 @,@ 178 copies . As of October 2014 , Looking 4 Myself has sold 504 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

In the United Kingdom , Looking 4 Myself debuted at number three selling 27 @,@ 000 units , giving Usher his fifth consecutive top @-@ three album in the country . It sold sixteen units less than Amy MacDonald 's third studio album Life in a Beautiful Light which debuted one place ahead at number 2 . The album was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , for sales of 100 @,@ 000 copies on August 21 , 2015 . Looking 4 Myself debuted at number three on the ARIA Albums Chart , giving Usher his fifth consecutive top @-@ five album in the country . The album debuted at number fifteen on the Japanese Albums Chart , selling 6 @,@ 727 copies , on the week ending June 17 , 2012 . It debuted at number four on the Dutch Albums Chart , and number five on the Swiss Albums Chart . In New Zealand , along with My Way (1997) , the album charted outside the top @-@ ten at number eleven , while only remaining on the chart for five weeks . Looking 4 Myself also debuted and peaked within the top ten in Canada and Taiwan at number seven , in Germany at number eight and South Africa at number ten .

= = Aftermath = =

Looking 4 Myself debuted with the smallest first @-@ week figures since Usher 's second studio album My Way (1997) , which opened with 67 @,@ 000 copies . The album 's debut was a significant decrease relative to his previous effort Raymond v. Raymond (2010) , which opened with 329 @,@ 000 units . Gail Mitchell of Billboard contemplated on whether this was due to the pop material present on the album . Derrick Corbett , operator of urban based radio stations under Clear Channel Communications , credited its underwhelming sales to the " alienation " of Usher 's core audience . Neke Howse of WKYS believes it is because of the music industry evolving , saying that both Usher and label mate Chris Brown ? who also experienced lower first week sales with his fifth studio album Fortune ? will " be fine , and their albums will do OK " .

On August 2 , 2012 Japanese multinational conglomerate Sony revealed their Q1 earnings for the year , with Looking 4 Myself largely contributing to the companies \$ 92 million in revenue for the music sector . In an interview with singer @-@ songwriter Eric Bellinger by Rap @-@ Up , the former explained that he , along with Jermaine Dupri , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox , and Brian Alexander Morgan , were working on Usher 's next album . Bellinger compared the album 's music to Usher 's Confessions (2004) , saying that it is " more R & B , more urban " than Usher 's Looking 4 Myself . The latter declared that his next album would show that he is " still Usher " . The singer 's eighth studio album , entitled UR (2014) , had its lead single ? " Good Kisser " ? released on May 5 , 2014 through digital download .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ a signifies a vocal producer

^ b signifies a co @-@ producer

" Can 't Stop Won 't Stop " contains a portion of the composition " Uptown Girl " written by Billy Joel
" What Happened to U " contains a sample from " One More Chance / Stay with Me Remix " written by Sean Combs , Reginald Ellis , Norman Glover , Carl Thompson and Christopher Wallace , as performed by The Notorious B.I.G.

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Looking 4 Myself adapted from Allmusic .
Managerial

Performance credits
Visuals and imagery
Instruments
Technical and production

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =