

= 1000 Fires =

1000 Fires is the debut studio album by American singer and actress Traci Lords , released on February 28 , 1995 , by Radioactive Records . The album remains her only full @-@ length music release to date . Lords started working on the album in April 1994 , and collaborated with producers Juno Reactor , Mike Edwards and Babble . Executive produced by Gary Kurfirst , 1000 Fires is predominantly influenced by electronic music with elements of techno , trance and trip hop . Lyrically , it mostly focuses on dark themes , referring to Lords ' past in the porn industry , revealing her rape experience on the song " Father 's Field " or dealing with thoughts of suicide on " Fallen Angel " .

Upon its release , the album received generally positive reviews from music critics . However , it achieved moderate commercial success because its sound was aimed more at the underground rave scene audience , and failed to enter the Billboard 200 . It is currently out of print . During the promotion of the album , Lords performed as a DJ and opened shows for other artists such as Moby or the band My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult .

Two singles from the album were released . The lead single , " Control " , peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs and its instrumental version was featured in the film Mortal Kombat (1995) . The soundtrack to the film was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , which earned Lords her first music award . Its following single , " Fallen Angel " , was also successful in charts , peaking at number eleven on Hot Dance Club Songs . The Paul Oakenfold remix of the song was included on the soundtrack to the film Virtuosity (1995) , in which Lords had a cameo appearance .

= = Background and recording = =

After her departure from the adult film industry and transition to mainstream films , Lords got signed for a development deal with Capitol Records , but was later dropped due to disagreements between her and the label . " They wanted to market me in the way that would make the most money . They wanted to make me the new Samantha Fox . And I never wanted that . That wasn 't what it was about for me . I pretty much had a sense of myself , and I knew that I would be an imposter , " Lords said .

Following the split up from her husband Brook Yeaton , Lords decided to focus on her career outside acting . She began taking vocal lessons and was encouraged by her coach to search for a new record deal . After meeting with American DJ Rodney Bingenheimer at a birthday party , she was recommended to Jeff Jacklin , who hired her to record the song " Love Never Dies " for the 1992 film Pet Sematary Two . The producer of the soundtrack , Gary Kurfirst , signed her for a development deal with his label Radioactive Records .

In April 1994 , the label arranged her to fly to London and meet with producer Tom Bailey . They recorded the songs " I Want You " , " Fly " and " Just Like Honey " , which was later re @-@ recorded by Keith Fernley of Bailey 's group Babble with a different set of lyrics and became the song " Father 's Field " . Lords used lyrics she had previously written in New Zealand based on her personal journals she kept since she was a child . After finishing her recording with Bailey , Lords wanted something with a harder edge to add another dimension to her album . She was introduced to producer Ben Watkins of the electronic group Juno Reactor and decided to incorporate more rave sound . Mainly inspired by the music she would hear at warehouse parties during her stay in London , Lords teamed up with American singer Wonder with whom she created the lyrics to the song " Control " . Lords later commented on the inspiration behind the album 's sound : " It was in England that I fell in love with techno music . I was working in the UK doing some modelling a couple of years ago , and I was sharing a flat with some other girls in South London . We were really broke , and the cheapest place to go and have a good night out were raves - you could get in for about three bucks . So I went to a lot of raves and clubs , and I fell in love with the music - it was something that wasn 't happening in the States at the time . " Lords recorded three more songs with Watkins ; " Good @-@ N @-@ Evil " , " Outlaw Lover " and " Fallen Angel " .

Later she met Mike Edwards , the lead singer of the band Jesus Jones . They recorded the songs "

Distant Land " , " Say Something " and " Okey Dokey " ; the latter of which they recorded as a joke at the end of a recording session .

= = Title and artwork = =

When asked about the album 's title , Lords said : " I think that fire is something that 's really representative of the record . It 's really , really peaceful and you 're drawn to it . But if you get too close , it can torch you and kill you . But if you just get close enough , it 's warm and it 's soothing , it 's mesmerising and it 's peaceful . It can give you everything or destroy you , depending on how smart you are . " The cover sleeve was shot by Joshua Jordan .

= = Composition = =

The album 's opening track and lead single , " Control " , is an up @-@ tempo electronic song . Heavily influenced by techno and trance , it contains a prominent electric guitar riff . " I told Ben [Watkins] I wanted to do a song that had elements of rock and roll but with a techno vibe and he ran with it , creating a slamming heavy metal guitar intro on an insanely hyper track . " The song is about a dominant female who nurses a broken heart as she sings , " Let me kiss it and make it better / After tonight you will forget her " . " Fallen Angel " is also an up @-@ tempo techno @-@ trance song with elements of ambient music . It features Spanish guitar and castanets . The lyrics were influenced by and written surrounding the death of Kurt Cobain . The third track , " Good @-@ N @-@ Evil " , incorporates elements of industrial music . " Fly " is a mid @-@ tempo song built around a trip hop beat . The album 's fifth track and the only ballad on the album , " Distant Land " , contains elements of ambient music and features mellow guitar melody . Lyrically , the song is a tale of a woman waking up lost and not knowing where she is , searching for light in a distant land .

" Outlaw Lover " , the sixth track from the album , is an up @-@ tempo electronic song . It contains strong techno elements and features male opera vocals . Lords cast herself as a woman in a small town who had been wronged , and tells her unfaithful lover " You best be warned I 'm a woman scorned , " before shooting him dead . The lyrics were inspired by cowboy stories and old westerns . The following track , " I Want You " , is another song with strong trip hop influences and oriental vibe . " Say Something " also incorporates trip hop music within its composition . In the album 's ninth track , " Father 's Field " , Lords reveals her experience with rape when she was 10 years old . She was attacked by her 16 @-@ year @-@ old classmate in the back of her father 's house .

= = Release and promotion = =

Following the release of the album , Lords embarked on a small tour performing as a DJ , mostly in the Miami club scene . On August 12 , 1995 , she was the opening act of the Lollapalooza after party , Enit Festival , alongside Moby , Sven Väth , DJ Keoki and Single Cell Orchestra .

" Control " was released as the lead single from the album on December 20 , 1994 . The song received critical acclaim , especially for its rave sound which was unexpected from Lords . It peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs and number 84 on the UK Singles Chart . Its instrumental version was featured on the soundtrack to the 1995 film Mortal Kombat . The music video was shot in Los Angeles , California , and was inspired by James Bond with Lords portraying the female version of the character .

The album 's second single , " Fallen Angel " , released on August 3 , 1995 , was also successful in charts , peaking at number eleven on Hot Dance Club Songs . Lords managed to get Paul Oakenfold add the song to his DJ set . His remix of the song was included on the soundtrack to the film Virtuosity (1995) , in which Lords had a cameo . Two music videos for the song were released : one features the original version of the song and was shot during the making of the film Virtuosity ; the second version , directed by Stéphane Sednaoui , features the " Honeymoon Stitch Mix " , produced by Chad Smith and Dave Navarro .

= = Reception = =

Upon its release , 1000 Fires received generally positive reviews from music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine at AllMusic gave it three stars out of five , calling it " a competent exercise in techno " . He criticized Lords ' vocals as being " thin " and not having much range , but also remarked that " she does have a forceful and distinctive personality , which gives the record a cohesive sound . " Benjamin Svetkey at Entertainment Weekly gave the album a B + , referring to Lords as " Moby with estrogen injections " . The Guardian stated that " there 's no saying a former under @-@ age porn star can 't make decent records and ? shock ! ? that 's exactly what her debut album is . " noting that her " come @-@ hither whisper works well on ambient items like Distant Land . " while the album was brought down by " some terrible dance @-@ by @-@ numbers things "

Despite the favorable reviews and good chart position of the lead single , 1000 Fires did not achieve mainstream success . Lords later commented : " The problem with that album was that it was ahead of its time . Electronica was just starting to happen . Moby was just starting to be huge . I opened for Thrill Kill Kult and Moby as a DJ back then . The masses didn 't know who Moby was . I think if it had been slightly delayed it would have done better . Madonna had it right to wait for Ray of Light . She has been a lot better with her timing than me . I am proud of that album because I hear it now and it still feels current . It doesn 't feel dated . "

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ [a] signifies an additional producer

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =

= = = Singles = = =