

= Confessions on a Dance Floor =

Confessions on a Dance Floor is the tenth studio album by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna . It was released on November 11 , 2005 by Warner Bros. Records . A complete departure from her previous studio album American Life (2003) , the album includes influences of 1970s and 1980s disco , as well as modern @-@ day club music . Initially , she began working with Mirwais Ahmadzaï for the album , but later felt that their collaboration was not going in the direction she desired . Madonna took her collaboration with Stuart Price who was overseeing her documentary I 'm Going to Tell You a Secret . The album was mainly recorded at Price 's home @-@ studio where Madonna spent most of her time during the recordings .

Musically , the album is structured like a DJ 's set . The songs are sequenced and blended together so that they are played continuously without any gaps . The title arrived from the fact that the album track listing consists of light @-@ hearted and happy songs in the beginning , and progresses to much darker melodies and lyrics describing personal feelings and commitments . Songs on the album use samples and references of music by other dance @-@ oriented artists like ABBA , Donna Summer , Pet Shop Boys , Bee Gees and Depeche Mode , as well as Madonna 's earlier work in the 1980s .

Madonna promoted the album through several live performances and a promotional tour . She embarked on the Confessions Tour in 2006 , which became the highest grossing tour ever for a female artist at that time . Four singles were released from the album . " Hung Up " , the lead single , topped the charts in a total of 41 countries . According to Billboard , it was the most successful dance song of the decade . It was followed by " Sorry " which became Madonna 's twelfth number @-@ one single in the United Kingdom . " Get Together " and " Jump " were released as the third and fourth singles respectively , both becoming top @-@ ten hits in several countries .

Most critics lauded the album calling it a return to form for Madonna , ranking it alongside her best albums . Madonna was honored with a Grammy Award for Best Electronic / Dance Album in 2007 , as well as International Female Solo Artist at the 2006 BRIT Awards . Commercially , the album peaked at number one in 40 countries , earning a place in the 2007 Guinness Book of World Records for topping the record charts in the most countries . It has sold an estimated 12 million copies worldwide . Retrospectively , Confessions on a Dance Floor was ranked third on " The 99 Greatest Dance Albums of All Time " by Vice magazine .

= = Development = =

Confessions on a Dance Floor merged elements from 1970s disco , 1980s electropop and modern day club music . Madonna decided to incorporate elements of disco in her songs , while trying not to remake her music from past , instead choosing to pay tribute towards artists like Bee Gees and Giorgio Moroder . The songs reflected Madonna 's thoughts on love , fame and religion , hence the title Confessions on a Dance Floor . It was the complete opposite direction from her previous studio effort American Life (2003) . The songs on that album were a form of diatribe directed at the American society . However , Madonna decided to take a different direction with this album . Regarding the development , Madonna commented :

" When I wrote American Life , I was very agitated by what was going on in the world around me , [...] I was angry . I had a lot to get off my chest . I made a lot of political statements . But now , I feel that I just want to have fun ; I want to dance ; I want to feel buoyant . And I want to give other people the same feeling . There 's a lot of madness in the world around us , and I want people to be happy . "

She started to work with Mirwais Ahmadzaï with whom she had previously developed her eighth album Music (2000) . However , that collaboration did not suit Madonna 's musical direction . According to Madonna , " [Producer] Mirwais is also very political , seriously cerebral and intellectual . All we did was sit around , talking politics all the time . So , that couldn 't help but find its way into the music . I think there 's an angry aspect to the music that directly reflects my feelings at the time . " Hence after recording tracks with Mirwais , Madonna decided to stop the project and

start fresh . It was then that she turned to Stuart Price who had served as musical director on her two previous concert tours and co @-@ wrote one song on American Life .

In 2004 , after the release of American Life , Madonna began working on two different musicals : one tentatively called Hello Suckers and another one with Luc Besson , who previously directed the music video for her single " Love Profusion " . , which would portray her as a woman on her deathbed looking back on her life . Madonna collaborated with Patrick Leonard , Ahmadzaï and Price to write new songs , the latter being assigned to pen disco songs sounding like " ABBA on drugs " . However , Madonna found herself dissatisfied with the script written by Besson and scrapped it . Hence Madonna and Price decided to use the compositions for the album instead . According to Madonna , it was easy for her to shift from her previous album 's sentiments , since she included those political views in her documentary I 'm Going to Tell You a Secret . She elaborated :

I was running back and forth , literally , from the editing room with [the documentary 's director] Jonas Akerlund to working with Stuart , who was also mixing the music in the film . We were together , non @-@ stop , all of us . Cutting 350 hours of film down to two hours . There are a lot of serious aspects to the movie . I needed a release . When I would go to Stuart 's , and we 'd go up to his loft , it was like , ' Honey , I want to dance . ' I wanted to be happy , silly and buoyant . I wanted to lift myself and others up with this record . So , yes , the new album was a reaction to all the other stuff I was doing , which was very serious in nature . I hope that doesn 't imply that I wanted to make a superficial record , because it 's not . I want people to smile when they hear this record . I wanted it to put a smile on my face , too .

= = Recording = =

The first three songs that were written for the album were " Hung Up " , " Sorry " and " Future Lovers " In an interview with Billboard , Madonna commented that the recording process was a give @-@ and @-@ take situation . According to her , Price used to stay up all night working on the songs . This was helped by the fact that he is a DJ and is used to staying awake all night . This gave Madonna the chance to work on other aspects of the compositions . She noted the fact that she and Price had opposite characteristics , which helped in their collaboration . The songs were mainly recorded at Price 's home . Madonna said :

We did a lot of recording at his house . I 'd come by in the morning and Stuart would answer the door in his stocking feet ? as he 'd been up all night . I 'd bring him a cup of coffee and say , ' Stuart , your house is a mess , there 's no food in the cupboard . ' Then I 'd call someone from my house to bring food over for him . And then we 'd work all day . We 're very much the odd couple .

She further elaborated that their camaraderie was also due to the fact that they had toured together for Madonna 's Re @-@ Invention World Tour . Hence Madonna reflected that her relationship with Price was more of a brother @-@ sister kind than the formal collaborations she was accustomed to during the recording process .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Confessions on a Dance Floor is a full @-@ on dance , electronic and disco record , which is structured like a nightly set composed by a DJ . The music starts out light and happy , and as it progresses , it becomes intense , with the lyrics dealing more about personal feelings , hence " Confessions " . According to Madonna , " [t] his is the direction of my record . That 's what we intended , to make a record that you can play at a party or in your car , where you don 't have to skip past a ballad . It 's nonstop . " Madonna used samples and references of music by other disco artists . In the album 's first song , " Hung Up " , she sampled ABBA 's 1979 hit " Gimme ! Gimme ! Gimme ! (A Man After Midnight) " , for which she wrote a personal letter to songwriters Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus , who gave Madonna permission to use the track . References of other disco @-@ influenced acts , including Pet Shop Boys , Depeche Mode , and Daft Punk , were also used on the album , as were the disco hits of Parisian DJ Cerrone . The album has a song called " Forbidden Love " , which is different from the same titled song from Madonna 's sixth studio album

Bedtime Stories . Regarding sampling herself and her own song names , Madonna commented :

" I did all of that on purpose , [...] I mean , if I 'm going to plagiarize somebody , it might as well be me , right ? I feel like I 've earned the right to rip myself off . ' Talent borrows , genius steals , ' [...] " Let 's see how many other clichés I can throw in there . That 's exactly it . I was only hinting early on , but then I tell it like it is . It 's like , now that I have your attention , I have a few things to tell you . "

A pulsating rhythm is present in the song " Isaac " , which is regarded as the only song close to a ballad on the album . However , the song was criticised heavily by a group of Israeli rabbis who commented that Madonna was committing a blasphemy with their religion . They said that the song was about sixteenth century Kabbalah scholar Yitzhak Luria . In reality , the song was named after the featured vocalist Yitzhak Sinwani , who sang portions of the Yemenite Hebrew poem Im Nin 'alu in the track . Initially Madonna toyed with the idea of calling the song as " Fear of Flying " since the idea behind the composition was to let go . However , at the end she decided to just call it " Isaac " after the English version of Sinwani 's name . Regarding the song 's development and the condemnation of the Rabbis , Madonna said :

" You do appreciate the absurdity of a group of rabbis in Israel claiming that I 'm being blasphemous about someone when they haven 't heard the record , right ? And then , everyone in the media runs with it as if it 's the truth . And that 's a little weird . But what 's even weirder is that the song is not about Isaac Lurier [sic] , as the rabbis claim . It 's named after Yitzhak Sinwani , who 's singing in Yemenite on the track . I couldn 't think of a title for the song . So I called it " Isaac " [the English translation of " Yitzhak "] . It 's interesting how their minds work , those naughty rabbis . [...] He 's saying , " If all of the doors of all of the generous peoples ' homes are closed to you , the gates of heaven will always be open . " The words are about 1 @,@ 000 years old . [...] [Yitzhak] is an old friend of mine . He 's never made a record . He comes from generations of beautiful singers . Stuart and I asked him to come into the studio one day . We said , " We 're just going to record you . We don 't know what we 're going to do with it . " He 's flawless . One take , no bad notes . He doesn 't even need a microphone . We took one of the songs he did and I said to Stuart , " Let 's sample these bits . We 'll create a chorus and then I 'll write lyrics around it . " That 's how we constructed it . "

The lyrics of the songs on the album incorporate bits of Madonna 's musical history and are written in the form of confessions . " Hung Up " contains lyrics from Madonna 's 1989 duet with Prince called " Love Song " , from the Like a Prayer album . " How High " refers to two songs from Madonna 's eighth studio album Music , namely " Nobody 's Perfect " and " I Deserve It " . The lyrics of " Push " thank the person who challenged her to expand her limits and also incorporate elements of The Police 's song " Every Breath You Take " . Other tracks like " Sorry " include the title word in ten different languages . " I Love New York " depicts Madonna praising the city that made her the person she is . Elsewhere , Madonna sings about success and fame (" Let It Will Be ") and the crossroads of past , present and future (" Like It or Not ") .

= = Promotion = =

On November 4 , 2005 , Madonna opened the 2005 MTV Europe Music Awards with her first performance of " Hung Up " . She emerged from a glitter ball to perform sing the song , while wearing a purple leotard and matching leather boots . During the next days , Madonna performed " Hung Up " on TV shows such as Wetten , dass .. ? in Germany , and Star Academy in France , as well as on the Children in Need 2005 telethon in London . In order to promote the album 's release , Madonna appeared on Parkinson . She played a number of songs from the album at London 's Koko Club and G @-@ A @-@ Y as well as in United States , Japan , Germany and France , as part of a promo tour to support the album . The performances saw Madonna emerge from a glitter ball while wearing a purple jacket , velvet pedal pushers and knee @-@ high boots . Songs performed included " Hung Up " , " Get Together " , " Sorry " , " I Love New York " , " Ray of Light " , " Let It Will Be " and " Everybody " .

In December , Madonna travelled to Japan , where " Hung Up " was performed on TV show SMAP x SMAP and her concert at Studio Coast . On February 8 , 2006 , Madonna opened the 2006

Grammy Awards , by pairing up with the fictional animated band Gorillaz . The band appeared on the stage via a three dimensional technique which projected their holograms on the stage . They performed their song " Feel Good Inc . " while rappers De La Soul made a guest appearance . Madonna then appeared on the stage and started performing the song while interchanging places with the hologram figures of the band . She was later joined by her own group of dancers and the performance was finished on the main stage rather than the virtual screen . Another performance of " Hung Up " came on April 30 , 2006 during the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio , California .

A remix only album titled Confessions Remixed was also released in limited vinyl editions . In Japan , Confessions on a Dance Floor ? Japan Tour Special Edition (CD + DVD) was released on August 23 , 2006 . It reached number 27 on the Oricon weekly albums chart and stayed on the chart for 12 weeks . The album received further promotion from the Confessions Tour which began in May 2006 . The tour grossed over US \$ 194 @. @ 7 million , becoming highest grossing tour ever for a female artist , at that time . Additionally , the tour received the " Most Creative Stage Production " at the Pollstar Concert Industry Awards , as well as " Top Boxscore " from the Billboard Touring Awards .

= = = Singles = = =

" Hung Up " was released as the album 's lead single on October 17 , 2005 . The song received critical appreciation amongst reviewers , who suggested that the track would restore the singer 's popularity , which had diminished following the release of her 2003 album American Life . Critics claimed that it was her best dance track to date and have compared it to other Madonna tracks in the same genre . They also complimented the effective synchronization of the ABBA sample with Madonna 's song . " Hung Up " became a worldwide commercial success , peaking atop the charts of 41 countries and earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records along with the album . In the United States it became her 36th top ten hit , tying her with Elvis Presley . The corresponding music video was a tribute to John Travolta , his movies and dancing in general . Directed by Johan Renck , the video featured Madonna dancing in a ballet studio in a pink leotard , which she left to go to a gaming parlour to dance with her backup dancers . It also featured the physical discipline parkour .

" Sorry " was released as the second single from the album on February 28 , 2006 . The song received positive reviews from contemporary critics who declared the track as the strongest song on Confessions on a Dance Floor . It achieved commercial success , topping the singles charts in Italy , Spain , Romania and the United Kingdom , where it became Madonna 's 12th number one single . Elsewhere , the song was a top ten hit in more than a dozen countries around the world . However , in the United States , the song was less commercially successful due to underplay on radio , but managed to reach the top of Billboard 's dance charts .

" Get Together " was released as the third single from the album by Warner Bros. Records on June 6 , 2006 . The decision was spurred by the fact that " Get Together " was the third most downloaded song from the album . It was also released to coincide with the start of Madonna 's Confessions Tour . Critics complimented Madonna 's ability to turn cliché comments into pop slogans with the song . The song became a success on the United States dance charts , but failed to enter the Hot 100 . It reached the top ten in countries such as Australia , Canada , United Kingdom and Italy , and peaked at number one in Spain . " Jump " was released as fourth and the final single from the album on October 31 , 2006 . Critics complimented the song and its empowerment theme . The song peaked inside the top ten of the charts in some European countries , while reaching the peak position in Italy and Hungary . In the United States , " Jump " charted in several Billboard dance charts but failed to chart on the Hot 100 .

= = Critical reception = =

Confessions on a Dance Floor received generally positive reviews from critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an

average score of 80 , based on 28 reviews . Keith Caulfield from Billboard commented that Confessions is a " welcome return to form for the Queen of Pop . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic commented that Confessions is the first album where Madonna sounds like a veteran musician since she created the record for " the dance clubs or , in other words , Madonna 's core audience . " Alan Braidwood from the BBC commented that " [t] his is the most commercial album Madonna has made in 15 years and it 's magic . " David Browne from Entertainment Weekly noted that for " all its pretenses of being giddy and spontaneous , though , Confessions is rarely either . "

Alexis Petridis from The Guardian said that the album " may be a return to core values , but there 's still a bravery about Confessions on a Dancefloor . It revels in the delights of wilfully plastic dance pop in an era when lesser dance @-@ pop artists ? from Rachel Stevens to Price 's protege Juliet ? are having a desperately thin time of it . " Peter Robinson from Observer Music Monthly declared that the album ranks alongside Madonna 's other albums like True Blue (1986) and Like a Prayer (1989) . He credited producer Stuart Price for the album , noting that " Confessions clearly wouldn't exist without Madonna , but it 's Price who steals the show . " Stephen M. Deusner from Pitchfork Media noted that with the album " Madonna again reinvents herself , and it appears she 's nearly lapped herself . " According to Deusner , the music also makes her appear young . However he felt that the first half of the album till " I Love New York " was strong , while the second half " loses its delicate balance between pop frivolity and spiritual gravity . "

Thomas Inskeep from Stylus Magazine stated that the album is " Madonna 's most purely beat @-@ driven album since her self @-@ titled 1983 debut " and " easily her finest effort since Ray of Light . " Kelefa Sanneh from The New York Times called the album " exuberant . " Christian John Wikane from PopMatters commented that the album " proved that Madonna , approaching 50 years @-@ old , is a vital force in the ever @-@ expansive landscape of popular music . " Joan Morgan from The Village Voice noted that " [w] ith Confessions on a Dance Floor , Madonna at long last finds her musical footing . Easily dance record of the year , Confessions is an almost seamless tribute to the strobe @-@ lit sensuality of the ' 80s New York club scene that gave Madge her roots , which she explores with compelling aplomb . " Josh Tyrangiel from Time magazine commented that " In dance music , words exist to be repeated , twisted , obscured and resurrected . How they sound in the moment is far more important than what they mean , and Madonna knows that better than anyone . Confessions on a Dance Floor is 56 minutes of energetic moments . It will leave you feeling silly for all the right reasons . "

Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine was impressed with the album and said that " Madonna , with the help of Price , [...] has succeeded at creating a dance @-@ pop odyssey with an emotional , if not necessarily narrative , arc ? and one big continuously @-@ mixed fuck @-@ you to the art @-@ dismantling iPod Shuffle in the process . " He compared the album to Australian recording artist Kylie Minogue 's studio album Light Years (2000) , saying " Comparisons to Light Years , Kylie Minogue 's own discofied comeback album from 2000 , are inevitable " . Alan Light from Rolling Stone declared that the album illustrated that " Madonna has never lost her faith in the power of the beat . " However , he opined that " Confessions on a Dance Floor won't stand the test of time like her glorious early club hits , but it proves its point . Like Rakim back in the day , Madonna can still move the crowd . "

= = Commercial response = =

Despite being released late in the year , Confessions on a Dance Floor was ranked by the IFPI as the sixth biggest @-@ selling album of 2005 worldwide , with sales of 6 @. @ 3 million . Worldwide sales of the album stand at 12 million copies as of January 2012 . In the United States , the album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 chart , selling 350 @, @ 000 copies in its first week . It became her sixth number one album on the chart and the third consecutive album to debut at the top , following Music (2000) and American Life (2003) . To date , the album has sold over 1 @. @ 703 million copies in America , according to Nielsen SoundScan . On December 14 , 2005 , the album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of one million copies of the album . The album also debuted at the top of the charts in

Canada , with first @-@ week sales of 74 @,@ 000 . It was present on the chart for a total of 46 weeks and received a quintuple platinum certification from Music Canada (MC) for total shipment of 500 @,@ 000 copies in the country .

In Australia , Confessions on a Dance Floor debuted at the top of the ARIA Albums Chart for the issue dated November 21 , 2005 , and was present for a total of 33 weeks within the top 50 of the chart . It was certified two times platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) denoting shipments of 140 @,@ 000 copies . It debuted at number five on the New Zealand albums chart , and was certified platinum by Recorded Music NZ (RMNZ) for shipment of 15 @,@ 000 copies . The same peak position was attained on the Oricon charts in Japan , where the album was certified double platinum for shipment of 500 @,@ 000 copies by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) .

In the United Kingdom , Confessions on the Dance Floor debuted at the top of the UK Albums Chart with first week sales of 217 @,@ 610 units , her highest ever in the country . It became Madonna 's ninth number @-@ one album , and has sold 1 @,@ 340 @,@ 000 copies as of November 2015 , according to the Official Charts Company , while being certified quadruple platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) . That same week , the first single from the album , " Hung Up " , topped the singles chart . The album became the fifth consecutive Madonna album to top the chart . The album also went to number one on the European charts and , on September 13 , 2006 , was certified quadruple platinum by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) for shipping a total of four million copies across Europe . In Ireland , the album debuted and peaked at number three . In France , the album debuted at position 113 on the albums chart , jumping to the top of the chart the next week . In Hong Kong , the album was awarded a Gold Disc Award by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry for becoming one of ten biggest @-@ selling international album for 2005 . Across Europe , the album peaked at number one in Austria , Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia) , Denmark , Finland , France , Germany , Greece , Hungary , Norway , Poland , Spain , Sweden and Switzerland .

= = Accolades = =

Madonna won the Best International Female Solo Artist at the 2006 BRIT Awards . She also won World 's Best Selling Pop Artist and Best Selling U.S. Artist at the 2006 World Music Awards for the album . She was nominated for five awards at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards for the music video of the album 's first single , " Hung Up " . Madonna also got nominated for Best Album of the Year , Best Pop Video , and Best Female Artist at the MTV Europe Music Awards 2006 . She also won a Grammy Award in the category of " Best Dance / Electronic Album " at the 2007 ceremony .

Rolling Stone ranked Confessions on a Dance Floor as the twenty @-@ second top album of 2005 . NME also placed it at number 29 on the magazine 's list of the 50 best albums of 2005 . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine ranked the album at the third position on his list of the top ten albums of 2005 . The same magazine considered the album the 38th best one from the 2000s . Three critics writing for Stylus Magazine also included Confessions on a Dance Floor in their year @-@ end lists of the best albums of 2005 . Q Magazine named the record the 26th best one of 2005 . On their ranking of the best albums from 2005 , The Observer listed the album at number 26 . By the end of the 2000s , Slant Magazine placed the album at number 38 on their list of " The 100 Best Albums of the Aughts " . In 2015 , Confessions on a Dance Floor was ranked third on " The 99 Greatest Dance Albums of All Time " by Vice magazine .

= = Track listing = =

" Hung Up " samples " Gimme ! Gimme ! Gimme ! (A Man After Midnight) " recorded by ABBA and written by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus .

All track listing adapted per album 's liner notes .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? Lead vocals , backing vocals , producer
Stuart Price ? Producer , keyboards , synthesizers , vocoders , programming , sequencing ,
sampling
Roberta Carraro ? keyboards , bass , drums , harmonica
Yitzhak Sinwani ? additional vocals on " Isaac "
Monte Pittman ? guitar
Magnus " Mango " Wallbert ? programming
Photography ? Steven Klein
Art direction and graphic design ? Giovanni Bianco
Legal documents ? Grubman Indursky
Management ? Guy Oseary and Angela Becker
Mixing ? Mark " Spike " Stent at Olympic Studios and Record Plant Studios , Los Angeles ("
Forbidden Love " : mixed by Stuart Price at Shirland Road)
Recording ? Stuart Price at Shirland Road (" How High " and " Like It or Not " : recorded at Murlyn
Studios , Stockholm and Shirland Road ; " Future Lovers " : recorded at Mayfair Studios .)
Assistant engineer ? Alex Dromgoole
Second assistant engineer at Olympic ? David Emery
Second assistant engineer at Record Plant , Los Angeles ? Antony Kilhoffer
Mastering ? Brian " Big Bass " Gardner at Bernie Grundman Mastering
Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =