

= Headstrong (Ashley Tisdale album) =

Headstrong is the debut studio album by American singer @-@ songwriter Ashley Tisdale , released on February 6 , 2007 , by Warner Bros. Records . Tisdale began working on the project after the first installment of High School Musical (2006) , and after she had achieved the feat of being the first female artist to debut with two songs on the Billboard Hot 100 . The singer worked with a variety of established writers and producers on the album , including Diane Warren , J.R. Rotem , Ryan Tedder , Evan " Kidd " Bogart , and Kara DioGuardi , among others . Commenting that the album garnered its title from her personality , Tisdale said she wanted to use her first album to formally introduce herself personally , and as not one of the characters she portrays .

Headstrong 's music derives mainly from the genres of dance @-@ pop and R & B , provided by electronica . Meanwhile , it incorporates hip hop beats and some tracks infuse dancehall and other world music . The album also lyrically explores themes in teen pop . Many critics compared her first effort to the first works of fellow Disney @-@ alums Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera . Carrying primarily an urban tone , the " hip pop " of Gwen Stefani is also said to be an influence on the album . Headstrong itself was given mixed reviews by critics , who while complimenting it overall , called it ordinary and panned the ballads . Critics were also ambivalent towards Tisdale 's vocal performance . Whereas , the album debuted at number five on the Billboard 200 , selling over 64 @,@ 000 copies in its opening week , it also charted in numerous international markets . It was later certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America and Irish Recorded Music Association .

The album 's lead single , " Be Good to Me , " charted moderately in the United States and select European markets . Tisdale 's breakthrough hit , " He Said She Said " peaked at 58 in the US , and appeared on several international charts , peaking in the top 20 in Germany and Austria . The last two singles were released in certain countries in Europe exclusively . The third single , " Not Like That " charted in the top half of several European charts , while the fourth and final single " Suddenly " charted in Germany . Tisdale supported the album with promotional appearances , High School Musical : The Concert , and her tour , Headstrong Tour Across America . The album was voted as the sixth best album of 2007 by the readers of Billboard .

= = Background and development = =

Tisdale got her first start on Billboard when she became the first female artist in history to debut with two songs on the Billboard Hot 100 , from the soundtrack of High School Musical . Tisdale called the feat " crazy , " stating , " When I think about artists like Madonna and Beyoncé ... it ? s surreal . I seriously can ? t comprehend it . " Soon after the completion of High School Musical , Tisdale began work on her debut album . In December 2006 , producer J.R. Rotem confirmed he was producing and writing with Tisdale for the album .

Tisdale said that the album was an opportunity for her fans to get to know her better , commenting , " People know my characters , but they don ? t know me . " Noting that she never spills much information about her life in interviews , she also said that the album talks about life and things personal to her . Regarding the previous statement , the singer said she wanted people to understand that she was normal , and how they could relate to her . Tisdale titled the album Headstrong , because she calls her self a " headstrong " type of person , commenting that she was the term in the sense of knowing how she wants to look , sing , and come across . In addition to wanting to record songs that " touched " her and those that she could personally identify with , she co @-@ wrote three songs on the album , " Over It , " " Not Like That , " and " Suddenly . "

" Don 't Touch (The Zoom Song) " is a cover song , performed originally performed by Tata Young . Tisdale collaborated with Rotem , Ryan Tedder , and Evan " Kidd " Bogart on " He Said She Said . " Tisdale also worked heavily with production teams The Matrix and Twin . Additionally , Diane Warren , David Jassy , Guy Roche , Shelly Peiken , Sarah Hudson , Samantha Jade , and Bryan Todd were the other remaining music veterans that worked on the project , with the rest being relatively unknown writers . While the album does not contain credited featured artists , Jassy , Jack D. Elliot , Keely Pressly , Lauren Christy , Scott Spock , Graham Edwards , Kara DioGuardi , Victoria

Sandstorm , Windy Wagner , Bryan Todd , Tata Young , and Marissa Pontecorvo provide background vocals on tracks . Jassy performed rap interludes on " Be Good to Me , " which he co-wrote . The album was released in the United States on February 6 , 2007 .

== Composition ==

Headstrong derives mainly from the genres of dance-pop , electropop , and R & B while incorporating teen pop themes and hip hop and dancehall elements . It carries many elements of hip pop itself , and has been compared to the music of Gwen Stefani . The title track " Headstrong " mixes " slinky " verses with cheerleader chants like Stefani 's " Hollaback Girl . " The album begins with a " futuristic " introduction which contains excerpts of other songs on the set . " So Much For You " is a dance song about a confident girl who wants true love . " He Said She Said " has been described as " steamy dancefloor seduction . " " Be Good to Me " contains an urban beat . " Not Like That , " which contains influences of Middle Eastern music , covers the topic of the " familiar misunderstood pop-celebrity , " but was referred to as more " worked up " than " whiny . " Containing rap interludes by Tisdale and clap along beats , according to Gary Graff of Billboard , the song is also likened to Stefani . " Positivity " makes use of syncopated beats and " old-school " synths . " Over It " has " boingy " effects . " Goin ' Crazy " has similarities to Britney Spears ' " (You Drive Me) Crazy , " while " Suddenly " seems to cover Tisdale discovering her stardom . Jon Dolan of Blender coined the song " The Little Mermaid " worthy . " Spears is also said to be an influence of Tisdale 's " husky , alto " voice in " Over It , " and " So Much For You . " The dance song " Don 't Touch (The Zoom Song) " has an ' 80 's style beat .

== Critical reception ==

Heather Phares of Allmusic rated the album 3 out of 5 stars and commented , " her voice is pleasant enough , but it 's not especially distinctive , and she 's not helped by a batch of songs that aren 't nearly as charming as High School Musical 's tunes . " Phares also said that although the album wasn 't winning considering the high-profile songwriters and producers involved , " it 's fine for anyone who just wants to hear more of Ashley Tisdale 's -- and not Sharpay Evans ' -- singing . " Jon Dolan of Blender said Tisdale did not import her " spunky " High School Musical character in the album , and that even with the quality of producers , " no stylistic slipper fits right . " Gary Graff of Billboard said Tisdale went , " the contemporary CHR school of fellow Mouse products Britney Spears and first pop-album Christina Aguilera ? lots of synthesizer-laden , beat-heavy , layered pop-vocal dance tracks " that varied between " come-hither " and " self-affirming anthems . " Graff commented , " she 'll have to develop a more defined identity before she can truly win our affections . " James Ross of The Arizona Daily Wildcat commended the album 's uptempo songs but critiqued the ballads , commenting she hits the right notes on uptempo numbers , while on ballads , " Any ' Musical ' fan knows that Tisdale can belt one out , but this is not apparent on the album . " Overall , Ross said , " Although the album fails in places , it is still a worthy attempt by an up-and-coming pop artist to please her audience . "

== Chart performance ==

The album debuted at number five on the Billboard 200 in the US , selling over 64,000 copies in its first week . On June 3 , 2008 , the album was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of over 500,000 units . The album sold over 471,000 copies in United States as of July 13 , 2009 and 1 million copies worldwide as of February 2010 . The album debuted on the Austrian Albums Chart at number 33 , and after its fifth week on the chart , it peaked at 21 . In its opening week on New Zealand Albums Chart and the Swiss Albums Chart , it peaked at 22 and 98 , respectively . On the Australian Albums Chart , it peaked at 80 , while spending 33 weeks on the German Albums Chart , peaking at 23 . Headstrong also peaked at 155 on the UK Albums Chart and 16 on the Irish Albums Chart , and was later certified

Gold in the latter region by the Irish Recorded Music Association .

= = Singles = =

The album 's lead single , " Be Good to Me " was released to mainstream airplay as the album 's lead single on March 6 , 2007 . It was originally released as a B @-@ side for the promo release of " He Said She Said . " The single peaked at number 80 on the Billboard Hot 100 , while reaching 67 in Austria and 57 in Germany . The second single , " He Said She Said , " originally released as a promo single for the album , was sent to mainstream radio on November 6 , 2007 . The single peaked at 58 in the United States , 21 in Austria , 17 in Germany , and 62 in Canada . It was later certified Gold in the United States by the Recording Industry Association of America for shipments of over 500 @,@ 000 copies . " Not Like That " served as the third single in several European countries , first released on January 25 , 2008 . It peaked in the top 20 of Germany , top 30 in Switzerland , and at number 31 in Austria . The fourth and final single from Headstrong was " Suddenly , " which select European markets also received . It was released on May 2 , 2008 , and peaked at 45 in Germany .

= = Promotion = =

To promote the album , Tisdale appeared in several live and televised appearances , performing the singles , " Be Good to Me " and " He Said She Said . " On February 6 , 2007 , she appeared and performed on Good Morning America , and appeared at a signing at FYE in West Nyack , New York . The following day when the album was released , she performed on Live With Regis and Kelly . On February 8 , 2007 , she appeared in the studios of WPIX and KTLA for their respective morning news shows . Tisdale also appeared at a Verizon Wireless store in Pasadena , California on February 10 , 2007 , to promote the set . She also performed " He Said She Said " on The Early Show . Additionally , Tisdale performed cuts from the album during her solo set list on High School Musical : The Concert . On October 22 , 2007 , Tisdale co @-@ hosted MTV 's TRL . During the winter , she performed at Christmas at Rockefeller Center , Z100 's Jingle Ball , Y100 's Jingle Ball , and Q102 's Jingle Ball .

= = = Headstrong Tour Across America = = =

Headstrong Tour Across America was a 2007 mall tour in which Tisdale promote the album , as well as her DVD , There 's Something About Ashley , and Eck? red .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from Headstrong at Allmusic .

Lead vocals ? Ashley Tisdale , David Jassy

Background vocals ? David Jassy , Jack D. Elliot , Keely Pressly , Britney Jean SpearsLauren Christy , Scott Spock , Graham Edwards , Kara DioGuardi , Victoria Sandstorm , Windy Wagner , Bryan Todd , Tata Young , Marissa Pontecorvo

Keyboards - Rasmus Billie Bähncke

Bass ? Adam Anders

Guitar ? Adam Anders , Emanuel Kiriakou and Joacim Persson

Production

Executive Producers : Lori Feldman and Tom Whalley

Vocal Producers : Adam Anders and Nikki Hassman

Mastering : Chris Gehringer

Mastering Assistant : Will Quinnell

Engineers : Adam Anders , Rasmus Billie Bähncke , Dushyant Bhakta , Stuart Brawley , Steve Churchyard , Joe Corcoran , Dave Dillbeck , Kara DioGuardi , Chris Holmes , Emanuel Kiriakou , Alan Mason , The Matrix , Greg Ogan and Twin

String Arranger : David Campbell

Assistant Engineers : Tom Bender and Cliff Lin

A & R : Tommy Page

Photography : Mark Liddell & Brian Bowen Smith

Art Direction : Ellen Wakayama

Design : Julian Peploe

= = Charts and certifications = =