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Behind the Scenes Britney Spears

Fashion design/styling

Britney Spears is the inspiration for my work. Creating work for someone whose style is so out there and diverse, everyone is going to have a different take on what the garments should look like. Therefore I tuned out the controversy about her style and designed how her songs and style made me feel. I wanted to keep a theme to tie together the three pieces of work, something consistent. I chose to keep a constant of diamonds and gemstones throughout my work. This is something I wasn't planning on doing originally but I think it really helps portray Britney's boldness in her style and her fearlessness over the past few years. All the pieces are based on outfits she has already worn. The green and blue skirt is a redesign of the "I'm a Slave 4 U" outfit. And the neon bikini is inspired by the neon bodysuit she wore in Las Vegas. The pink outfit has the words "Hit me Baby," a line from one of her more well known songs, in diamonds spread through the top and bottom. To represent the beginning of her success. All three pieces tell a story. The beginning is: "Hit me baby" the song that put her name on the map. Next, "I'm a Slave 4 U." This was Britney blossoming into an adult. Lastly the neon bodysuit was her comeback outfit. Through my research, I found that none of us are that different from Britney; we all know what it feels like to have someone ridicule and criticize you publicly. As I read more about her, I realized this continued to happen to her throughout her life and living in a small gossipy town I can relate to this. Through my art I learned more about myself and Britney.

Beneath the Surface of Britney Jean Spears



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This paper addresses the question of how susceptible we are to judge and label people. How far is the press willing to go to exploit people's struggles for a good headline? Does the saying "all press is good press" hold any truth? My research focuses on the story of Britney Spears. I will examine the different stages and challenges of her life and how the public reacted to her. How did her role as a style icon influence fashion trends? Why was her style constantly shamed when she was one of the most significant contributors to the fashion industry?

I have always looked up to Britney. When I was ten years old, my friends and I got matching miniskirts, white knee socks, and crop tops and recreated her iconic schoolgirl look for our Halloween costumes. There was no one cooler than Britney. Her style was ahead of her time, and she always spoke her mind. Unfortunately, not everyone shared the same unconditional love for Britney. She has had a highly criticized, difficult life and has spent most of her career under attack.

At twelve years old, Britney joined the cast of the Mickey Mouse Club, and some would say that was the end of her innocence. During the filming of MMC, she maintained a positive image with the public. Her life of controversy started when she ventured out on her own and began to explore her passion as a singer and songwriter. In 1998, her song "Baby One More Time" made headlines because of her outfit. Britney wore the infamous schoolgirl-inspired outfit in the music video; a white crop top and a cardigan, a short skirt, and two braids in her hair. She had selected this outfit herself and bought it from Kmart. People found this video provocative and argued that she was not a good role model for her younger fans because of what she wore, but the controversy only helped boost her career.

Following the success of her first hit song, she released "I'm a Slave 4 U," destroying any remaining image of her innocence. For this video, she wore a green bra and spandex shorts with a

skirt in the back. The outfit was bold and beautiful, and in the music video, she had a snake around her neck. The song's sound was different, which diverted some fans from listening since they felt it wasn't the same Britney they had heard or seen before. Britney stood up to the press, who disliked her new style by telling Entertainment Weekly, "I still love my old stuff, but you have to extend yourself and grow."

Britney experimented with fashion, and the media relentlessly criticized her for it. The focus began to shift from Britney's music to her provocative clothing and her personal life. She was vilified, slut-shamed, and presented as a danger to her young fans. Because of her outfit choices, the public made certain assumptions about Britney and her sex life.

Spears refused to tone down her outfits to make others comfortable, and her career and mental health suffered for this.

Britney does not get enough credit for her contribution to the fashion industry, and her personal life has often overshadowed her style. In reality, Britney is one of the biggest fashion icons of the 1990s and 2000s and dramatically influences the styles worn today, though she rarely gets the credit for it. The looks from Britney's first album dominated 90's fashion. She is responsible for low-rise jeans, bell-bottoms, crop tops, and platform heels. Spears was often pictured in tight slip dresses and sheer pieces during her early career, but she was also known for wearing cargo-style pants and accessories like bucket hats. Over the last few years, the retro trends of the 90s and 2000s have made a comeback and mirror Britney's style from 20 years ago. Today, many celebrities are seen in looks that originated in Spears's outfits, highlighting her lasting impact on the fashion industry.

From her long blonde hair to her clothing, Britney influenced fashion as a whole just by existing. Her outfits defined a decade of style, and her popular looks are style used today. So many

versions of her pink wrap top are used and worn today by many different types of people. She owns the crop top and low-waisted baggy jeans moment. The slinky scarf-inspired outfits are worn all the time by fashion influencers today, Britney has been ahead of this trend for years. A style that just made a comeback is the curtain bangs. Britney has had these since the "Baby One More Time" music video was released. Decades after Britney made her appearance in her schoolgirl outfit, many of the trends Spears made famous are seen on today's celebrities, highlighting her influence in the fashion world.

Celebrities have recreated Britney's looks for their concerts. Nick Minaj wore a metallic bodysuit to play Britney's first night of her circus tour. Britney assisted Paris Hilton giving juicy tracksuits a household name. . My favorite Britney moment was when she ripped off her black bodysuit at the VMAs and revealed her body underneath, wearing nothing but a bedazzled nude bodysuit. Britney danced in it letting the crowd know this is who she is. Britney always shared herself with her fans. She wore a denim dress made up of different scraps to The American Music Awards to represent her country upbringing. Denim dresses are so popular today. Britney's most controversial "I'm a Slave 4 U" costume was so beautiful, and she wasn't afraid to take the risk and show her skin. Britney used fashion to fight against the press; fashion and her song lyrics were her ways of expression. At the 2003 MTV bash, Britney appeared wearing something she knew would be all over the media the next day, wearing a cropped shirt with page six written on it— an infamous gossip column in New York City. She knew she was giving them a good story to gossip about her once again.

In later years, Britney battled postpartum depression and fought against the conservatorship that was ruining her life. Britney Spears is a public figure the entire world had eyes on as she grew up, and she is a clear example of someone who has faced the struggles of being watched.

Britney has been called so many things over the years: slut, mentally ill, crazy, irresponsible, a liability. She has been attacked for being a feminist. The glorification and how she showed off her body made extreme feminists attack her in 2007 as if she wasn't just exercising her right to show off her own body in her music videos. At the time, no one was asking stars like Justin Timberlake their views on gender equality or anything of that nature. Britney was labeled a bad mother, a party girl, and too sexual. The shaming increased during her public meltdown that involved the shaving of her hair. Britney shaving her head was a way for her to let go of the glorification of her femininity that created so much of her fame. On the surface, it can be hard to read between the lines and view Britney as a feminist icon because the media had made her a sex symbol. If you are a woman, you understand what it feels like to be Britney. It is frustrating to post a photo to Instagram wearing an outfit you love and have your body be commented on so much that you feel like an object. It is demeaning to be told that you are showing too much skin. The only difference is most women do not have hundreds of millions of people making assumptions about them like Britney does. People reject the fact that she is an unapologetic woman wanting to live her life for herself. Britney's music is empowering, as is her statement of her independence. Her song cover, *My Prerogative*, is about her take on life. "They say I'm crazy; I don't care, that's my prerogative. They say I'm nasty, but I don't give a damn." She lives by these lyrics. She never once apologized for growing up or showing her skin. The public made a cruel joke out of all her struggles, specifically her mental health struggles.

In addition to her fashion choices, when she became a mother, her parenting skills were criticized. There were no boundaries between her and the press. For unspecified reasons, Britany went to a mental health facility in California only days after she shaved her head. Britany quoted, "I know I've been far from perfect, and the media had a lot of fun exaggerating my every move." Straight after rehab, her ex-husband Kevin Federline filed for custody of the children. When part of the reason she was in the facility was for postpartum depression. Brittany claimed that she had indeed hit rock bottom at this time: "I confess I was so lost." During this mental health struggle, her father gained conservatorship over her, controlling her life. This conservatorship dictated her life for the following 13 years. All of Spears' decisions have been under the conservatorship since 2008. It dictated decisions as big as her being allowed to have more children of her own. Britney stated, "It is my wish for all of this to end. I want my life back. Looking into the #FREEBRITNEY movement has taught me so much about the necessary steps for gender equality. Any agreement that undermines Britney's right to make financial decisions affects women everywhere. Thankfully today, the conservatorship has now been vacated, but the fight to vacate took too long. This should never have happened in the first place, and the only reason it did was because of the underlying sexism in our society.

Britney Spears is such an important person to research and learn about. I believe everyone can relate to Britney. We have all been gossiped about and unfairly judged. All women should appreciate Britney for fighting back and winning when her rights were threatened. That is a massive win for all women out there and a step in the right direction. She is drawing attention to gender equality and sticking up not only for herself but for all women.

Although we have come a long way in approaching and discussing style, modern female stars face similar criticism to Spears. We still have challenges and progress to be made when it comes to sexism and misogyny in fashion and celebrity culture.

We owe it to the celebrities of today not to repeat history. The cycle will continue if journalists and people on social media don't realize that their words and actions have consequences. It is everyone's responsibility to call out sexist behavior towards women when we see it.

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