‘SHE’S THE BEST’: TROYE SIVAN EMBRACES ADVENTUROUS CHOICES IN NEW ALBUM

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Troye Sivan just released his fourth studio album “She’s the Best,” on Friday where he tackles love, admiration, attraction and sexual themes, diving creatively and boldly into new sounds and production styles.

The title of the album “She’s the Best,” is also the name of the first track and the one of the two singles that was released before the album, alongside the song “Party.” The opener sets the tone for the album perfectly, with a 90s style production of colorful synth loops and a rolling snare drum touch that makes the song feel continuous and constant.

With the first song sounding so adventurous compared to Sivan’s past work, it starts the album perfectly, intriguing you and begging you to continue listening. “Party,” the other single, shows up as the third track on the album, and is an exciting dance track with house elements that urge you to move.

Sivan’s first two albums are collections of leisurely pop songs that surround romantic themes; however, his albums started to grow more upbeat and dance oriented with grander composition and musical diversity.

Similar to Sivan’s previous album, “Something to Give Each Other,” songs like “Rush” and “One of Your Girls,” showcase a new level to Sivan’s emerging songwriting that “She’s the Best” demonstrates heavily.

Not only are the fresh musical elements captivating, but Sivan also takes lyrical risks as well, with the song “Canada Dry,” and “I Do this For You,” painting a striking and sensual scene of his love life and the feeling of desire.

Throughout the album, Sivan carries his singing voice faintly, delicately using layering and harmony techniques reminiscent of this genre of music. However, his application of the aqueous tone of his voice blends perfectly with the texture of the music, leaving room for the composition of the songs to be prevalent without overpowering it.

The album is an optimistic painting, that is not only danceable and enjoyable to listen to but throws you into Sivan’s world where you can visualize the atmosphere each song is creating.

This is specifically unveiled with the diversity of sound throughout the album, so each song is saying something new to you, and it doesn’t all blend into one entire unmemorable project.



Troye Sivan poses with his new album “She’s the Best.” His fourth studio album released this Friday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @TROYESIVAN ON INSTAGRAM

For example, the song “Embarrassingly,” opens with acoustic guitars, presenting a shift in the mood, while “Le Boy” is theatrical and majestic with noisy ambience.

These components feel like you’re turning the page in the book Sivan is writing, separating you from some of the dance tracks earlier in the album.

After a serene intermission with the lulling, melodramatic songs, the final stretch picks up the energy, executing a storytelling vision the album transports you to.

The final song on the album, “Lost Time,” features actress and model Lily-Rose Depp on vocals.

The song is a slow close to the album, finalizing and leaving it off on an intimate note.

GRACE REITER SHINES AS SHANE GILLS RETURNS TO SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE



Rosalía poses for an SNL photoshoot. She served as the musical guest for this week’s episode.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NBCSNL ON INSTAGRAM

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For the second straight week, Saturday Night Live featured a returning host as comedian Shane Gillis hosted his third episode of the series.

Once again, this led to mixed results. However, unlike the subdued style of three-time host and week two guest Dakota Johnson, Gillis’ everyman humor instead often came off as crass and out of place at multiple junctures.

This was apparent from the get-go, as Gillis’ standup monologue quickly turned from relatable humor about wanting to lose weight to awkward and unfiltered observations on female gym attire and his balding hair.

One of the few highlights involving Gillis included opening sketch “Cop Talk Show,” a parody of late-night shows featuring Gillis as the police officer hosting the show and Mikey Day as a fellow police officer and sidekick.

Along with some funny gags, such as his guests having to roll down a window between themselves and Gills, the best moment of the sketch came when Kam Patterson, playing a local comedian, refused to come on the show as a guest after seeing the previous interactions.

“Green Eggs and Ham” was a well-written play on the Dr. Seuss classic, though the sketches’ success came despite Gillis’ presence rather because of it. Gillis nearly derailed the sketch by dropping a four-letter expletive on live TV, prompting a pop of gasps from the in-studio audience and multiple apologies from Gillis throughout the remainder of the episode.

Day and Andrew Dismukes kept the sketch on track despite the hiccup, with Day improvising a joke later referring to the incident that ended up being one of the funniest moments of the sketch. Good character acting from Sarah Sherman as “Thing One” and Marcello Hernández as “The Cat in the Hat” also landed well.

The auto-tune-drenched “Father-Daughter Song” and “Upfront Heating & Air Conditioning” were proficient pretapes, though the latter could have benefitted from being a tad shorter.

Featured performer Grace Reiter was the star of the show, especially in the latter half of the episode.

Appearing as a Weekend Update guest for the first time, she joined veteran Ashley Padilla as a mother-daughter duo, with Padilla portraying “A Mother Whose Babysitter Cancelled.”

As the daughter, Reiter struck a perfect balance between seemingly innocent and ultimately conniving. Prompting multiple crash outs from Padilla as Reiter accused her of poor parenting, the pair played perfectly off each other.

After playing a small role as a dying mother in “Saying Goodbye,” delivering one of the highlights jokes of the sketch as she alludes to her son, Gillis, having two weeks to live, Reiter then played a central role in the final sketch of the episode, “Chess Tournament.”

Also playing to Gillis’ comedic strengths, the duo took on the roles of a divorced couple loudly supporting their son at a chess competition as if it were a high school football game. It was another big character performance from Reiter, as the couple goes from arguing to inappropriately flirting as Reiter ensures the show finishes on a high note.

James Austin Johnson was another standout for his impressions, especially his Weekend Update take on Kevin O’Leary of “Shark Tank” fame. Johnson’s ability to fully embody whatever character he is acting out without overlap makes him a consistently valuable member of the cast.

Spanish singer-songwriter Rosalía contributed two strong performances characterized by powerful vocals and striking visuals, including artificial rain pouring down in the second.

While Gillis’ presence often led to mixed results, a strong finish after Weekend Update gave the show a decent rating, in large part due to Reiter.

Rating: 2.7/5

SUBOG Weekly Events:

October 12th - October 18th

Mason Jar Sundae – 10.13 @ 2 pm on the SU Mall

Comedy Magic Show – 10.14 @ 7:30 pm in the SU Theater

Capture the Flag – 10.15 @ 7:00 pm on Fairfield Way

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu and check out @subogatuconn on Instagram for updates on our events!