

Former Jonas Brother, Joe Jonas, trades his squeaky clean lyrics and rock and roll roots for a more mature, yet still undeniably fun sound with his new band DNCE. Alongside band members Cole Whittle, JinJoo Lee, and Jack Lawless; Joe Jonas creates a new genre with self titled debut album *DNCE*. Upbeat and funky with sounds reminiscent of something you would hear in a popular nightclub mixed with retro riffs inspired by the 70's. A true pop record, yet nothing like anything else on the radio right now.

The album kicks off with the song "DNCE", a fun dance tune, as the title suggests. "DNCE" is the perfect way to introduce the album as it sets the mood for the following songs while letting you know what the band is all about. Next comes "Body Moves", a notable single from the album, featuring racy lyrics you never would have heard on a Jonas Brothers track, showing Joe's individuality and maturity throughout.

Debut single "Cake By The Ocean" as well as "Toothbrush" and "Pay My Rent" from their EP *Swaay* made the cut on this LP. The three tracks fit the rest of the album well and were excellent choices to preview what was to come with the full length record.

"Cake By The Ocean" is probably the catchiest song since Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe" hit radio waves in 2010. However, it's somewhat upsetting "Jinx" isn't featured on the LP as it is the only track from *Swaay* that didn't make the cut.

"Doctor You" comes in as another club friendly jam that makes you want to forget your worries and just dance along to the fast paced beat and soulful bass line. Next track is "Blown" featuring Kent Jones. This is the only song with a feature on the album, and frankly a disappointment with the irritating similarity to Smash Mouth's sound. Not what I

expected on a DNCE album. Fortunately, it picks back up again with “Good Day”. This song has a chill, feel good vibe and smooth, soft vocals preparing you for the 8th track “Almost” to completely slow down the previously fast paced songs. “Almost” hits the heartstrings hard with lyrics about a lost love, and how it was “almost perfect”. Don’t get too used to the sweet and sappy side of DNCE though because the next track “Naked” comes in loud and fast with saucy lyrics and a synth that you can’t help but to dance to. The chorus showcases Jonas’ vocal talents with a beautiful falsetto before slowing down once again with a surprising acoustic tune “Truthfully”. Another sweet love song on the tracklist, it almost sounds out of place and like it was maybe left on the shelf during an old Jonas Brothers recording session, but I love it. It gives the album a diversity that keeps you on your feet, which goes along nicely with DNCE’s quirky and unpredictable aesthetic while displaying emotional depth to balance out the party tracks. “Be Mean” takes a sharp turn from the sweet to ultra feisty, bringing back similar vibes as “Naked” and “Body Moves”.

While Joe’s vocals have been phenomenal thus far, I’m finding the drastic raises and drops in pitch awkward and forced in “Zoom”. Luckily, he redeems himself in *DNCE*’s final track, “Unsweet”. This tune serves as a conclusion for the album, mixing all of their unique traits into one cohesive song that just works.

Overall, I’m impressed with the album in its entirety. *DNCE* has proven that DNCE is not a one hit wonder. They have a quirky, fun, sound that is sure to please a variety of tastes.