

## **Janelle Monae - A biography**

Wondaland Arts Society/Bad Boy recording artist Janelle Monae has announced the release of her eagerly awaited debut album. "The ArchAndroid" will arrive in stores and at all DSPs on May 18, 2010.

The album will be heralded by the first single, "Tightrope (Feat. Big Boi)." The track will premiere on Thursday, February 11th on Pitchfork.com, with a companion song from "The ArchAndroid," entitled "Cold War," debuting the following day via Monae's official website, [www.janellemonae.com](http://www.janellemonae.com). Both songs will be available for purchase exclusively at the site beginning February 12th, and then at all DSPs on February 23rd. In addition, a music video for "Tightrope" is currently in pre-production.

"The ArchAndroid" is an "EMOTION PICTURE" brought to you by Janelle Monae and the Mad Minds of the Wondaland Arts Society. The star-studded featured cast includes the legendary Big Boi of OutKast, renowned poet Saul Williams, psychedelic dance-punk troupe Of Montreal, punk prophets Deep Cotton, and the Wondaland Arch Orchestra.

The album was recorded at Wondaland Studios in Atlanta, but written all over the world, including but not limited to Moscow, Prague, Istanbul, Berlin, Amsterdam, New York, and the Palace of the Dogs. "The ArchAndroid" was inspired not only by the energy of these places, but by such revolutionary musicians and artistic visionaries as Salvador Dalí, Walt Disney, OutKast, Stevie Wonder, Octavia Butler, David Bowie, Andy Warhol, and John Williams. The album was Executive Produced by Nate Wonder, Chuck Lightning, Janelle Monae, and Sean "Diddy" Combs, with Co-Executive Production from Big Boi of OutKast.

A ground-breaking, genre-blurring singer, songwriter, producer, and performer, Monae's inventive style melds a refined pop sensibility with an extraordinary postmodern mash-up of soul, funk, and rock 'n' roll. Like Sly Stone, Prince, and OutKast, Monae proves that innovative music can jam, while simultaneously inventing new concepts and sounds. "The ArchAndroid" follows the Grammy Award-nominated artist's two acclaimed EPs, 2008's "METROPOLIS: THE CHASE SUITE (SPECIAL EDITION)" and "METROPOLIS: SUITE I OF IV," both of which received extensive critical praise upon their initial releases.

Monae is slated for a variety of live dates and TV appearances surrounding the release of "The ArchAndroid." A charismatic and unique live performer who has previously toured with No Doubt, Paramore, Erykah Badu, and Raphael Saadiq, she will also be doing a series of exclusive residencies in a number of cities across North America (see attached itinerary) -- full details will be announced shortly via [www.janellemonae.com](http://www.janellemonae.com).

What's more, Monae is set to join this summer's much anticipated 2010 Lilith Tour, joining a star-studded array of female artists including Sarah MacLachlan, Norah Jones, Mary J. Blige, Loretta Lynn, Tegan & Sara, Sara Bareilles, Colbie Caillat, and many others. Full tour details will be unveiled shortly.

Janelle Monae is a true 21st Century musical phenomenon, earning widespread acclamation for her compelling cybersoul sound. The Atlanta-based artist -- who first garnered national attention for her collaborations with Big Boi on OutKast's "IDLEWILD" -- has been profiled a wide range of national publications, including Vogue, GQ, SPIN, Nylon, PAPER, Essence, and the New York Times.

"A very different kind of diva," declared Vogue. "Monae creates this futuristic world of hers by synthesizing past inspirations: the operatic pop and hornlike sharpness of Shirley Bassey, the energetic funk of James Brown, and the breezy rock and soul of OutKast," said Creative Loafing. "It's been awhile since I felt so fully enraptured and bemused and awed as I did when she was on stage," proclaimed Paste, while Vibe noted "Monae's upcoming album is poised to bring an eclectic, urbane feel to today's R&B." "Janelle Monae is honing her completely individual skills as a very exciting solo artist," said the UK's Blag, "not only in sound but very much in style."

Monae has also drawn accolades from fellow artists across the musical spectrum. "What I love about Janelle is that she has a magical ability to bring folks together," says Big Boi, while his partner in OutKast,

Andre "3000" Benjamin declares, "Ms. Monae has one of the most enchanting voices of our generation. She's a living, singing babydoll. Darling... just darling. Ha."

Legendary artist Prince hails Janelle, saying, "She is so smart." "Janelle Monae is one of the most important signings of my career," proclaims Sean "Diddy" Combs. "She is a true visionary, with an original sound and a mesmerizing presence. I can't wait to watch the future unfold for Janelle."