Christina Aguilera ‘strips’ clean image

By Tim Green
Staff Writer

Christina Aguilera peels away layer upon layer of her teen-pop image and gets down to the bare essentials in her latest album Stripped. The two-time Grammy winner was originally marketed to fit in with the number of teenage pop music idols that hit the airwaves in the late 90s. Aguilera has decided to shatter that bottle from which she first came out of and figuratively kill her inner genie. As suggested by the album’s cover, which shows a topless Aguilera, her new album is equally revealing.

The first single “Dirty” has a jagged sound. It thrills with strong sensual tones and raunchy lyrics. In one line Aguilera sings, “I need that ahh to get me off / sweatin’ ’til my clothes come off.” She also laces the track with background vocals from hip-hop artist Redman, who breaks into his own verse towards the end of the song to make it sound even “dirrier.”

With the exception of “Dirty” there are not many pure dance songs on the album. The songs have either a light rock or a more soulful feel to them. “Impossible,” a song written by last year’s “it” girl Alicia Keys, oozes soul. Aguilera’s vocals are fierce; hitting strong highs then dropping into deep lows. The simple way she sings the song conveys its intended sound. Keys also lends her quick fingers on the piano to give the song a slight rock undertone. Keys also laces the track with background vocals from hip-hop artist Redman, who breaks into his own verse towards the end of the song to make it sound even “dirrier.”

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