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'Renaissance' Is A Love Letter To The Black Queer Roots Of Dance Music

BEYONCÉ'S SEVENTH STUDIO ALBUM IS AN ALTAR CALL TO THOSE WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN WHO MADE HOUSE AND DISCO MUSIC: BLACK QUEER AND TRANS PEOPLE.

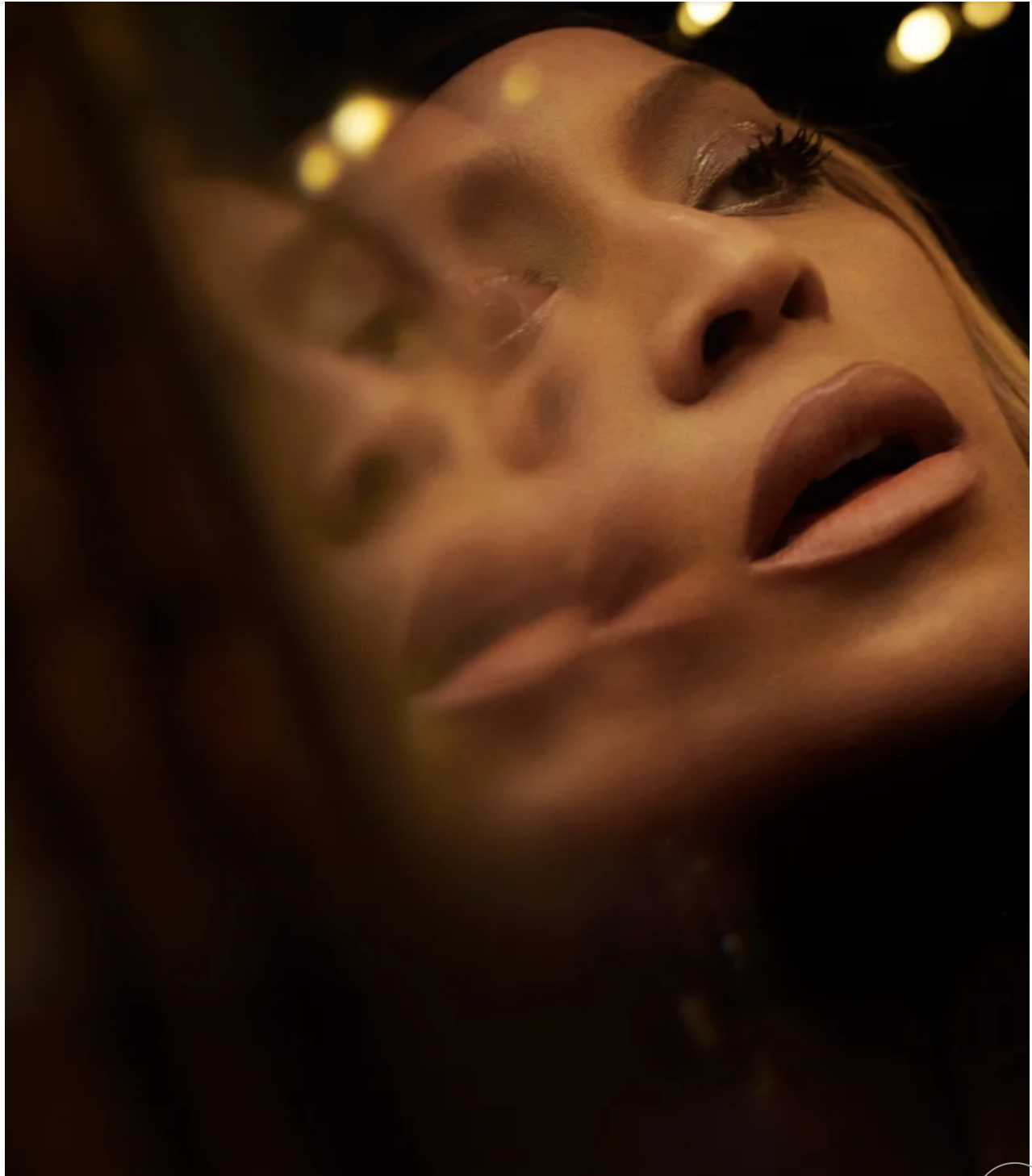




If the club is a place of worship, where [Beyoncé](#) is the preacher, and her music is the [gospel](#), then [Renaissance](#) is her Resurrection Sunday sermon. Her seventh studio album is not only a place for Beyoncé to breathe new life into the musical stylings of [Donna Summer](#) and [Diana Ross](#), but an altar call to those who have forgotten who made house and [disco music](#): Black queer and trans people.

Lynnée Denise defines house music in [Harper's Bazaar](#) as “joy, a rhythmic theory of escape, accentuated by what could be called fatal pleasure—the war on drugs and addiction, coupled with dangerous freedom marked by a lurking “big disease with a little name.”





The album is a memorial to Uncle Jonny, the singer's late uncle. Shortly before the album's release, Beyoncé memorialized her uncle in a personal



that serve as inspiration for this album.”

Later in the statement, the singer thanked “the pioneers who originate culture, to all of the fallen angels whose contributions have gone unrecognized for far too long. This is a celebration for you.”

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Pioneers like [Slyvester](#), the “Queen of Disco” who were ignored by Black press at the height of their fame. The “You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)” and Uncle Jonny lost their lives to the [HIV/AIDS epidemic](#). The epidemic, encapsulated on *Pose*, not only depicted the virus’s impact on the ballroom community in New York City, but the [advocacy and fight of individuals within ballroom](#) to continue their traditions in the midst of a virus outbreak with minimal support from the government. These are the fallen angels Beyoncé is paying divine reverence to.

However, her dedication is not filled with songs of lament, but liberatory psalms of joy, of happiness, of love. Liberation, not in the sense of liberation from the state or violence, but liberation of self. The explicit type of liberation only found when your body is overtaken on the dance floor or by the Holy Spirit in church.

