Ashley Tisdale
Headstrong

Ashley Tisdale may not yet rate as a celebrity in the eyes of adults. But to today’s teen and tween audience, she’s a grade-A superstar.

Tisdale is best known for her role as Sharpay Evans in the Disney Channel’s High School Musical movies. She has become Disney’s most ever-present actress, jumping from her role as candy-store clerk Maddie on The Suite Life of Zack & Cody to voice work for animated shows Kim Possible and Phineas and Ferb. And somewhere in between all that excitement, Tisdale recorded her own CD, Headstrong.

The album is, mostly, what fans of Disney’s latest squeaky-clean starlet would expect it to be. Several tracks champion a healthy self-concept. On “Not Like That” the singer says she shouldn’t be confused with club-hopping types, offering, “I just wish they’d see what I’m like in real life.” And she draws boundaries on physical affection on “Don’t Touch (The Zoom Song),” telling a young suitor, “You see my body, not who I am” and challenging him, “You wanna get somewhere/Then, boy, don’t touch me there.”

But when Tisdale does fall for a guy, she does turn up the temperature a bit. On “He Said She Said” Tisdale offers, “One night with you, boy, just one night with you/All the things we could do.” Images of Tisdale on the CD sleeve strike a balance between demure and sexy.

Truth is, Tisdale’s résumé is still too short, perhaps too Disney-heavy, to suggest how her personal values will inform future creative choices. There’s certainly the possibility that she could follow in the footsteps of several high-profile pop divas who once were all sweet and innocent but turned into sultry, even sleezy, seductresses.

For now, though, Ashley Tisdale’s Headstrong is at least a healthier listening choice than much of today’s teen- and tween-targeted music.

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