

KYLIE MINOGUE

Breast Cancer At Age 36

The sexy Australian singer shocks fans by revealing she's battling the disease **BY JENNIFER O'NEILL**

KYLIE MINOGUE IS KNOWN FOR HER ultra-fit body and being a tireless performer — her two-decade pop career spawned several U.S. hits, including 2001's "Can't Get You out of My Head." So it was shocking when the five-foot-one Australian health nut (once a finalist for a British fitness company's Rear of the Year contest) announced on May 17 that she had been diagnosed with an early stage of breast cancer. With her boyfriend of two years, *Unfaithful* actor Olivier Martinez, by her side, Minogue postponed the Australian leg of her Showgirl tour and checked into Melbourne's Cabrini Hospital on May 18. Three days later, her doctor confirmed that Minogue had surgery — and that it was a success. "I feel confident that we caught the cancer in time," said Dr. Jenny Senior. "She is now on the road to a complete recovery."



Before the bad news, Martinez and Minogue chilled on French Island, Australia.

Getting Support

Minogue's diagnosis came May 16, two weeks shy of her 37th birthday. The singer, who had just completed two months of her tour in Europe, complained of fatigue. Her father, a

prostate-cancer survivor, urged her to see a doctor, who delivered the news.

"It's uncommon for women under 40 to get breast cancer," Dr. Nancy Elliott, director of New Jersey's Montclair Breast Center, tells *Us*. "[But] if you're in good shape, you're going to have an easier time with it." Thankfully, Minogue — who once raised \$4,415 for breast-cancer research by auctioning off her bra — is known for being in top physical condition. "She's really strong," Steve Santagati, a friend of the singer, tells *Us*. "I know she will take the same strength she puts into her career into her health and beat this thing."

And she's not in the fight alone. "I have a lot of friends and family

around me," Minogue said in a statement. Indeed, the singer had lunch with breast-cancer survivor Olivia Newton-John, 56, on May 17, and Martinez,

39, put his filming schedule on hold indefinitely (though reports that he proposed are "absolutely not true at all," her record-company rep tells *Us*). Even Madonna, a pal who caught Minogue in concert a few weeks ago in London, offered her support: "Kylie's a fighter, and I know this is a battle she will win." **US**



Pinching an Inch!



Justin Timberlake manhandled Minogue at the 2003 Brit Awards.

"I want to reassure you that I am being well taken care of," Minogue (here in January in London) said in a statement after announcing May 17 that she had been diagnosed with an early stage of breast cancer. In lieu of flowers, the singer asked that fans donate to cancer research. Australia's Cancer Council (cancer.org.au) set up a special fund, and within 24 hours it received \$6,000!



Breast Cancer in Hollywood



"I'll conquer the disease. I'm a survivor," singer Anastacia, 31, told *Us* after her diagnosis in 2003. She is now in remission.



"I'm cancer-free," Melissa Etheridge, 44, who was diagnosed with the disease in 2004, tells *Us*. "Treatments are all done!"



"I had my first mammogram, and then I had to have it checked out," Nicole Kidman, 37, said in 2004 of her breast-cancer scare.



"When I was 21, I found a small lump on my breast," Lucy Liu, 36, has said. The actress had the lump - a benign fibroid - excised.

How You Can Help

■ **Be aware** Breast cancer will strike one in eight women born today, according to the National Cancer Institute. Though more than 75 percent of women diagnosed with breast cancer are older than 50, women in their 30s have a one-in-229 chance of developing the disease. To learn more about your risks, visit cancer.gov.

■ **Run or walk** Take part in a 5K Komen Race for the Cure. These events raise money for cancer treatment, education, screenings and research. To find a race in your area, visit komen.org.

■ **Give** Help fund research for a cure by donating to charitable Web sites like breastcancer.org.



Minogue is undergoing treatment at Cabrini Hospital in Melbourne.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS/LANDOV; UNICET; MIKE MARSLAND/WIREIMAGE.COM; TONY BARSON/WIREIMAGE.COM; JAMIE MCCARTHY/WIREIMAGE.COM; TIM WITTB/WIREIMAGE.COM; JULIAN SARTI/WEPAL/LANDOV; THOMAS LAUF/CELEBRITYPHOTO.COM