**RISING K-POP GIRL GROUP aespa AND SM ENTERTAINMENT ANNOUNCE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WITH WARNER RECORDS**

**aespa’s “LIFE’S TOO SHORT” SINGLE OUT JUNE 24**

**FOLLOWED BY *GIRLS - THE 2ND MINI ALBUM* JULY 8**

**PRE-ORDER/PRE-SAVE** [**HERE**](https://aespa.lnk.to/GirlsEP)

**ANNOUNCED AS APPLE MUSIC’S GLOBAL *UP NEXT* ARTIST WITH UPCOMING TV APPEARANCE ON**

***JIMMY KIMMEL LIVE!***

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***“You’ll want to listen to aespa forever.” - People Magazine***

***“aespa’s songs are some of the most inventive in pop music right now.” - Teen Vogue***

**June 1, 2022 (Los Angeles, CA)** – Today, rising K-Pop girl group **aespa** and **SM Entertainment** announce a global partnership with **Warner Records.**  First up from the record-smashing group is **aespa’s** lead single, “**Life’s Too Short''** on June 24th from their highly-anticipated EP, ***Girls - The 2nd Mini Album*** out July 8**.** The sneak peek track “**Illusion**” is available now upon pre-order of ***Girls - The 2nd Mini Album***. Pre-order/save ***Girls - The 2nd Mini Album***[HERE](https://aespa.lnk.to/GirlsEP) and listen t*o “***Illusion***”* [HERE](https://aespa.lnk.to/Illusion).

*“We are thrilled to be welcomed into the Warner Records’ family and so grateful to have them on board as we embark on our next chapter,”* said **aespa**. *“We are excited for what’s in store, including the release of our new project,* ***Girls - The 2nd Mini Album*** *this summer and being named Apple Music’s Up Next artist!*”

*“KARINA, WINTER, GISELLE and NINGNING of* ***aespa*** *have already made an impact around the world under the leadership of SM Entertainment founder and chairman* ***Soo-Man Lee*** *and his incredible team,”* said **Tom Corson** (COO & Co-Chairman, Warner Records), and **Aaron Bay-Schuck** (CEO & Co-Chairman, Warner Records)*. “We’re honored to welcome them to the Warner Records’ family as our first-ever K-Pop group and look forward to achieving unprecedented success together.”*

*“We are well aware of Warner Records’ long history of success with global artists, and we are grateful for their belief in* ***aespa’s*** *rising future,”* said **Sung Su Lee** (CEO, SM Entertainment) and **Young Jun Tak** (COO, SM Entertainment). *“Together with Warner Records, we are confident that* ***aespa*** *can continue to showcase groundbreaking music and grow into a global group.”*

Today, Apple Music announced **aespa** as the newest global *Up Next* artist, Apple Music's monthly artist initiative geared towards identifying, showcasing and elevating rising talent. Elements of the worldwide campaign include the release of an *Up Next* short film, a sit down interview with Apple Music’s Brooke Reese on Apple Music 1 radio, a U.S. late night TV appearance on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and more. Fans can watch **aespa’s** *Up Next* film [HERE](https://apple.co/upnextaespa).

Earlier this year, **aespa** made their debut US live performance during a surprise show-stopping set on the main stage at Coachella, dubbed “a highly anticipated event” by *Rolling Stone.*

Last fall, **aespa** unveiled their EP, *Savage - The 1st Mini Album*. It bowed in the Top 20 of the *Billboard* Top 200, becoming the highest entry on the Top 200 and Artist 100 for a K-Pop girl group’s debut. Additionally, *Savage - The 1st Mini Album* claimed a spot on ten *Billboard* charts, including Top Independent Albums, Top Album Sales, Top World Albums, and more. All of this setting the stage for **aespa’s** forthcoming project, *Girls - The 2nd Mini Album*.

Beyond praise from *Forbes*, *Teen Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *Flaunt*, and more, *TIME* touted them among *“The Next Generation Leaders, Class of 2022*.” Stay tuned for more from **aespa** as they launch their global takeover this summer!

**About aespa:**

aespa [KARINA, WINTER, GISELLE, AND NINGNING] is a fierce female foursome, who in an unprecedented move secured the fastest climb to 100 million views on their debut video for any K-Pop group in YouTube history with their 2020 release, “[Black Mamba](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DZeerrnuLi5E__%3B!!PIZeeW5wscynRQ!5hoSsN3bGJ0-XYSITiOCSjYI8jpOnIDjhqKIHIYPbEtJ335usjq6vKMqhLBGUP67eQ%24&data=05%7C01%7CConnor.Hunt%40warnerrecords.com%7Cf9600039f6bf4485d6c508da3917d62c%7C8367939002ec4ba1ad3d69da3fdd637e%7C0%7C0%7C637885073274529494%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FVE697BPElwckFlDGsX0%2B3GTGivvrn1AHG%2BFbs9GvNE%3D&reserved=0).” Their 2021 EP, *Savage - The 1st Mini Album*, was the highest ranking ever for a K-Pop girl group’s entry on the U.S. Billboard 200 album chart. The EP also hit #1 on iTunes Top Albums chart in 20 countries upon release.

aespa’s name is derived from a combination of “ae” (avatar and experience) + “aspect.” Each of the four members of aespa has a correlating avatar in the virtual world created from their personal data. The group, with a stake in the sci-fi world, is unapologetically confident and primed for global superstardom with the upcoming single “Life’s Too Short'' and EP, *Girls - The 2nd Mini Album*.

**About SM Entertainment:**

SM Entertainment Co., Ltd. is Korea's largest entertainment company founded in 1995 by producer Soo-Man Lee, widely known as the "Founder of K-pop". The company has developed and popularized numerous K-pop stars with huge global fandoms, and is known for having led the global K-pop phenomenon of "Hallyu," also known as the "Korean Wave." Representative of the entertainment industry in Asia, the company operates its own comprehensive entertainment business including artist development, record label services, talent agency services, music production, music publishing, event management, and concert production.

**LINK TO SM ENTERTAINMENT EXECUTIVE HEADSHOTS** [**HERE**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16d60dTi8ryIpcvh_94r9dGMA4dQzmxDO/view?usp=sharing)**.**

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*Left to Right: GISELLE, WINTER, KARINA, NINGNING*

[**LINK TO ASSETS**](https://press.warnerrecords.com/aespa/)

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**Warner Records Contacts:**

Darren Baber // [Darren.Baber@warnerrecords.com](mailto:Darren.Baber@warnerrecords.com)

Connor Hunt // [Connor.Hunt@warnerrecords.com](mailto:Connor.Hunt@warnerrecords.com)

**SM Entertainment Contact:**

Christina Santamaria // [Christina@smtown.com](mailto:Christina@smtown.com)

**Rogers & Cowan PMK:**

[aespa@rogersandcowanpmk.com](mailto:aespa@rogersandcowanpmk.com)

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