

= Déjà Vu ( Beyoncé song ) =

" Déjà Vu " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Beyoncé , featuring vocals by rapper Jay @-@ Z. It was produced by Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins and Beyoncé for her second solo album , B 'Day ( 2006 ) . " Déjà Vu " is an R & B song , which incorporates elements of the 1970s funk and soul music . Its music is largely based on live instrumentation , including bass guitar , hi @-@ hat , horns , except Roland TR @-@ 808 drum machine , which is a non @-@ live instrument . The song 's title and lyrics refer to a woman being constantly reminded of a past lover .

" Déjà Vu " was released as the album 's lead single to US radios on June 24 , 2006 . The song received generally mixed critical reviews . Many critics noted the similarities of " Déjà Vu " with Beyoncé 's own 2003 song " Crazy in Love " . Critics commended the assertiveness and the sensuality with which Beyoncé sings the lyrics and compared her vocal delivery to that of Tina Turner in the late 1980s . " Déjà Vu " and its Freemasons club remix version received three nominations at Best Remixed Recording , Non @-@ Classical at the 2007 Grammy Awards . It was recognized as the Best Song of 2006 at the Music of Black Origin ( MOBO ) Awards .

Commercially , " Déjà Vu " peaked at number four on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart . It topped the Hot Dance Club Play chart , the Hot Dance Singles Sales chart , and the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . " Déjà Vu " peaked at number one on the UK Singles Chart and generally reached the top 20 in Europe . The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Sophie Muller . About 5 @,@ 000 fans petitioned online for a re @-@ shoot of the video , complaining among others , the lack of theme , the wardrobe choice , and the seemingly sexual interactions between Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z.

= = Background and production = =

In 2005 , American record producer Rodney " DarkChild " Jerkins and producer Jon Jon Traxx " came up with the concept of doing an old @-@ school track , a throwback with real bass and horns " , to which the song 's title is partly attributed . Traxx with Jerkins , first recorded the bass sections , onto which the percussion , horns and vocals were layered . Production took place in Jerkins ' New Jersey @-@ based studio , and Sony Music Studios in New York City .

Jerkins recorded a demo version of the song with vocals by American songwriter Makeba Riddick , who is credited as co @-@ writer . They presented the demo to Beyoncé , who later approved of it . " Déjà Vu " also has lyrical contributions from songwriters Delisha Thomas and Keli Nicole Price , and Beyoncé 's husband ( then @-@ boyfriend ) Jay @-@ Z. He became involved at a late stage , when Beyoncé saw him trying to sing along to a recorded version of the track , and asked him to contribute . Jay @-@ Z recorded rap verses for the song and hence appears as a featured guest .

Concerning the production of " Déjà Vu " , Beyoncé told MTV News :

When I recorded ' Deja Vu ' ... I knew that even before I started working on my album , I wanted to add live instruments to all of my songs . It 's such a balance [ of music on the song ] [ ... ] It 's still young , still new and fresh , but it has the old soul groove . The energy is incredible . It 's the summer anthem , I pray . I feel it . Rodney Jerkins is incredible , Jay of course is on it , he blessed the song , I 'm happy with it .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Déjà Vu " is a contemporary R & B song , performed in a moderate hip hop groove . It is also influenced by late @-@ 1970s funk music , and it contains elements of soul music as well as dance @-@ pop music . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by EMI Music Publishing , the song is composed in the key of G minor with a time signature in common time , and a moderate groove of 106 beats per minute . Beyoncé 's vocals range from the note of D ? 4 to F5 . The music is largely based on live instrumentation , including a bass guitar , conga , hi @-@ hat , and horns . A non @-@ live instrument , the Roland TR @-@ 808 drum machine , provides the

song 's heavy and energetic disco beat . Spence D. of IGN Music commented that Beyoncé 's vocals on the song are " silky smooth " and that her vocal range leans toward the high end , hence contrasting to the song 's low @-@ end construction . Mike Joseph of PopMatters noted that " Déjà Vu " is reminiscent of Michael Jackson 's " Off the Wall " ( 1980 ) .

The lyrics to " Déjà Vu " follow the verse ? pre @-@ chorus ? chorus pattern , and feature two rap verses . It is hook @-@ laden , similar in this respect to " Crazy in Love " . The lyrics detail a woman being constantly reminded of a past lover , shown in the lines , " Is it because I 'm missing you that I 'm having déjà vu ? " As the song opens , Beyoncé introducing the bass , hi @-@ hat and Roland TR @-@ 808 by name . The sounds of the instruments blend as they are being mentioned one after the other ; the horns are only audible in the pre @-@ chorus and hook sections , and a short section in the second rap . The bass guitar , which is the first instrument to enter , slides into the main two @-@ bar ostinato . Following the repeated bass slides , the hi @-@ hat and the Roland TR @-@ 808 begin playing .

After that Beyoncé mentions Jay @-@ Z , the bass glides up for a vibrato @-@ rich fill , giving way to the first rap . Backgrounded with a repeating groove , Beyoncé starts the first verse . The pre @-@ chorus follows , for which the bass changes to a more melodic tone " to play something more singing " , in the words of Jon Jon Webb , the bass player on the track . The melody returns to the main groove during the repeated hook . This pattern repeats and leads to the second rap verse . The third pre @-@ chorus " comes from Jerkins ' idea to have the part changes on top , with Webb 's main groove on the bottom " . It is followed by the main pre @-@ chorus , then the hook is repeated four times . The singing stops and the instruments fill in the space . The hi @-@ hat and Roland TR @-@ 808 also stop ; the song ends with the plucked bass and blasts of horns .

= = Release and reception = =

" Déjà Vu " was leaked to the internet on June 13 , 2006 . On June 24 , 2006 , it was released to radio stations in the United States , four weeks after Beyoncé informed Columbia , her record label , that B 'Day was completed . Over one month later , it was released to physical formats ; the track was released as a CD single on July 31 , 2006 in the United States . An enhanced CD was released on September 12 , containing five tracks and an additional " Déjà Vu " multimedia track . In the United Kingdom , the digital download became available on August 15 , 2006 . A CD maxi and a 12 " single were released on August 21 , 2006 . Beyoncé 's manager approached English production team Freemasons to remix " Déjà Vu " after hearing a remix they made for a song by singer Heather Headley . A club @-@ oriented version was produced and appeared on a " Green Light " Freemasons EP , released on July 31 , 2007 . A maxi single , featuring the album version of the track and Freemasons club mix , was released on August 5 , 2006 in European countries . During an interview , Beyoncé further spoke about her decision to release the song as the first single from the album , saying , " it was soulful and had a lot of horns , it just felt good , and it didn ' ' t sound like everything on the radio . It wasn ' ' t typical but it felt timeless . " . The UK hits compilation album Now That 's What I Call Music ! 65 , released in 2006 , features an alternative version of the single , omitting Jay @-@ Z 's parts and running to 3 : 25 minutes .

= = Critical reception = =

" Déjà Vu " debuted to mixed and positive reviews among critics . Mike Joseph of the international webzine PopMatters ' believed that it was " fantastic to hear Beyoncé singing her lungs out over a full @-@ bodied groove featuring live instruments " . Spence D. of IGN Music , a multimedia news and reviews website , complimented Jerkins ' bass @-@ laden groove , writing that it brought the track to perfection . Describing " Déjà Vu " as a magnificent song , Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian complimented Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z collaboration calling it " feverish as pre @-@ watershed pop gets " . She added that even though when Jay @-@ Z is not physically present , he manages to bring out something formidable in Beyoncé that evokes " the young , feral Tina Turner " . Bernard Zuel The Sydney Morning Herald praised the assertiveness with which Beyoncé delivers

her lines and considered buying " Déjà Vu " as worthwhile .

Several other music critics have compared " Déjà Vu " to Beyoncé 's 2003 single , " Crazy in Love " , the lead single of her debut album . According to Gail Mitchell of Billboard magazine , the song is viewed by many as a sequel to " Crazy in Love " . Jason King of the Vibe magazine deemed the song as " cloned from the DNA of the raucous ' Crazy in Love ' " while Thomas Inskeep of Stylus Magazine referred to it as " ' Crazy in Love ' lite " . Some reviewers , however , were negative to the parallels drawn between the two songs . Andy Kellman of Allmusic , an online music database , wrote that " [ ' Déjà Vu ' ] " had the audacity to not be as monstrous as ' Crazy in Love ' " , referring to the commercial success the latter experienced in 2003 . The internet @-@ based publication Pitchfork Media 's writer Ryan Dombal claimed that " this time [ Beyoncé ] out @-@ bolds the beat " .

Sasha Frere @-@ Jones of The New Yorker deemed the lyrics as a " perplexing view of memory " , while Chris Richards of The Washington Post characterized Beyoncé as a " love @-@ dazed girlfriend " in the song . Jody Rosen of the Entertainment Weekly referred to " Déjà Vu " as an " oddly flat " choice as a lead single . Jaime Gill of Yahoo ! Music regarded " Déjà Vu " as a good choice for a single but concluded that it does lack " the kind of killer chorus " to suggest that Beyoncé would take one further step " to outright global domination " . On the other hand , Jon Pareles of The New York Times wrote that Jay @-@ Z shows up " as calmly boastful as ever " in the song but he only makes Beyoncé 's " sound more insecure " . Kelefa Sanneh of the same publication noted that " the refrain doesn 't give Beyoncé a chance really to show off " and further described the song as a " fair @-@ to @-@ middling single from a singer who is the opposite of desperate " .

== Awards and nominations ==

" Déjà Vu " was nominated for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration and Best R & B Song while the Freemasons club remix version was nominated for Best Remixed Recording , Non @-@ Classical at the 2007 Grammy Awards . It was also nominated for Best Collaboration alongside Beyoncé 's other song " Upgrade U " featuring Jay @-@ Z , at the Black Entertainment Television ( BET ) Awards . " Déjà Vu " won Best Song at the 2006 MOBO Awards in the UK . The following year , it also received two nominations for the Best R & B / Urban Dance Track and Best Pop Dance Track at the 22nd Annual International Dance Music Awards in 2007 . The writers of Rap @-@ Up magazine put the song at number ten on their list of the ten best singles of 2006 . In 2013 , John Boone and Jennifer Cady of E ! Online placed the song at number six on their list of ten best Beyoncé 's songs . In a 2013 list of Jay @-@ Z 's 20 Biggest Billboard Hits , " Déjà Vu " was ranked at number 19 .

== Chart performance ==

" Déjà Vu " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 44 , less than a month before its physical release . After the release of the digital and physical components , the song sold 75 @,@ 000 downloads in its first week . It eventually peaked at number four on the Hot 100 chart . The track 's Freemasons / M. Joshua remix topped the US Hot Dance Club Play chart , while the album version peaked at number 18 on the same component chart . " Déjà Vu " also reached the top spot of the Hot Dance Singles Sales and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs charts , number nine on the Rhythmic Top 40 chart , and number 14 on the Top 40 Mainstream chart .

" Déjà Vu " reached the top 10 in eight European countries . Having sold 29 @,@ 365 units on its first week , the single made its debut at number one on the UK Singles Chart , becoming Beyoncé 's second solo number @-@ one single in the UK . The single reached the top five in Hungary , Ireland , Italy , Norway , and Switzerland and entered the top 10 in Belgium , Finland , and Germany . In Oceania , " Déjà Vu " peaked on the Australian Singles Chart at number 12 , and on the New Zealand Singles Chart at number 15 . " Déjà Vu " emerged as the ninety @-@ eighth best @-@ selling single in Australia in 2006 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and synopsis = = =

The music video for " Déjà Vu " was filmed by British director Sophie Muller in New Orleans , Louisiana on June 21 , 2006 , with parts of the video shot at the Maple Leaf Bar and the Oak Alley Plantation in Carrollton , Louisiana and Vacherie , Louisiana respectively . The footage features couture @-@ inspired outfits , vigorous footwork and sexually @-@ themed routines . The video simultaneously premiered on July 12 , 2006 on MTV 's show Total Request Live ( TRL ) , and Overdrive , MTV 's broadband video channel . It reached the top spot on the TRL , Yahoo ! , and MTV countdowns . The " Deja Vu " video topped the UK TV airplay chart in late July 2006 .

The video begins with showing Beyoncé against a green wall and Jay @-@ Z sitting on a chair inside a dark room . Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z then start to simultaneously play imaginary instruments , mimicking the song 's tune . Scenes of Beyoncé are then shown in several different rooms wearing different outfits . As the chorus begins , she is shown running around and dancing out in a large sugarcane field . At the end of the chorus , she dances in a red dress in front of a pond and in a large red dress out in front of a mansion . When Jay @-@ Z 's verse begins , the two are shown alone inside a room , Beyoncé is now barefoot and bare @-@ legged , she dances seductively around Jay @-@ Z , and leads to the controversial oral sex scene . Beyoncé is then shown wearing a green skirt and bedazzled bra while dancing around in sand . As the song progresses , she is shown dancing alone in a dark forest wearing a sparkling black dress as fireflies circle around her head . The song ends with Beyoncé leaning back in a pose as fireflies race away .

= = = Reception = = =

Reactions to the video were mixed . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine commented it is " more thematic and thought provoking than the videos for ' Baby Boy ' and ' Naughty Girl ' " , Beyoncé 's songs from her debut album , Dangerously in Love . Allhiphop 's Eb Haynes described the video " visually fresh " and " couture motivated " . A news article published by Hindustan Times reported that a particular scene in the video is suggestive of oral sex . Natalie Y. Moore of In These Times magazine echoed the latter 's commentary , writing that the video showcases Beyoncé " strutting her sexuality " , and that in Jay @-@ Z 's scenes it " looks as if any minute now she 'll give him fellatio " . The video later appeared on a list of Yahoo ! Music News ' Worst Videos of All Time , which pointed to the negative fan reaction and stated , " It 's probably the least horrific video listed ... but as far as Beyoncé videos go , it is [ sic ] a stinker . "

According to an MTV News staff report , as of July 2006 , more than two thousand people had signed an online petition addressed to Beyoncé 's record label , Columbia , demanding a reshoot for the video . By the end of August 2006 , 5000 additional fans had signed it . The petition requested the clip to be taped again because it was considered to be " an underwhelming representation of the talent and quality of previous music @-@ video projects of Ms. Beyoncé " . Included in the laundry list of offenses were " a lack of theme , dizzying editing , over @-@ the @-@ top wardrobe choices , and unacceptable interactions " between Beyoncé and her now @-@ husband , Jay @-@ Z. Beyoncé 's dance moves were also called into question by the petition , qualifying them as " erratic , confusing and alarming at times " . Additionally , fans complained about sexual theme depicted in the video , describing that some scenes as " unacceptable interactions [ between Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z ] " while also complaining of a " non @-@ existent sexual chemistry " between the two . The music video was awarded Best Video at the 2006 MOBO Awards . It also received two nominations for Sexiest Video and Best Hook @-@ Up at the 2007 MTV Australia Video Music Awards .

= = Live performances = =

" Déjà Vu " was performed by Beyoncé at the 2006 BET Awards on June 27 at the Shrine

Auditorium . The show was opened with a performance of the song and Jay Z joined Beyoncé onstage during the second half of the song . William Keck of USA Today commented that Beyoncé " sizzled in a revealing silver ensemble " as she performed the song . She also performed " Déjà Vu " at the Fashion Rocks on September 8 , 2006 . According to Farrah Weinstein of MTV News , Beyoncé 's performance of the song was billed as a tribute to Josephine Baker , and both her stage set and outfit were in homage to the singer and dancer . The set was designed like an old cabaret club , complete with male dancers bearing saxophones , and both Beyoncé and her female dancers wore Baker 's trademark mini hula skirt embellished with fake bananas . She performed the song on the American morning news and talk show , Good Morning America during an episode which aired on September 8 , 2006 . Beyoncé also performed the song at The Ellen DeGeneres Show on September 9 , 2006 , and at The Tyra Banks Show on September 15 , 2006 . At the 2006 World Music Awards on November 15 , 2006 , Beyoncé opened the show with a performance of " Déjà Vu " .

In addition to her live performances of " Déjà Vu " in awards ceremonies and televised shows , the song was included on the set list for her tours The Beyoncé Experience and I Am ... World Tour . John Aizlewood of Daily Mail described the performance of the song during The Beyoncé Experience as " head spinning " . During Beyoncé 's performance of " Déjà Vu " at a concert in Toronto on August 25 , 2007 , she had a wardrobe malfunction as her dress flew over her head and was speculated to reveal her breast . However , a spokesperson for the singer denied speculations saying , " She 's wearing a flesh tone bra ! Do you really think Beyoncé would go onstage like that ? " . The video which was uploaded to YouTube went viral . Ann Powers of Los Angeles Times discussed about the malfunction , saying : " As a pop queen , Beyoncé is almost too perfect ... [ a ] ' wardrobe malfunction ' in Toronto garnered far more attention than was warranted partly because these mistakes contradicted her fiercely athletic style . " During the I Am ... World Tour , Beyoncé did not perform the whole song ; she sang several of the opening lines of " Déjà Vu " after her entrance on stage . During the revue I Am ... Yours which was a part of the tour , Beyoncé performed a jazz medley of " Déjà Vu " , " It Don 't Mean a Thing ( If It Ain 't Got That Swing ) " and " Bootylicious " and continued with a full version of the first song . Concert performances of " Déjà Vu " were included on her live albums The Beyoncé Experience Live ( 2007 ) , I Am ... Yours : An Intimate Performance at Wynn Las Vegas ( 2009 ) and I Am ... World Tour ( 2010 ) .

= = Cover versions = =

On January 31 , 2009 Jade Ewen performed the song during the Eurovision : Your Country Needs You show . Her performance was described as " a show stopping - and aptly chosen - rendition [ of the original ] " by Cher Thornhill of Daily Mail . During the finale of the tenth season of American Idol on May 25 , 2011 , the lady contestants joined together onstage to perform " Déjà Vu " along with a medley of Beyoncé 's other hit singles .

= = Formats and track listings = =

UK CD single

" Déjà Vu " ( Album Version ) ? 3 : 59

" Déjà Vu " ( Freemasons Radio Mix ) ? 3 : 15

Europe Maxi single

" Déjà Vu " ( Album Version ) ? 3 : 59

" Déjà Vu " ( Freemasons Radio Mix ) ? 3 : 15

" Déjà Vu " ( Freemasons Club Mix ) ? 8 : 05

" Déjà Vu " ( Maurice 's Nusoul Mix ) ? 6 : 00

" Déjà Vu " ( Maurice 's Nusoul Mixshow Mix ) ? 5 : 57

= = Credits and personnel = =

Adapted from B 'Day 's liner notes .

Vocals : Beyoncé Knowles , Jay @-@ Z ( rap )

Recording : Jeff Villanueva , Jim Caruana

Assisted by : Rob Kinelski , Jun Ishizeki

Mix engineers : Jason Goldstein , Rodney Jerkins

Bass Guitar : Jon Jon

Horns played by : Ronald Judge , Allen " Al Geez " Arthur , Aaron " Goody " Goode .

= = Charts and certifications = =