

= Yeah ! ( Usher song ) =

" Yeah ! " is a song by American recording artist Usher . It was written by Usher , Lil Jon , Sean Garrett , Patrick J. Que Smith , Ludacris , Robert McDowell and L'Roc , and features guest vocals from Lil Jon and Ludacris . It was also produced by Lil Jon , who incorporated crunk and R & B ? which he coined as crunk & B ? in the song 's production . The song was released as the lead single from Usher 's fourth studio album Confessions ( 2004 ) on January 27 , 2004 , after Usher was told by Arista Records , his label at the time , to record more tracks for the album .

" Yeah ! " topped the US Billboard Hot 100 chart for twelve consecutive weeks , before being replaced by its follow @-@ up single " Burn " . " Yeah ! " was the longest @-@ running number one single in 2004 , subsequently topping the year @-@ end chart on the Hot 100 . It was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . The song received a similar response in other countries , topping fourteen charts worldwide . It was certified platinum in several countries , including Australia , Belgium , Canada , Germany and Norway , and received a two times platinum certification in New Zealand . The song peaked in the top @-@ ten in several Year @-@ end charts .

" Yeah ! " was met with critical acclaim , with critics lauding its production , more specifically its combination of crunk and R & B. An accompanying music video , directed by Mr. X , shows Usher performing choreography in a club in front of blue laser beams . " Yeah " won a Best Rap / Sung Collaboration at the 47th Grammy Awards , while being nominated for Record of the Year . The song ranked second on the Billboard Hot 100 2000 ? 2009 Decade @-@ end chart . As of September 2013 , the song has sold over 4 million copies in the US .

= = Background and release = =

In the fall of 2003 , Usher submitted his fourth studio album , Confessions ( 2004 ) , to his record label Arista Records . However , when the singer and the company 's then @-@ president L.A. Reid listened to the songs , Reid felt the album lacked a song that had the potential to be released as the album 's lead single . In light of this , Usher was told to record a few more tracks , and so he enlisted American rapper @-@ producer Lil Jon to aid in musical production . Lil Jon recalled " He [ Usher ] needed a single . They had ' Burn ' , ' Burn ' was hot , but they needed that first powerful monster . That 's when I came in . "

Several months prior to Lil Jon coming in to aid in the production of Confessions , he was commissioned by Jive Records to produce fifteen tracks for rapper Mystikal . The rapper would only select two tracks , which would give Lil Jon the opportunity to give leftover songs to other record labels . Without Lil Jon 's knowledge , Jive Records gave one of the leftover tracks to hip hop artist Petey Pablo , to which the track would eventually become " Freak @-@ a @-@ Leek " . Meanwhile , assuming that the song had not been used , Lil Jon gave the production to Usher , from which a rough version of " Yeah ! " was recorded , mixed and mastered . Eventually realizing the mistake after Pablo played " Freak @-@ a @-@ leek " to Lil Jon , the latter insisted on producing more tracks for Pablo ; however , Pablo did not give up the song , due to the fact that it was already recorded and had been getting responses from Southern radio . Lil Jon commented , " With so much invested , Jive wouldn 't give up the cut . " Lil Jon reworked the track and a new instrumental was used , from which " Yeah ! " was based .

Though " Yeah ! " was now completed , the label still had " Burn " on queue for the lead single . Usher 's friend and former A & R rep Kawan " KP " Prather commented : " ' Burn ' being a great song is one thing , but it 's one of them things where people said , ' It 's strong , but can we make history with that ? ' At the end of the day , you want an event . " Usher was unsure if " Yeah ! " was the right choice . After Lil Jon leaked " Yeah ! " to street DJs across the United States , Usher opted " Burn " as the lead single of the album and was already planning for its music video . The song was not intended to be a proper single and only a teaser for Usher 's fans after waiting for years . However , the responses of " Yeah ! " were overwhelmingly favorable , and " Yeah ! " was released as the first single instead of " Burn " , which became the second single from the album . The single

was released in the United States on January 27 , 2004 as a CD single and 12 " single . LaFace Records sent " Yeah ! " to US contemporary hit radio on February 7 , 2004 . In the United Kingdom , it was released as a CD single , containing the album and instrumental version of the song , and two unreleased tracks from the album , " Red Light " and " Sweet Lies " .

= = Composition and reception = =

" Yeah ! " combines the genres of crunk and R & B genres , to form Crunk & B , which Lil Jon described as " R & B songs that get you crunk , make you wanna wild out " . Entertainment Weekly 's Jem Aswad found the song to contain crunk and transition between hip hop , soul and ballad genres . The song was co -@-@ written by Sean Garrett , Patrick J. Que Smith , Ludacris , Robert McDowell , and James Elbert " LRoc " Phillips . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " Yeah ! " is written in common time with a moderately slow tempo of 105 beats per minute , It is written in the key of G minor , and boasts trance @-@ style synths . Usher 's vocal range spans from the low note of B ? 3 to the high note of B ? 4 .

" Yeah ! " was lauded by contemporary critics for its production . Jem Aswad of Entertainment Weekly called it " irresistibly crunked @-@ out " , adding , " the ensuing track glides smoothly between club @-@ friendly hip @-@ hop soul and ballads . " Laura Sinagra of Rolling Stone commented that the song " creates sensual panic by combining Usher 's jumpy attacks with Jon 's sublime , frayed beats . " Jon Caramanica of Blender noted that " Yeah ! " is the first song to mix " mainstream R & B and menacing Southern crunk . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said that the song has brought Usher to a " whole new level of crunk . " Andy Kellman of Allmusic described the song as a " crunk @-@ meets @-@ R & B foundation " which features an " instantly addictive eight @-@ note keyboard vamp " . He added that the song is " so absorbing that Ludacris ' 1500th guest verse floats by with little notice . " Matt Cibula of PopMatters characterized the song as a " full @-@ fledged club über @-@ crunk salacious " but he added that it fails to be a " club banger " . Steve Jones of USA Today referred to " Yeah ! " as a " club @-@ rattling " song from a combination of " Atlanta 's vibrant music scene " , Lil Jon 's " insistent beats " and Ludacris ' " racy rhymes " . Robert Hilburn of Los Angeles Times described " Yeah ! " as a " raucous tale of dance @-@ floor seduction " which pop musician Michael Jackson would have produced in 2004 , if he " still had the old Thriller magic " .

Usher himself also garnered praise for the song ; Aswad called it the " grittiest song " Usher had sung and one that " reveals his newfound maturity " . Caramanica said that it is " probably the scariest record ? in a good way ? he 's ever made " and Usher " smartly shares the spotlight . " Cibula stated that Usher 's " smooove @-@ ass " singing and Ludacris ' presence contributes to the success of the single . " Yeah ! " was nominated at the 2005 Grammy Awards for Record of the Year , and won the Best Rap / Sung Collaboration award . At the 2005 Soul Train Music Awards , " Yeah ! " was nominated for best R & B / Soul or Rap Dance Cut .

= = Chart performance = =

" Yeah ! " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 at number fifty @-@ three on January 13 , 2004 . On March 2 , the song peaked atop the chart and stayed at that position for twelve consecutive weeks . " Yeah ! " became Usher 's fourth number @-@ one single , Lil Jon 's first and Ludacris ' second . The single remained on the Hot 100 for forty @-@ five weeks . " Yeah ! " became the most played song in the United States in 2004 , with Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems reporting the song getting a total of 496 @,@ 805 plays . The commercial success of " Yeah ! " and follow @-@ up single " Burn " helped sustain Confessions atop the US Billboard 200 chart . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) on June 11 , 2006 for shipping one million copies since its release . " Yeah ! " became the best @-@ performing single of 2004 in the United States . The single ranked at number 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 All @-@ Time Top Songs , and second on the Hot 100 decade @-@ end chart , behind Mariah Carey 's " We Belong

Together ". By September 2013 , the song had sold 4 million copies in the US .

Internationally , " Yeah ! " received a similar response , topping several charts . In Australia , the song topped the chart on the week of April 4 , 2004 for one week . It remained on it for only seven weeks before dropping out , and was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipping 70 @, @ 000 units . In New Zealand , " Yeah ! " had a better chart performance , peaking at number one for four non @-@ consecutive weeks . It remained on the chart for twenty @-@ seven weeks before dropping and was certified two times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) . In Switzerland and Austria , " Yeah ! " peaked at number one and remained on the charts for thirty @-@ eight and thirty @-@ six weeks , respectively , and was certified gold in both countries . The song topped the charts in Denmark for three weeks , remaining on the chart for seventeen weeks . In Netherlands , " Yeah ! " remained number one for four weeks , and in Norway for seven weeks . The song remained number one in Ireland for two weeks , and number one for one week in France and the United Kingdom . In the latter country , by March 4 , 2010 , " Yeah ! " had sold 434 @, @ 739 copies .

Compared to other countries , " Yeah ! " under performed in Finland , where it stayed on the charts for four weeks and peaked at number seventeen , and Spain where it peaked at number thirteen . The song did not top the charts in Italy and Sweden where it peaked at number three and four , respectively , and Belgium ( Flanders ) and Hungary where it charted at number two . Overall , the single remained on several charts worldwide for one year , from early 2004 to 2005 . On the 2004 year @-@ end charts , " Yeah ! " became the twenty @-@ eighth best @-@ selling single in Australia , and twenty @-@ sixth in France . It peaked in the top @-@ ten on the year @-@ end charts in Austria , Belgium ( Flanders ) , Belgium ( Wallonia ) , Netherlands , Ireland , Switzerland and the United Kingdom .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

Mr. X , formerly Little X , had previously directed videos for Usher 's singles " U Don 't Have to Call " and " U Got It Bad " . Mr. X said that the song reminded him of laser beams . Usher and Mr. X combined ideas to create a dance video for " Yeah ! " . The development was handled by how Usher wanted to be portrayed in the video , particularly showcasing his dance moves . The music video was filmed in a vacant art gallery in Los Angeles over two days . When the shooting started , Mr. X recalled Michael Jackson 's " low @-@ tech " and " laser @-@ flashing " 1979 " Rock With You " video , and used it as a reference . Forty extra people were commissioned to dance with Usher , and two ladies to tempt him in different scenes . They went through photo browsing and phone calling , opting for Destiny Lightsy , a friend of Mr. X , who seduces Usher in the club in a Marilyn Monroe wardrobe to complement the lyrics . Canadian model Melyssa Ford , who was discovered by Mr. X , is portrayed as Usher 's second seductress . Lil Jon acted as an assistant director during the sessions . Usher took charge of his ideas on his wardrobe and choreography , with additional routines , specifically the Rockaway and the Thunderclap , which Mr. X learned from Jamaica . The Rockaway influenced Fat Joe and Terror Squad 's " Lean Back " video .

= = = Synopsis and reception = = =

The video begins with Usher entering a club , and in another scene dancing in front of blue lasers ; the video alternates between both the club and laser scenes throughout . In the former setting , Usher is sat down when a woman ? portrayed by Destiny , video producer Mr. X 's friend ? approaches him and attempts to seduce him . The woman stands up and walks to the dance @-@ floor , telling Usher to " come get me " and " baby let 's go " , in sync with the song . Usher goes and dances with her during the chorus . In the beginning of the second verse , the laser scene with Usher dancing now shows both blue and green lasers . Usher and the woman are still dancing , with

the woman further attempting to seduce him .

In the second chorus , Usher performs choreography in the club , backed up by several male dancers . Female dancers then come in , performing choreography along with Usher and the male dancers . After Lil Jon sprays champagne towards the camera in the laser scene , Ludacris performs his verse . He is dancing in both the club and laser scene , with the camera also alternating to female 's dancing in sync in the club .

In the final chorus , Usher again performs choreography in the club , with another scene in the latter setting this time showing a different seductress , portrayed by model Melyssa Ford , walking away telling him to follow her . While following her , he is in a hallway , with the women then pulling Usher in a room , where they begin to romance . While Ludacris says his final verse , rapper Chingy and P. Diddy 's former assistant , Fonzworth Bentley , both make appearances with Bentley holding a violin . Lil Jon says his final verse , not present in the track version of " Yeah ! " , where he repeats numerous dance moves including the Rockaway and Thunderclap , with Usher performing them . The video ends with Lil Jon repeating " rock away " and then " cut " .

At the 2005 Soul Train Music Awards , the video was nominated for the Michael Jackson Award for Best R & B / Soul or Rap Music Video .

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =