

= Paparazzi ( Lady Gaga song ) =

" Paparazzi " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Lady Gaga from her debut studio album , The Fame ( 2008 ) . It was released as the fifth and final single by Interscope Records . Gaga wrote and produced the song with Rob Fusari . The song portrays Gaga 's struggles in her quest for fame , as well as balancing success and love . Musically , it is an up @-@ tempo dance @-@ pop song whose lyrics describe a stalker following somebody to grab attention and fame .

Although released on July 6 , 2009 , in the United Kingdom and four days later in Australia , " LoveGame " initially had been planned as the third single release in the former but deeming its lyrics and music video potentially controversial , it was decided that " Paparazzi " would be released instead . " Paparazzi " was critically acclaimed for its " fun @-@ filled " and club @-@ friendly nature . It was also commercially successful , reaching top @-@ ten positions in the music charts of Australia , Canada , Ireland , the United Kingdom , and the United States and topping the charts in the Czech Republic and Germany .

The accompanying music video portrays Gaga as a doomed starlet , hounded by photographers , who is almost killed by her boyfriend . It shows her survival , comeback , revenge on her boyfriend , and experiences on the way to fame . The video won two MTV Video Music Awards in 2009 for Best Art Direction and Best Special Effects . Gaga also performed the song at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards in a performance art piece symbolizing the negative effect of fame leading to death . Additional live performances of the song include on The Fame Ball Tour , where it was the opening song , on an October 2009 episode of Saturday Night Live and on The Monster Ball Tour . On the first leg of the tour , she appeared as a Rapunzel @-@ like character ; from the second leg onward , she performed the song alongside a giant anglerfish ( " The Fame Monster " ) who , attempting to devour her , was killed after her leotard shot sparks into the creature .

= = Background and release = =

Before she rose to fame , Lady Gaga met music producer Rob Fusari in March 2006 and began dating him in May . Gaga traveled daily to New Jersey to work on songs she had written and compose new material with Fusari . While working together , he compared some of her vocal harmonies to those of Freddie Mercury , lead singer of Queen . He also created the " Lady Gaga " moniker after the Queen song " Radio Ga Ga " . Although the musical relationship between Fusari and Gaga was unsuccessful at first , the pair soon started writing more songs for Gaga . Towards the end of 2007 , Gaga 's management company introduced her to songwriter and producer RedOne , whom they also managed .

By 2008 , Gaga relocated to Los Angeles in order to work extensively with her record label to complete her debut album , The Fame , and set up her own creative team called the Haus of Gaga . " Paparazzi " was one of the songs written by Gaga and Fusari who also produced the track . In a 2009 interview with Rolling Stone , Gaga recalled her relationship with a heavy metal drummer called Luke , who became an inspiration for most of the songs on The Fame , including " Paparazzi " . The song became a symbol for Gaga to escape her own narcissism and desire for fame . She was infatuated with Luke , calling him " the love of her life " , and ready to be his fan , to turn the camera around and photograph him .

To the Australian Daily Telegraph , Gaga explained that " Paparazzi " was about struggling to balance success and love . Further explanations said that the song was about trying to win the paparazzi and the media in one 's favor . " It 's a love song for the cameras , but it 's also a love song about fame or love ? can you have both , or can you only have one " , she concluded . " Paparazzi " was the album 's third single in Ireland , Italy and the United Kingdom , the fourth in Canada and the United States and the fifth in Australia , France and New Zealand . Although released on July 6 , 2009 , in the United Kingdom and four days later in Australia , " LoveGame " initially had been planned as the third single release in the former but deeming its lyrics and music video potentially controversial , it was decided that " Paparazzi " would be released instead .

= = Recording and composition = =

" Paparazzi " was recorded at 150 Studios in Parsippany @-@ Troy Hills , New Jersey . Along with the production and songwriting of the track , Gaga also did the background vocals and played piano and synthesizer . Calvin " Sci @-@ Fidelity " Gaines did the programming and Fusari did the audio engineering and recording . Other personnel involved in creating the final version of the song included Robert Orton who did the audio mixing , and Gene Grimaldi who mastered the song at Oasis Mastering Studios , Burbank , California .

" Paparazzi " has a similar up @-@ tempo composition to the previous singles " Just Dance " and " Poker Face " and carries a sultry beat , while its composition is of the dance @-@ pop genre . According to the sheet music published by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , the song has a moderate electro @-@ synth groove . It is composed in the key of C minor with a tempo of 115 beats per minute . It is set in common time , and Gaga 's vocal range spans from a low @-@ note of G3 to the high @-@ note of E ? 5 . The verses follow in the chord progression of Cm ? A ? ? Cm and the chorus uses an A ? ? E ? ? Fm ? D ? progression . The lyrics of " Paparazzi " deal with stalking and the trappings of fame . Gaga sings about her desire to get attention from the cameras : " I 'm your biggest fan / I 'll follow you until you love me / Papa , paparazzi . "

= = Critical reception = =

The song received positive reviews from music critics . In 2011 , Rolling Stone called it the second greatest Gaga song of all time , praising the song 's theme and beat . Jill Menze of Billboard , while reviewing The Fame Ball Tour , complimented Gaga 's vocals on the song by saying , " The fame @-@ obsessed ballad ' Paparazzi ' showed how adept she can be with her range . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian said that , " You may quickly tire of hearing the album 's theme constantly reiterated , but the tune of ' Paparazzi ' takes up residence in your brain and refuses to budge . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic called the song clever and said that it " functions simultaneously as glorious pop trash and a wicked parody of it . "

Priya Elan of The Times thought that " even the trio of songs that provides the core of the album 's celebrity theme ( ' Paparazzi ' , ' Beautiful Dirty Rich ' , and the title track ) don 't ruminate on the addictive inanity of fame , choosing instead to observe passively . " David Balls from Digital Spy praised Gaga 's decision of releasing a mid @-@ tempo track after two uptempos ( " Just Dance " and " Poker Face " ) saying that " thanks to a typically catchy chorus and some smart , celebrity @-@ themed lyrics , very nearly as thrilling in the finish . Backed with a hilariously self @-@ indulgent video , it seems GaGa still has us firmly in her clutch and , ahem , squealing for more . "

Evan Sawdey of PopMatters said that both " Paparazzi " and the earlier single " Poker Face " are comparable with the musical styles of first single " Just Dance " but added that " never once does it feel like Gaga is deliberately repeating herself ; instead , her faults only come from covering territory that she 's obviously not prepared for . " Freedom du Lac of The Washington Post said that even though Gaga turns somewhat serious while disapprovingly singing " Paparazzi " , the song comes across as flat and faceless as well as vapid . Erika Howard of the New Times Broward @-@ Palm Beach called it the most telling track from the album .

Jon Caramanica of The New York Times said that " ' Paparazzi ' is a love letter from camera to subject but stops short of admitting that the affection runs both ways . Any notion that Lady Gaga is sketching an elaborate stunt is stopped cold at the lyric sheet , a perverse flaunting of simplicity that betrays no cynicism whatsoever . " Pitchfork Media ranked " Paparazzi " number 83 on their list of 2009 's 100 best tracks . NME ranked it at number 9 in their list of the best songs of 2009 .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , the song debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 74 on the issue dated September 12 , 2009 , and reached a peak of number six , becoming her fourth consecutive top @-@ ten song on the chart . With the song , Gaga joined Christina Aguilera , Beyoncé , and Fergie

as the only women this decade to collect four Hot 100 top @-@ tens from a debut album . It also reached the top of Billboard 's Pop Songs chart , thus making Gaga the first artist in the seventeen @-@ year history of Pop Songs chart to have her first four singles from a debut album reach the top of the chart . The song also topped the Hot Dance Club Songs chart . It has sold 3 @,@ 500 @,@ 000 paid digital downloads in the United States as of April 2015 , according to Nielsen Soundscan . It became Gaga 's fourth song to top the three @-@ million mark , and was certified three @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . " Paparazzi " debuted on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 92 and moved up to number 57 the following week becoming the week 's greatest digital gainer . The song ultimately peaked at number three on the chart , in its 13th week .

" Paparazzi " debuted on the official Australian Singles Chart at number seventy @-@ three on the issue dated June 1 , 2009 and leaped to twenty @-@ seven the next week . The song ultimately peaked at number two , giving Gaga her fourth top five single in Australia . The song was certified two @-@ times platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipment of 140 @,@ 000 copies . In New Zealand , " Paparazzi " debuted at number twenty @-@ three on the week ending June 22 , 2009 and reached a peak of number five . The song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) after fourteen weeks on the chart , for shipping over 7 @,@ 500 copies .

In the UK , " Paparazzi " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number ninety @-@ nine in February 2009 due to digital downloads after the release of The Fame . It reached number thirteen for the issue dated June 21 , 2009 , after jumping from forty @-@ three to this position from the last week . The next week the song further climbed to number eight and ultimately peaked at number four . It was certified Platinum by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) and sold a total of 585 @,@ 000 copies according to the Official Charts Company . " Paparazzi " debuted at number thirty @-@ eight on the Irish Singles Chart and peaked at number four . " Paparazzi " reached number one in Germany , making it her second chart @-@ topper there . The song also debuted on the Dutch Top 40 at number twenty @-@ seven on the issue dated July 18 , 2009 . It peaked at number four on its sixth week on the chart . In Italy , the song debuted at number nineteen and then climbed to number three , becoming Gaga 's second top three there .

= = Music video = =

= = = Development = = =

The music video was directed by Swedish director , Jonas Åkerlund , who has previously directed music videos for artists like The Smashing Pumpkins , Madonna , Moby , Rammstein , and U2 . His wife Bea Åkerlund was hired as Gaga 's stylist for the video . It was filmed at Villa de Leon in Malibu , California and at Chateau d 'Or in Bel Air , Los Angeles . Gaga told MTV News that she was satisfied with the finished version of the " Paparazzi " video , likening it to a short film . In an interview with The Canadian Press on May 26 , 2009 , Gaga cited her video as " the most amazing creative work that [ she 's ] put together so far . " She went on to describe the message of the video :

" It has a real , genuine , powerful message about fame @-@ whoring and death and the demise of the celebrity , and what that does to young people . The video explores ideas about sort of hyperbolic situations that people will go to in order to be famous . Most specifically , pornography and murder . These are some of the major themes in the video .

Later , in her V magazine cover story , Gaga believed that Princess Diana was referenced in the video , claiming she died because of being a martyr symbolic of fame . The video was supposed to premiere on June 4 , 2009 , in the United Kingdom and Ireland , on Channel 4 . However , while touring in Australia , Gaga posted a message on her Twitter account on May 29 , 2009 saying " Stop leaking my motherfucking videos " , which referred to the video being released without the singer 's consent .

### == Synopsis ==

The music video is eight minutes long . Swedish actor Alexander Skarsgård plays Gaga 's boyfriend . The video features a murderous plot line involving a doomed starlet who is constantly followed by photographers . The video opens with a shot of a seaside mansion , where Gaga and her boyfriend are shown lying on a bed talking in Swedish . They move to the balcony and start making out ; however , when hidden photographers start taking pictures of them , Gaga realizes that her boyfriend has set the paparazzi to photograph her and tries to stop him . Her struggles nevertheless remain futile even when she punches him , and in a final frantic attempt at defense , she smashes a nearby bottle of liquor into his face . The enraged boyfriend throws her over the balcony . Gaga lies on the ground in her own blood as the photographers continue take pictures of her bloody body and tabloid headlines proclaim that her career is over . According to Rolling Stone this scene pays homage to Alfred Hitchcock 's film *Vertigo* .

Gaga is shown getting out of a limousine , being carried by male dancers to a wheelchair . It is during this scene , that the song starts . As the dancers gyrate around her , she starts walking down the carpet with the help of a pair of crutches while wearing a metallic bustier and a matching helmet . The metallic outfit is a reference to the film *Metropolis* . These scenes are interspersed with scenes of dead models lying around the mansion . Next Gaga is shown on a golden couch where she makes out with a trio of hair metal rockers during the line " Loving you is cherry pie " . The trio , which consist of the triplets Calle " Kelii " Landeberg , Nisse " Izzy " Landeberg , and Pelle " Rock " Landeberg are known as Snake of Eden and they are from the reality television dating program *Daisy of Love* . According to MTV this scene is a reference to the song " Cherry Pie " by American glam band Warrant . The video continues through the intermediate bridge with Gaga wearing a dress made up of film strips and a towering feathered Mohawk headdress .

In the next scene , Gaga and her eye @-@ patch wearing boyfriend are reading magazines on a sofa in a tea room . Gaga wears a yellow jumpsuit with circular glasses and shoulder pads . The Guardian compared this look with that of Minnie Mouse . She finally takes her revenge on her boyfriend by discreetly poisoning his drink with white powder concealed in her ring . As he falls dead , Gaga calls 9 @-@ 1 @-@ 1 and declares that she just killed her boyfriend . The police arrive at the mansion and arrest Gaga who , wearing a tall ice cream cone corkscrew wig , walks to the police car as the paparazzi surround her once again . Images flash by , with newspapers proclaiming her innocence and that Gaga is back in the spotlight and has regained her fame . The video ends with Gaga posing for mug shots like a fashion model while wearing a tulip shaped metallic dress similar to the single cover .

### == Reception ==

Rolling Stone writer Daniel Kreps compared the video with the music video of " November Rain . " The scenes of the dead models were described as stomach turning while he complimented the video for " brimming with cinematic style [ so ] that it 's hard to take your eyes off it , though it will likely be labeled as a little self @-@ indulgent . " He also commented on the leaking of the video saying that it " warranted more than just a simple leak ; it deserved a red carpet . " Anna Pickard from The Guardian complimented the video saying that " quite a lot of work has gone into it " . However , she opined that the video was too long . Entertainment Weekly gave a positive review of the video , saying it " gives us even more of the next @-@ level cuckoo we 've come to expect from the girl born Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta . " The paparazzi theme of the video was compared to Britney Spears 's 2004 music video , " Everytime " . MTV News called the video a " 1940s romantic @-@ epic @-@ style video " that " proves once and for all that Gaga is a true original with a unique vision . " The video was nominated for five VMAs at the 2009 awards in the categories of Best Direction , Best Editing , Best Special Effects , Best Cinematography and Best Art Direction . Along with four other nominations for " Poker Face " , she and Beyoncé were tied for most nominations that year . The video won the award for Best Art Direction and Best Special

Effects . The music video for Gaga 's single " Telephone " is a continuation of the " Paparazzi " music video , and is a short film as well . The video picks up right where " Paparazzi " left off ; starting with Gaga in prison .

= = Live performances = =

Gaga performed " Paparazzi " live on the UK program , The Album Chart Show on February 14 , 2009 as promotion for The Fame . The song was performed at Capital Radio 95 @. @ 8 FM in an acoustic piano version on May 1 , 2009 . On June 26 , 2009 , Gaga performed the song at the Glastonbury Festival emerging from a silver case on stage . The song was a major part of Gaga 's performance in her first headlining Fame Ball tour as the opening number of the setlist . The show started with a video intro called " The Heart " where Gaga played an alternate persona called Candy Warhol . She wore a silver and black short skirt like a tutu and shaped like peplum on both sides . She was surrounded by her dancers holding plates which were encrusted with crystals and completely hid them . The stage was surrounded by mechanical fog and heavy lighting was being emitted from the background .

It was also performed at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards . The performance began with Gaga lying on the floor , on a set that was described as an ornate mansion . Gaga staggered across the stage and pirouetted behind a dancer in a lily @- @ white wheelchair . She made her way to a white grand piano which she played by placing one foot up on the keyboard . Once again , she staggered across the stage , with theatrical blood dripping from her ribcage . She collapsed on the stage wailing in agony as one of the dancers gently lifted her . Gaga then hung lifelessly with one hand rising above her dancers and blood smeared on her face with a golden halo being projected on the screen behind her . The ending climax of the performance pays homage to a similar sounding ending climax in " A Day In The Life " by The Beatles . She later commented that the performance was for her fans : " I wanted to say something honest and real and not just give a performance where I was jacking off on stage the whole time about my record , " [ ... ] It was really for my fans , who I knew would be at home cheering and swooning . " In a poll conducted by Billboard , the performance was ranked as the fourth best in the history of MTV Video Music Awards .

The song was performed by Gaga in a similar choreography at the thirty @- @ fifth season of NBC 's late night comedy show Saturday Night Live . It was also present on the set list of Gaga 's The Monster Ball Tour . She wore multiple donned braided extensions and was perched atop a railing . From each of her braids , a dancer was attached on the stage . A backdrop of stars were shown during the performance . During the revised shows of The Monster Ball , Gaga changed the concept and the performance of the song . She wore an emerald green dress by Thierry Mugler , and was attacked by a giant , mechanical Angler fish . Gaga then removed the dress to reveal a leotard of the same color and during the bridge she is lowered beneath the stage to acquire her pyro @- @ technic bra . In the final chorus of the song Gaga returns and kills the monster with the sparks from the bra .

The song was performed on the Born This Way Ball and ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tours ; in the latter she dressed up in a polka @- @ dotted rubber outfit with tentacles growing out around her waist and her head . Rob Sheffield from Rolling Stone described her look as " she had an inflatable rubber order of fried calamari growing out of her spine " , while Adam Carlson from Billboard called the performance as reminiscing a " dancing Ursula from The Little Mermaid " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Lady Gaga ? vocals , songwriting , co @- @ production , piano , synthesizer  
Rob Fusari ? songwriting , production  
Calvin " Sci @- @ Fidelity " Gaines ? programming

Robert Orton ? audio mixing

Gene Grimaldi ? audio mastering at Oasis Mastering , Burbank , California

Recorded at 150 Studios , Parsippany @-@ Troy Hills , New Jersey

Credits adapted from The Fame album liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =