

= The Monster Ball Tour =

The Monster Ball Tour was the second worldwide concert tour by American singer Lady Gaga . Staged in support of her extended play The Fame Monster (2009) and comprising a set list of songs from that and her debut album The Fame (2008) , the tour visited arenas and stadiums from 2009 through 2011 . Described as " the first @-@ ever pop electro opera " by Gaga , the tour was announced in October 2009 after an intended joint concert tour with hip @-@ hop artist Kanye West was suddenly canceled . The Monster Ball Tour commenced four days after the release of The Fame Monster in November 2009 .

A revision of the tour occurred after only a few months of performances , due to Gaga 's concern that the original version was constructed within a very short span of time . The stage of the original show looked like a frame , comparable to that of a hollowed @-@ out television set . Since The Fame Monster dealt with the paranoias Gaga had faced , the main theme of the original shows became human evolution , while elements of the canceled tour with West were still included in some parts . From 2010 onwards , the revamped shows had a New York theme and portrayed a story set in the city , where Gaga and her friends got lost and had to find their way to " the Monster Ball " . Both versions of the show were divided into five segments , with the last being the encore . Each of them featured Gaga in new outfits , singing songs related to the concept of the segment , as they were followed by a video interlude .

The tour received general critical acclaim , with critics praising Gaga 's singing abilities , the theatricality of the show , and her sense of style and fashion . The Monster Ball was a commercial success , with sold @-@ out shows and demand for tickets prompting organizers to add more dates to the itinerary . It ultimately grossed an estimated US \$ 227 @.@ 4 million from 200 reported shows and an audience of 2 @.@ 5 million . At the 2010 Billboard Touring Awards , Gaga won the Breakthrough Performer Award , as well as the Concert Marketing & Promotion Award , the latter being an acknowledgment of her partnership with sponsor Virgin Mobile . HBO filmed a special of The Monster Ball Tour during Gaga 's February 2011 shows at Madison Square Garden in New York City . Documenting the whole concert with intersperses of backstage footage , Lady Gaga Presents the Monster Ball Tour : At Madison Square Garden , aired in May and was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray on November 21 , 2011 .

= = Background = =

Initially , hip @-@ hop artist Kanye West and Lady Gaga had plans to launch a joint tour in October 2009 , known as " Fame Kills : Starring Lady Gaga and Kanye West " . Amid negative response to his controversial outbursts at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards , West declared that he would take a hiatus from his music career . Nevertheless , the complete schedule for Fame Kills was released , with the tour set to begin on November 10 , 2009 , in Phoenix , Arizona . Shortly afterwards , the tour was officially cancelled without any explanation . Gaga addressed the situation at Billboard 's annual Women in Music luncheon , where she cited creative differences as the reason for the tour 's cancellation . In an interview she stated , " [Kanye] is going to take a break , but the good news is , I am not . "

After assuring the public that she would be embarking on her own tour , Gaga officially announced The Monster Ball Tour on October 15 , 2009 . It was originally planned to debut in London in early 2010 , but ended up kicking off on November 27 , 2009 , in Montreal . Rapper Kid Cudi and singer Jason Derülo were confirmed as the supporting acts for the tour , with Cudi supporting Gaga from the beginning of the tour , and Derülo joining from December 28 , 2009 . The official poster for the tour featured Gaga in Versace 676 sunglasses and wearing a gyroscope around her called " The Orbit " , which she first wore on the October 3 , 2009 , episode of Saturday Night Live . The contraption was designed by Nasir Mazhar in collaboration with Gaga 's own creative production company , Haus of Gaga . The tour 's sponsor of the American leg was Virgin Mobile USA , who introduced the " Free I.P. " program which offered free show tickets to fans who volunteered their time to homeless youth organizations .

= = Development = =

= = = Original concept = = =

In an interview with Rolling Stone , Gaga explained that she wanted to put together an expensive looking , beautiful show which would be affordable for her fans . She asserted that the tour was a " pop @-@ electro opera " because the theatrics and the story elements interwoven in it were played like an opera . According to her , the design of the show was innovative and forward in terms of creativeness . Gaga wanted to change the shape of the stage and designed one with Haus of Gaga that was " essentially a frame with forced perspective , and the frame is put inside the stage . " The stage had a triangular inset , like a diamond , and everywhere the show took place , the dimensions were measured in such a way that the box fit any stage . " So no matter where I go , my fans get the same experience . So often you go into theaters and there 's ambient light flying in from all sorts of places , and the audience is in different spots , and the stage is in different shapes and lengths and widths and depths , so this is a way for me to control all the light and all of the different elements of the show " , she added .

The show revolved around themes of evolution , as well as her paranoias represented on The Fame Monster . While developing the tour Gaga spoke about original sin and demons inside human beings ; " So we talked about growth , and that led us into this kind of scientific space , and we started talking about evolution and the evolution of humanity and how we begin as one thing , and we become another . " This theme of monsters and evolution played a part in the fashion for the tour , which according to Gaga was " another level from where we were with the Fame Ball . [...] It 's going to be a truly artistic experience that is going to take the form of the greatest post @-@ apocalyptic house party that you 've ever been to . " Although Gaga stated that she was inspired by the things she and West were doing with the Fame Kills tour , she concluded that she did not want to use any of the things that they had designed together . Later , she said that Fame Kills was " the great lost tour " , but confirmed that some of the elements of it were incorporated into The Monster Ball .

In an interview with MTV News , Gaga further described the tour :

" I begin as a cell and I grow and change throughout the show . And it 's also done in what now is becoming my aesthetic , which is , you know , it 's part pop , part performance art , part fashion installation ? so all of those things are present ... It 's a story , it 's me battling all my monsters along the way . I 'm playing all the music from The Fame , all the music from The Fame Monster . And the stage that I designed with the Haus [of Gaga] is a giant cube that sits . Imagine you were to hollow out a TV and just break the fourth wall on a TV screen . It forces you to look at the center of the TV . It 's my way of saying , ' My music is art . ' "

For the performance of " Paparazzi " , Gaga had collaborated with her Haus of Gaga creative partner Matthew " Matty Dada " Williams . She had a different vision for it in the beginning . Dada thought that Gaga should wear her hair braided , which Gaga had never done before . Dada 's explanation for the concept was the look of Rapunzel , the fairy @-@ tale character . He felt that " it 's something people deeply understand . And when you 're wearing sunglasses on a scaffolding piece with a giant alien dancing behind you , I promised [to Gaga] it 's not going to look like Rapunzel . ' "

= = = Revamped concept = = =

In December 2009 , Gaga revealed that she planned to cancel the concept of the original shows of The Monster Ball Tour and start afresh . She felt that the revamp of the show was needed as the original tour was constructed in a very short span of time . Gaga recalled that after West and she split up for this tour , she was unsure if she could get a show together in time , but nevertheless wanted to promote The Fame Monster . Hence she was able to put together " something that , in

truth , I never would have done if I had a longer amount of time " . The revamp of the tour was planned from the arena shows in the United Kingdom from February 2010 . " My team thinks I 'm completely psychotic . But I don 't fucking care what they think . [...] Well , just to give you an idea , the stage is about four times the size of the one we 're on now and conceptually , it 's completely different . One thing that has been lost over the past 10 @-@ 15 years , in pop music , is the idea of showbiz . And this is definitely going to bring that back " , clarified Gaga . According to James Montgomery of MTV , the show recalled the film musicals The Wizard of Oz (1939) and West Side Story (1961) , the science @-@ fiction film Metropolis (1927) , and the television mini @-@ series Angels in America (2003) .

During an interview with London 's 95 @. @ 8 Capital FM radio station , Gaga further elaborated on the changes in the show . She said that the show was constructed like a piece of musical theater . It also incorporated a number of contemporary and old musical pieces , some of them being re @-@ recorded specifically for the show itself . A new keytar was constructed for the show and was named Emma . The instrument was created by the Haus of Gaga and the singer said , " We have this new instrument that I brought to the Brits tonight , ' Emma ' , which is what I was playing on the stage . She 's a hybrid from all these other instruments . " During an interview on KISS @-@ FM with Ryan Seacrest , on his show On Air with Ryan Seacrest , Gaga explained that the concert tour was still called Monster Ball , but it had become more of a musical and less of a concert . It had a New York theme at its core ; telling a story where Gaga and her friends traveled to the Monster Ball , but got lost .

= = Concert synopsis = =

= = = Pre @-@ revisions = = =

Beginning behind a giant , green , laser lit video screen featuring scrim lights , Gaga appeared in a bulb @-@ covered futuristic silver jeweled jumpsuit with matching eye makeup and mask and sang " Dance in the Dark " as dancers , dressed in white balaclavas and white jumpsuits , moved around her . The video screen , resembling an electric mathematical grid , was eventually lifted during the performance . After the song , Gaga strapped a portable silver jeweled keyboard to herself and began to perform " Just Dance " while emerging from the inside of a white cube on a platform . This was followed by a brief video intermission and Gaga returned onstage in an off @-@ white costume , that resembled an alien ecto @-@ skeleton , while the dancers wore skeletal headgear . She started performing " LoveGame " , which ended with Gaga pointing towards her groin . Flames appeared on the video screens , as she got out of her ecto @-@ skeleton outfit . After stripping down to a silver bodysuit she performed " Alejandro " , and was carried by her crotch by one of her male dancers , and later lowered onto another one of them .

The section was followed by a video interlude featuring snarling dogs and brooding ravens . The performance of " Monster " began with Gaga emerging in a black feathered jacket and performing dance moves reminiscent of Michael Jackson as the backdrops featured a black bird 's wings . She continued with two songs from The Fame Monster titled " So Happy I Could Die " and " Teeth " , after which she removed the feathered dress . Gaga then started performing the song " Speechless " on piano , and continued with an acoustic version of " Poker Face " . Rapper Kid Cudi joined her then to perform his song " Make Her Say " which contains a sample of " Poker Face " . This segment was followed by the performance of " Fashion " and " The Fame " , during which Gaga wore a gold Egyptian styled crown and matching body suit , compared to the garment of a viking . Gaga crawled atop her piano during the follow @-@ up songs " The Fame " and " Money Honey " , after which she returned to the stage , dressed in black vinyl and nearly nude in a red patent leather bikini , to perform " Boys Boys Boys " , backed by a squadron of skinny and shirtless leather boys . During " Poker Face " , she wore a bondage inspired black leather dress with guns hanging from it and a hat made of muzzles , and pumped her hands in the air while performing the song . This was followed by Gaga sitting on a dentist 's chair and spreading her legs during " Paper Gangsta " .

Another video interlude followed , displaying arty poses of Gaga in gothic looks .

She returned to the stage while wearing multiple donned braided extensions for " Paparazzi " . Gaga was perched atop a railing and from each of her braids , a dancer was attached on the stage . A backdrop of stars were shown during the performance . The performance ended with the railing taking Gaga high above the stage , where she faked her death . This was followed by " Eh , Eh (Nothing Else I Can Say) " as she descended from the top ? which signified her rebirth ? amidst white lights and mechanical fog . She wore a giant gyroscope around her , akin to " The Orbit " by Haus of Gaga . The last song of the show was " Bad Romance " which she performed in an ' 80s @-@ inspired white power suit with exaggerated high shoulders and high @-@ waisted pants . The show ended with a video of Gaga getting a heart @-@ shaped tattoo on her shoulder , with the word " Dad " in the center of it .

= = = Post @-@ revisions = = =

After revisions , the show was divided into four sections : City , Subway , Forest , Monster Ball and concluded with an encore . It began with a projected video onto a curtain ? which contained images of Gaga smoking a cigarette ? while a club remix of " Dance in the Dark " played . Surrounded by violet light , her silhouette appeared on the curtain while she performed " Dance in the Dark " . Once the curtain was removed and the chorus reached , the New York cityscape and neon lights were revealed . Gaga gyrated on the set dressed in a " futuristic , angular , glitter ball suit " . After descending from her fire escape , she poked around in the hood of a dilapidated green Rolls Royce while performing " Glitter and Grease " . Upon checking under the vehicle 's bonnet , Gaga revealed a keyboard and began to play the opening notes of " Just Dance " . Gaga then performed " Beautiful , Dirty , Rich " while scaling various pieces of scaffolding and subsequently " The Fame " where she rose from beneath the stage and played her keytar Emma , wearing a giant red cape .

" LoveGame " saw the beginning of the Subway section , with Gaga wearing a translucent nun 's habit , and a skeletal hand . The song was performed with the aid of a gilded subway car and a " disco stick " while her next number " Boys Boys Boys " featured muscly male dancers cavorting in spandex shorts . After a costume change , Gaga burst into " Money Honey " with an extended keytar solo after emerging from beneath the stage as the New York scenery disappeared around her . As she walked towards the Glitter way , Gaga recalls when she was in jail and her friend Beyoncé bailed her out , thus performing the song " Telephone " . A piano is then brought in and Gaga goes into the song " Brown Eyes " , after which she performs " Speechless " . This segment also saw the performance of " You and I " in some of the shows ; the song was later added to Gaga 's second studio album , Born This Way . During this song , she tells the audience about her life as a teen in New York , and how she became who she is today . Gaga and her friends then continue down the Glitter Way , and soon they run into an angel , who plays a tune that summons a twister , taking them closer to the Monster Ball , but landing them in a strange place that they did not know . Gaga sings " So Happy I Could Die " , decked in a white dress , that moves on its own accord .

The third segment begins with Gaga returning on the stage and singing " Monster " , inside a forest with black , thorn @-@ like trees . Her dancers conglomerate around her near the end and Gaga reveals herself to be covered with blood . She then states that the thing she hates more than money is the truth and performs " Teeth " , while introducing her band . Gaga and her friends then find the Eternal Fountain , which pours out red colored liquid and Gaga explains that it bleeds for anyone . She starts singing " Alejandro " while jumping into the fountain and singing , as blood pours over her . Gaga then returns and sings " Poker Face " on the cat @-@ walk . After the performance , she and her friends find themselves in a dark place , and after some dialogue , Gaga 's friends run off , leaving her alone to deal with the Fame Monster , a giant angler fish . Gaga starts singing " Paparazzi " and eventually kills the Fame Monster by shooting sparks from her pyrotechnic bra and underwear . She then leaves for the Monster Ball and after appearing there , meanwhile Fan 's assume the show is over , suddenly Gaga appears on stage and performs " Bad Romance " while standing inside a giant gyroscope . In the 2011 dates , she performed Born This Way . In May 5 ? 6 at the last two dates , she performed Judas as an encore .

= = Critical response = =

= = = Original show = = =

The original version of the tour was acclaimed by critics . Jane Stevenson from Toronto Sun gave the concert four out of five stars and said that Lady Gaga came across as a " confident , colourful , and campy performer . [...] Gaga 's success was evident with slick @-@ looking videos , lights , elaborate costumes , dancers , and yes , a band , even if her stage was sometimes left dark as she left to make numerous changes . " T 'Cha Dunlevy for The Gazette noted that the performance was lacking ? adding that the show never reached its peak until the end , when Gaga performed the " real rendition " of " Poker Face " and " Bad Romance . " " Better late than never " , Dunlevy concluded . Aedan Helmer from Jam ! magazine said that " At first blush , it might seem the real driving force behind Gaga 's meteoric rise to fame is her hand @-@ picked cadre of costume and set designers ? dubbed Haus of Gaga ? who seemingly know no bounds when it comes to pushing the envelope of haute couture and the theatre of the absurd . [...] But what really sets Gaga apart from the middling masses of lip @-@ synching Britney clones and Idol wannabes is her pure , unadulterated musical talent . [...] The Lady can sing . " Theatre critic Kelly Nestruck , while writing for The Guardian , said " While The Monster Ball has nothing on the great operas or the golden age of musical theatre , Lady Gaga 's ' electro @-@ pop opera ' is at least twice as entertaining and infinitely fresher than any stage musical written over the last decade . " Lauren Carter from Boston Herald praised the show saying " [Gaga] only has two albums under her belt but who cares ? Every song feels like a hit , and Gaga @-@ as @-@ star is already taking on Madonna @-@ like proportions . [...] After [the show] at the Wang Theater , fans could justifiably walk away thinking Lady Gaga is crazy , brilliant or both . " Jeremy Adams from Rolling Stone reviewed the performance at Wang Center in Boston and said that " Throughout the evening , Gaga [..] aimed for a kind of pop theatricality that might potentially cement her burgeoning status as performance artist . "

Chris Johnson of Daily Mail complimented the costumes worn in the tour . Aidin Vaziri of San Francisco Chronicle said that " During her 90 @-@ minute performance ? not so much a live concert as a meticulously choreographed spectacle ? Lady Gaga also evoked Kanye West with the futuristic set , Britney Spears in her heavy @-@ lidded stage movements , Courtney Love with her interminable between @-@ song monologues highlighted by four @-@ letter squelches and ? who else ? ? Madonna for , oh , just about everything else . " Jim Harrington from San Jose Mercury News felt that the show would have been better technically if around thirty minutes were lessened from it . James Montgomery from MTV reviewed the concert at San Diego and said that " [Gaga] powered through and turned the San Diego Sports Arena into a raucous , delightfully raw discotheque . " Writing for the Las Vegas Sun , Joe Brown observed that " Lady Gaga out @-@ Cher @-@ ed Cher , made Cirque du Soleil and Britney 's ' Circus Tour ' look like county fair carnivals , and made New Year 's Eve in Las Vegas anticlimactic . " Los Angeles Times writer Ann Powers avouched that the tour was " an invigoratingly ambitious show , executed with vigor by its star and her expressive dancers . " Jon Pareles from The New York Times said that the tour always provided " something worth a snapshot : a sci @-@ fi tableau , perhaps , or a skimpy , glittery costume . The more her image gets around , the better Lady Gaga does . "

= = = Revamped show = = =

The revamped concerts were also met with critical acclaim . Mark Savage from BBC Online reviewed the first of the revised performances in the United Kingdom . Savage described the concert as a hugely ambitious , terrifyingly loud show , " spread over four acts and held together by a flimsy ' narrative ' about Gaga and her dancer friends trying to get to a party . " He was also impressed that the entire spectacle was put together in just four weeks . MTV 's James Montgomery reviewed the

first North American performance of the tour in Montreal , Canada . He said that the tour was " packed with more wattage than an overheated power plant and more costume changes than a thousand Vegas reviews , it 's the kind of show that leaves you with wide eyes , ringing ears , aching limbs and absolutely zero chance of making it to work in the morning . " New York Daily News writer Jim Farber expected that the theatricality of the show might have obscured the songs , but instead felt that Gaga 's voice was perfect and the concert actually " pushed Gaga a long way towards her obvious goal ? to be the queen of this pop moment . " Glenn Gamboa from Newsday said that Gaga " built her monster @-@ sized fame on knowing how to create a spectacle and then having the substance to back it up . For every coat made of Kermit the Frog dolls or headdresses that covered her face in red lace , there was a stomping disco anthem or tender piano ballad to match . That back and forth is the centerpiece of her Monster Ball Tour . " Dan Aquilante from the New York Post was critical of the show , calling it " scripted , silly , and tired , right down to Gaga 's patter . " He added that the 15 costumes Gaga wore during the two @-@ hour plus gig were " more successful helping her cement the notion of an erotic and exotic otherworld . " Writing in the Telegram & Gazette , Craig S. Semon was appreciative of the show , calling it " an out @-@ of @-@ this @-@ world blast and end @-@ of @-@ the @-@ world blow @-@ out that must be seen to be believed . "

Rick Massimo , reviewing the concert for The Providence Journal , wrote that as a musical theater , the Monster Ball was not that exciting , but " that leaves the music , and when you lay two hours of her songs end @-@ to @-@ end , it 's easy to see the vision , the intelligence and a serious songwriting talent at work . " Jay N. Miller from The Enterprise was impressed with the show , saying that the music was somewhere between industrial disco and house music with a rock edge , but " always danceable " . Philip Borof from Bloomberg Television reviewed the concert in New York 's Madison Square Garden and found it average , calling the crowd decked in various costumes as the " most entertaining " . Toronto Star 's Ben Rayner appreciated the show , exclaiming " hot damn , that was one hell of a show Gaga brought to the Air Canada Centre Sunday night and suddenly it doesn 't seem redundant to add one more voice to the Lady Gaga choir . " Mariel Concepción from Billboard felt that Gaga " may be best known for her gaudy outfits and over @-@ the @-@ top stage shows , but at her hometown headlining debut at Madison Square Garden last night , the pop phenomenon proved she 's a regular girl at heart . " The Seattle Times staff writer Marian Liu declared that as " one of the most anticipated touring acts of the year , [Gaga] stimulated the crowd 's senses on Saturday night in a way few artists can . She brought spectacle and backed it up with soul . " The Guardian journalist Alexis Petridis reviewed the opening show of the European leg , and commented that " it takes a certain je ne sais quoi to open your show doing something that looks suspiciously like mime on a rickety metal staircase while wearing an outfit with shoulderpads the size of the deck on a small aircraft carrier . "

= = Commercial reception = =

As soon as the dates for the show were announced , there was high demand for tickets . As sponsor of the North American Monster Ball Tour , Virgin Mobile customers had access to presale tickets . Bob Stohrer , VP of Marketing for Virgin Mobile USA said " We are excited to take our partnership with Lady Gaga and The Monster Ball Tour to another level . [...] We 'll also build on our partnership around combating youth homelessness and continue to enhance the tour experience for fans and our customers . " Shows in the first leg of the tour were sold @-@ out completely , prompting Live Nation Inc. to announce that Gaga will return to the U.S. in February 2011 for another run of U.S. dates . The 2011 dates for the North American Monster Ball Tour were announced as starting from February 19 in Atlantic City , with ten arena dates confirmed through April 18 . Additional shows were announced , and Semi Precious Weapons collaborated with Gaga until the tour ended . Live Nation Entertainment 's global touring division , headed by chairman Arthur Fogel , held the reins as promoter / producer of the Monster Ball tour .

Fogel commented on Gaga 's lack of experience in a tour and said that it was an opportunity for her . " As an artist with that kind of talent and vision emerges , it creates a lot of excitement , and ticket sales worldwide demonstrate that people are really excited to see the show . Over the course of the

next many months we 're trying to play to as many people in as many places as possible " , Fogel added . " It 's an across the board home run . " Demands increased and another additional six dates were added to the announced itinerary . The Monster Ball sold out shows in Toronto , Vancouver and San Jose who were compelled to add second dates in each city . In Los Angeles , to ensure that concert goers had the best possible access to tickets , a second performance was announced prior to the onsale of the first shows , and both Staples Center concerts were completely sold out . Billboard estimated that by the time the tour wraps up in 2011 , it would have grossed close to US \$ 200 million worldwide .

The ticket money from the final performance at Radio City was donated for the Haiti earthquake relief . Gaga announced on the re @-@ scheduled show at Elliott Hall of Music on January 26 , 2010 , that about US \$ 500 @,@ 000 was collected for the relief . At the 2010 Billboard Touring Awards , Gaga won the Breakthrough Performer Award , as well as the Concert Marketing & Promotion Award , the latter being an acknowledgement of her partnership with Virgin Mobile . Billboard also placed The Monster Ball Tour at position four on their Year @-@ end Top 25 Tours of 2010 . They reported that the tour had grossed US \$ 116 million from 122 shows , with an audience of 1 @.@ 3 million . By the end of the year , Pollstar announced that the tour had earned a total of US \$ 133 @.@ 6 million from 138 shows , making her the only woman to be placed in their list of the Top 10 Tours of 2010 .

The top grosser of The Monster Ball Tour were the two concerts at the Bell Centre in Montreal , which collectively earned over US \$ 10 million . By amassing an audience of 111 @,@ 060 from two shows , the performances at the Foro Sol in Mexico City attained the largest audience of the tour . Gaga 's show at the United Center in Chicago became the highest @-@ grossing concert of the third American leg ; it earned an estimated US \$ 1 @.@ 8 million from 15 @,@ 845 sold seats at an February 28 , 2011 performance . The largest crowd , however , came from the Nashville market with 14 @,@ 925 present at the Bridgestone Arena performance on April 19 . The tour continued its presence in the Atlanta market on April 18 , 2011 , where she performed to 10 @,@ 864 people at the Arena at Gwinnett Center . The third American leg concluded in Uniondale , New York with a sellout crowd of 13 @,@ 195 at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on April 23 , 2011 . At the conclusion of 2011 , The Monster Ball Tour grossed over US \$ 70 million from 45 shows . By May 2011 , the tour had grossed a total of US \$ 227 @.@ 4 million from the 200 reported shows , drawing an audience of 2 @.@ 5 million , making it the highest @-@ grossing tour in history by a debut headlining artist .

= = Broadcast and recordings = =

HBO filmed a special of The Monster Ball Tour during Gaga 's February 21 ? 22 , 2011 shows at Madison Square Garden . The special , titled Lady Gaga Presents the Monster Ball Tour : At Madison Square Garden , aired on HBO in May 7 , 2011 and Sky1 on May 21 , 2011 in the United States and the United Kingdom respectively . Prime showed the special in New Zealand on June 2 , 2011 . The special showed the whole of the Monster Ball Tour , and some backstage footage , which was shown in black @-@ and @-@ white . It ended with another black @-@ and @-@ white backstage scene where Gaga and her backup singers perform " Born This Way " a capella .

After its broadcast , the special received critical acclaim ; critics praised Gaga 's performance , but doubted her sincerity during her on @-@ stage rambling and in pre @-@ concert scenes . The special was nominated for five honors at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards : Outstanding Variety , Music or Comedy Special ; Outstanding Directing for a Variety , Music or Comedy Special ; Outstanding Technical Direction , Camerawork , Video Control for a Miniseries , Movie or a Special ; Outstanding Picture Editing for a Special (Single or Multi @-@ Camera) ; and Outstanding Lighting Design / Lighting Direction for a Variety , Music or Comedy Special .

A video album was released for the special and includes extra footage like a capella performances and photo gallery . The 5 @.@ 1 surround sound of the release utilized DTS @-@ HD Master Audio and new technology to provide the viewer an optimum experience of watching the live concert . Emphasis was given on the main music and the vocals sung during the concert , while adjusting

them against the screaming and the cheering of the crowd . The release was a commercial success , reaching the top of the DVD charts in the United States , France and Italy and the top @-@ ten in other nations . It received double platinum certifications in Australia and France , while in the United Kingdom , it was certified gold .

= = Set list = =

This setlist is representative of the show on July 1 , 2010 . It does not represent all concerts for the duration of the tour .

= = Shows = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits and personnel as per The Monster Ball Tour (original and revised show) booklets .