

= Just Dance (song) =

" Just Dance " is the debut single by American recording artist Lady Gaga . The song was produced by RedOne and co @-@ written by RedOne , Gaga and Akon , while also featuring labelmate Colby O 'Donis . It was released in 2008 as the lead single from Gaga 's debut studio album , The Fame . The song was written by Gaga in ten minutes as " a happy record " . " Just Dance " also has influences of R & B and lyrically speaks about being intoxicated at a club .

The song received positive reviews from music critics , who complimented its club anthem @-@ like nature and the synthpop associated with it . The song has also achieved commercial success by topping charts in the United States , Australia , Canada , the Republic of Ireland , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom , as well as reaching the top ten in many other countries . In the United States , " Just Dance " was a sleeper hit , spending almost five months on the Billboard Hot 100 before finally reaching the summit of the chart in January 2009 , after being released in April 2008 . The single is among the best @-@ selling singles of all time , having sold over 10 million copies .

The music video of the song portrayed Lady Gaga appearing in a party where she plays the song , prompting party @-@ goers to start dancing in enjoyment . Gaga compared her experience of shooting the video with being on a Martin Scorsese set . " Just Dance " was performed by Gaga in a number of live appearances including all of her concert tours . In 2009 , the song received a Grammy nomination in the Best Dance Recording category but lost to electronic duo Daft Punk for their song " Harder , Better , Faster , Stronger (Alive 2007) " .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

" Just Dance " is written by Gaga and Akon with co @-@ writing by RedOne , who also produced the track . In an interview with Heat Gaga explained her inspiration for writing the song . She said , " I was very hung @-@ over . I wrote the song in about 10 minutes with [producer] RedOne . And it was my first time being in a Hollywood studio . Very pristine , big huge room with giant speakers . " Gaga wrote " Just Dance " during January 2008 and according to her it was " hard work and a lot of people didn 't believe in it at first " . Later , Gaga reflected on the song by saying ,

" That record saved my life . I was in such a dark space in New York . I was so depressed , always in a bar . I got on a plane to LA to do my music and was given one shot to write the song that would change my life and I did . I never went back . I left behind my boyfriend , my apartment . I still haven 't been back . My mother went in and cleared it for me . "

In an interview with Contactmusic.com Gaga explained that " Just Dance " is a happy record and is supposed to be appreciated by people going through rough times like losing jobs and homes etc . Gaga further explained with Artistdirect that she wanted to write a beautiful record with " Just Dance " . Being asked the reason for which " Just Dance " has become popular , Gaga said that she thought , " Everyone is looking for a song that really speaks to the joy in our souls and in our hearts and having a good time . It 's just one of those records . It feels really good , and when you listen to it , it makes you feel good inside . It 's as simple as that . I don 't think it 's rocket science when it comes to the heart . I think it 's a heart theme song . " In March 2010 , the song was released as downloadable content for the music @-@ based videogame series Rock Band , alongside " Poker Face " , " Monster " and " Bad Romance " as part of " Lady Gaga Pack 01 " .

= = Composition = =

" Just Dance " is an uptempo dance @-@ pop and synthpop song . The song combines synths of clipped marching beats , soaring electronics and contains mild R & B infused beats . It is written in the key of C ? minor and is set at a moderate dance tempo of 119 beats per minute . Gaga 's vocal spans from the low note of G ? 3 to the high note of C ? 5 . The song begins with a fast tempo following by the synth arrangement and Gaga uttering " RedOne " . " Just Dance " has a basic progression of C ? m ? E ? B ? F ? m . Colby O 'Donis sings the interlude in the same range as Gaga followed by an R & B influenced interlude by her , after which the chorus is repeated with O

'Donis providing backup vocals and the marching beats . The song ends with an echoing of the word " dance " .

Lyrically , " Just Dance " throws a partial tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek perspective with lyrics like " What 's going on on the floor ? / I love this record , baby but I can 't see straight anymore " . The lyrics deal with being completely intoxicated at a party . The opening lyric " A RedOne " has often been misinterpreted as " red wine " but in actuality is a reference to producer RedOne .

= = Critical reception = =

The song has garnered mostly positive reviews . Matthew Chisling of AllMusic described the song as " a powerhouse of dance waves and infectiously produced beats " . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian called it a " beguilingly compulsive tale of pulling a drug @-@ induced whitey , with a combination of clipped marching beats , sawing electronics and mild R & B flavor that bears a vague resemblance to Nelly Furtado 's " Maneater " . Ben Norman of About.com said that the song " opens the album like a valkyrie leading the charge [...] riding triumphant ahead of her army . If you don 't know this song , use your browser . I won 't waste time explaining what it sounds like . " However he also noted that the song is not groundbreaking and compared it to the music of Rihanna , Chris Brown and The Pussycat Dolls . Bill Lamb from About.com called the song tame but catchy enough for Gaga to be noticed by mainstream . He also added that " ' Just Dance ' has strong energy and features Lady GaGa 's striking voice , but it ultimately adds up to rather bland dance @-@ pop . " Colby O ' Donis ' smooth vocals were also complimented .

Evan Sawdey of PopMatters.com said that " Just Dance " is an intensely catchy single and is an excellent indicator of what the album was all about . Ben Hogwood of MusicOMH praised the song saying , " You won 't get many more catchy party odes than the chart topping Just Dance this year , a polished gem set to lodge in your head for the next few weeks . " Freedom Lu Lac of The Washington Post described the song to be " filled with mindlessly frothy synth @-@ pop that matches low @-@ grade dance grooves with GaGa 's icy , almost disembodied vocals about dancing bliss " . Lynn Saxberg from The Ottawa Citizen , while reviewing Gaga 's The Fame Ball Tour , called the song a perfect sing @-@ along club anthem . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine wrote that the song resembles the " desperate train wreck you 're likely to encounter getting wasted at any dive on the L.E.S. at four in the morning " as is emphasized by the lyrics . Talia Kranes from BBC called the song irresistible and said that " the catchiness of her songs is sure to cement her place in the list of pop idols " .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , " Just Dance " was initially a club @-@ hit after its release , peaking at number two on both the Hot Dance Airplay and Hot Dance Club Play charts during the summer of 2008 . The song entered the Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 76 on August 16 , 2008 . After 5 months , it gradually rose to number two on the Hot 100 , after selling 419 @,@ 000 in downloads on January 10 , 2009 . The next week , the song reached number one on the Hot 100 . The single took a total of 22 weeks to hit the top spot , which is the longest climb to number one since Creed 's " With Arms Wide Open " took 27 weeks before finally reaching number one in November 2000 . The song also reached the top of the Mainstream Top 40 chart , becoming Gaga 's first number @-@ one song . " Just Dance " spent a total of 49 weeks on the Hot 100 and on May 29 , 2015 , the single was certified eight times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipment of eight million copies . It was the second song to reach the six million mark in paid downloads , following " I Gotta Feeling " by the Black Eyed Peas . As of April 2016 , " Just Dance " has sold 7 @,@ 100 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the United States and is the ninth best @-@ selling digital single of all time in the United States . In Canada , the song debuted at number 97 on the Canadian Hot 100 for the issue dated June 7 , 2008 . It reached the top of the chart on August 23 , 2008 , and was present there for five consecutive weeks . The song was certified six times platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) in June 2009 , for sales of 240

@, @ 000 copies in paid digital downloads .

The track debuted at number 34 on the ARIA Singles Chart on July 21 , 2008 , and moved up to number 17 the next week . On September 15 , 2008 , the track reached the top of the chart . " Just Dance " was certified three times platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipment of 210 @, @ 000 copies . The song was credited as the longest charting single in ARIA history , spending over 81 weeks in the top 100 . " Just Dance " debuted on the New Zealand charts at number 19 , and reached a peak of number three . It has been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) for shipment of 15 @, @ 000 copies of the single .

In the United Kingdom , " Just Dance " debuted at number three on the UK Singles Chart , on January 4 , 2009 . It rose to number one the next week with total sales of 65 @, @ 764 copies , and remained at the top for three weeks . In an interview with Daily Mail , Gaga explained her feelings on reaching number @-@ one in the United Kingdom saying , " It 's been a long running dream to have a big hit in the UK ? my fans there are so sexy and the people are so innovative and free in how they think about pop culture and music . I was in my apartment in Los Angeles getting ready to go to dance rehearsal when they called and told me , and I just cried . " According to the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) the song was certified platinum , and in July 2016 it became Gaga 's third song to pass 1 million sales in the United Kingdom . In Ireland , the song debuted at number eleven , and after one week it peaked the chart . The song also peaked the Dutch Top 40 on February 28 , 2009 . Across Europe , " Just Dance " reached the top ten in Austria , Denmark , Finland , Germany , Norway , Sweden , Switzerland and the top twenty of Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia) and France . Worldwide the song has sold over 10 million digital copies .

= = Music video = =

Released in May 2008 , the video was directed by music video director Melina Matsoukas , and is based on the thematic content of the song of being in a party . The video begins with Gaga arriving with her background dancers at a house party , which seems to have ended . One of the dancers puts a Discolite Boombox on , blaring the music through the house . The crowd at the party appear to be sleeping in different areas , and are awoken by the music . They all start to dance , and scenes of the party are inter cut with scenes of a scantily dressed Gaga dancing in a poncho , with a disco ball or in a small rubber pool playing with an inflated killer whale . She wears a blue , lightning @-@ bolt shaped sticker beneath her right eye like that on the single cover , which paid tribute to the album cover of David Bowie 's Aladdin Sane , as he is one of her musical idols . O 'Donis appears in the video being flanked by several girls during the " When I come through on the dance floor " interlude . Cameo appearances are made by Akon and Space Cowboy . MTV called the video as an ode to the " Me Decade " . During an interview with Australian radio in September 2008 , Gaga said that " The whole video is performance art about being drunk at a party . " When asked about the shooting experience of the music video , Gaga explained ,

" Oh it was so fun , it was amazing . For me it was like being on a Martin Scorsese set . I 've been so low budget for so long , and to have this incredibly amazing video was really very humbling . It was really fun , but you 'll see if you ever come to a video shoot of mine one day ? I 'm very private about those things , I don 't really talk to everybody . I 'm not like the party girl running around . I might even seem to be a bit of a diva . I 'm sort of with myself , in my work head space worrying about costumes , and if extras look right , and placement . I don 't just show up for things , you know . That video was a vision of mine . It was Melina the director who wanted to do something , to have a performance art aspect that was so pop but it was still commercial , but that felt like lifestyle . It was all those things , I love it . "

= = Live performances = =

In July , she performed the song for the first time at the swimsuit competition of the Miss Universe 2008 in Vietnam , later Lady Gaga performed the song on many television shows in the United States . She appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! , The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , So You Think

You Can Dance and The Ellen DeGeneres Show . In Australia , she performed on Sunrise , where her performance was condemned for lip @-@ synching . Gaga denied it and released a statement saying " I was sick the day of the show but I absolutely , 100 per cent , was singing live . [...] have never lip @-@ synched and never will . Even on my worst day , I never will . " In the United Kingdom , she performed the song on GMTV . She also performed the single during her AOL sessions .

" Just Dance " was added to the setlist of her first headlining The Fame Ball Tour , where it was performed before the Encore . As the performance for the acoustic version of " Poker Face " ended , Gaga exited from the stage and a video interlude called " The Face " starts telling about Gaga 's alternate persona Candy Warhol and teaching her to speak . Gaga appeared on the stage wearing a tutu shaped dress with pointed shoulderpads and peplum . Her dancers were clad in Louis Vuitton Steven Sprouse printed trousers which matched Gaga 's shoes . The backdrop changed to show blinking disco lights and Gaga stood wearing her video sunglasses , displaying the line " Pop Music Will Never Be Low Brow " . A remix of the intro for " Just Dance " started and Gaga started singing the song , while moving around in choreographed dance moves .

The song was also added to the setlist of The Monster Ball Tour , performed as the second song of the list . After the opening song " Dance in the Dark " , she strapped on a portable silver jewelled keyboard and started performing " Just Dance " while inside a white cube from which she emerged from the top , and the video screen came up . She was raised on a platform with a keytar over her shoulder as eight dancers in white bodysuits locked into steps below her . In May 2011 , Gaga performed the song during Radio 1 's Big Weekend in Carlisle , Cumbria . She also made her debut performance on Irish TV screens performing Just Dance , on the Irish talk show Tubridy Tonight in January 2009 .

" Just Dance " was included on her third concert tour , the 2012 Born This Way Ball , where Gaga performed it on the extended stage walkway and shouted off to her fans for joining and dancing onstage . Emily Zemler from The Hollywood Reporter noted that " For all her preconceived speeches , these genuine moments resonated deeply with the audience , most of whom were dressed in tribute to the singer . " For the 2014 ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tour , Gaga combined " Just Dance " with short performances of " Poker Face " and 2010 single , " Telephone " . While she danced and sang the songs , the backdrops displayed multiple images of Gaga writhing around , while wrapped in tinsel and moss . Melissa Ruggieri from The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution was impressed with Gaga 's vocals and complimented her for performing " old songs " in her actual voice .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of The Fame .

Lady Gaga ? lead vocals , songwriting , background vocals

RedOne ? songwriting , production , background vocals , instrumentation , music programming , recording at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood , Los Angeles , California

Akon ? songwriting , background vocals

Colby O 'Donis ? additional lead vocals , background vocals

Dave Russel ? audio engineering

Robert Orton ? audio mixing

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

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =