

= Confessions Tour =

Confessions Tour was the seventh concert tour by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna . It supported her tenth studio album , Confessions on a Dance Floor . Madonna confirmed the possibility of going out on a tour as early as November 2005 . Jamie King , Madonna 's longtime collaborator , was then hired on to direct . The set list consisted of mainly songs from the supporting studio album and rehearsals started during 2006 . As with many of her prior tours , the Confessions Tour did not go to Australia , prompting Madonna to release an apology statement on her website .

The concert was divided into four parts : Equestrian , Bedouin , Glam ? Punk , and Disco . Equestrian had horse @-@ themed , bondage performances , Bedouin had performances accompanied by messages , Glam @-@ Punk performances had Madonna playing guitars and the final Disco segment consisted of dancing in general . The tour garnered positive appreciation from contemporary critics and commercial success . Tickets were completely sold as soon as dates and venues for the tour were announced , prompting the organizers to add more dates . After its ending , the Confessions Tour was dubbed as the highest grossing tour ever for a female artist , grossing over US \$ 194 @. @ 7 million (\$ 228 @, @ 542 @, @ 703 @. @ 86 in 2016 dollars) from 60 shows with 1 @. @ 2 million spectators . It is also recognized as the highest @-@ grossing music tour per concert in the 2007 edition of the Guinness World Records . Confessions Tour received the " Most Creative Stage Production " at the Pollstar Concert Industry Awards as well as " Top Boxscore " from the Billboard Touring Awards .

Madonna 's performance of the song " Live to Tell " while hanging on a giant mirrored cross wearing a crown of thorns was met with strong negative reaction from religious groups . The performance at Rome 's Stadio Olimpico was condemned as an act of hostility toward the Roman Catholic Church by religious leaders . Madonna responded saying that her main intention with the performance was to bring attention to the millions of children dying in Africa from hunger and poverty . The tour was recorded and broadcast on such channels as NBC in the United States and Channel 4 in the United Kingdom . A CD + DVD recording titled The Confessions Tour was also released .

= = Background = =

In November 2005 , during an interview with The Guardian , Madonna confirmed that she was going out on tour in 2006 and it would likely be named either the Confessions Tour or the Confess Your Sins Tour . Jamie King was next hired on as the director of the tour . During an interview with MTV in February 2006 , Madonna explained that she wanted to play first at small venues like Roseland Ballroom in New York or the Wilton Theatre in Los Angeles , then move out to perform at stadiums and arenas . That way she deduced that she would not feel bored during her performances . King clarified ,

" A typical Madonna show is quite produced , [...] She likes things large , she likes things theatrical , but this time , being that Confessions on a Dance Floor is an intimate album , we want to try to make people have an intimate experience as well as a big produced theatrical experience . So look for us doing some small venues , some smaller venues . [...] I would like to put her as close to her people ? her fans , her dancers , her fellow supporters ? as possible , "

King also confirmed that the set list for the tour consisted mainly of songs from the supporting album , with few of Madonna 's old hits making the cut . Some of the dancers from the music videos of " Hung Up " and " Sorry " , both singles from Confessions on a Dance Floor , were signed to perform on the tour as well . In March 2006 , Madonna , along with her then @-@ husband Guy Ritchie and with their kids , moved to Los Angeles , to begin rehearsing for the tour . In the summer of 2006 , Madonna 's manager Guy Oseary announced that her Australian leg to the tour had been dropped . Her official website released the following statement :

To my fans in Australia ,

Please forgive me . I really did hope and expect to come to Australia during the Confessions Tour and asked my managers to try to include some shows there . I have fond memories from previous tours . Unfortunately , the logistics just didn 't work out this time around . We looked into going from

Japan to Australia and ending the show there but I have to get my kids back into school in England and they are , as you can understand , my most important priority . The important thing to remember is that I 'm not retiring anytime soon and I am gonna get to Australia as soon as I can . You remain in my heart and Thank you for your continued love & support . ? Love , Madonna

= = Development = =

The stage and associated props took twenty @-@ four semi @-@ trailer trucks to transport . The setup consisted of a main stage with three elevators and a turntable (which rose and lowered) , a central runway with LED and strobe lights connected to a central stage with a LED view screen in the construction and an elevator . The two secondary runways were raised up into the stands and also had view screens inside the construction . Two projection screens were raised above the audience so those who couldn 't get a clear view of the stage could still see the performance . There were also 3 LED screens that moved around during the performance , including one semicircular transparent screen lowered onto the stage during the video interludes .

Among the various props present for the tour , was a \$ 2 million disco ball embellished with a further of \$ 2 million worth of Swarovski crystals , bringing it to a weight of two tons . The ball was lowered onto the stage at the end of the runway during the opening number , and then opened to reveal Madonna . The ball contained hydraulic tubing to hold it open , two sets of stairs , and hundreds of LED lights . Other props include the turntable @-@ pommel horse used during " Like a Virgin " , a set of jungle gym @-@ like metal bars used during " Jump " , the steel cage used for " Isaac " and " Sorry " , and the boom box used during " Hung Up " . The promotional poster for the tour featured one of the photographs of Madonna taken by Steven Klein during the performances at G @-@ A @-@ Y club in London , as part of the promotional tour of the Confessions on a Dance Floor album .

= = Concert synopsis = =

The concert was divided into four parts : Equestrian , Bedouin , Glam ? Punk and Disco . The Equestrian segment of the show began with images of Madonna , riding crop in hand , and horses cantering across windswept plains on the big screens . A giant disco ball was then lowered onstage , and opened like a flower bud to reveal Madonna inside . As she took her dancers ' reins , she performed " Future Lovers / I Feel Love " . This was followed by " Get Together " backed by her dancers in horse reins . She rode a carousel horse @-@ like dancepole during " Like a Virgin " . The backdrops displayed the X @-@ Ray of Madonna 's broken bones , which she had during a previous accident . " Jump " followed this performance , where the dancers displayed the physical discipline parkour . After Madonna disappeared backstage , three of her dancers then revealed personal tragedies during an interlude called " Confessions " . The second segment titled Bedouin started with Madonna appearing on a mirrored crucifix to sing " Live to Tell " as a death toll of African AIDS victims counted down onscreen above her . She stepped down off the cross to perform " Forbidden Love " where two male dancers intertwined each other while displaying religious symbolism on the screens like blood corpuscles connecting to form symbols of hope and unity . Madonna brought a guest vocalist from her Confessions on a Dance Floor album onstage for " Isaac " , when a female dancer in an oversized Middle @-@ Eastern burka danced within a cage with the backdrops displaying sand dunes . Madonna then recreated the dance @-@ off scene from her " Sorry " music video live with her troupe for her performance of the song . The performance was followed by the song " Like It Or Not " where burlesque @-@ style dancing was performed by Madonna with the help of a chair as a prop . After the performance , her dancers performed krump dancing for a remix interlude of " Sorry " as social , political , and ecological images flashed onscreens .

Madonna returned for the Glam @-@ Punk segment of the show and strapped on a guitar for rocked @-@ out versions of " I Love New York " and " Ray of Light " . The backdrop during the performances displayed the New York skyline sliding off and stars respectively . " Ray of Light " was

accompanied by her dancers in new wave style dance , while wearing black clothes and white ties . An energetic rendition of " Let It Will Be " followed before she sat down for some minutes to talk with her audience . She later started singing " Drowned World / Substitute for Love " without any choreography or backdrop video , only sitting on the floor , and then recalled co @-@ singer Yitzhak Sinwani out for an acoustic version of " Paradise (Not for Me) " . The final segment Disco started after a brief radio @-@ style mini @-@ mix of old hits . Madonna emerged in a butterfly @-@ collared suit influenced by John Travolta in Saturday Night Fever for a mash @-@ up of " Music " and The Trammps ' 1976 single " Disco Inferno " This also included a sample of her 1986 song " Where 's The Party " at the beginning of the song while dancers rollerskated circles around her . Stuart Price 's remixed dance version of " Erotica " , which sampled the song 's original demo " You Thrill Me " , is performed . The next song was a Tropical @-@ Dance version of " La Isla Bonita " , where the screens displayed clips of different beautiful islands , the sea and its fauna . This is followed by " Lucky Star " ; this dance re @-@ invention of the song shared the same musical arrangement than the following and final song of the evening " Hung Up " , which is accompanied by a sing @-@ along with the audience and confetti and golden balloons falling from above . The show ended as the phrase " Have you confessed ? " appeared onscreen .

= = Critical response = =

The Confessions Tour received positive critical response . Steve Baltin of Rolling Stone wrote : " Madonna had played many roles in the first night of her Confessions tour ? but confessor was not one of them . Apparently , in all the pomp and circumstance , there was no room for warmth , or even the attitude that made her recent Coachella festival performance so memorable . " Don Chareunsky of The San Diego Union @-@ Tribune commented that Madonna 's previous tours , Drowned World Tour (2001) and Re @-@ Invention World Tour (2004) , " were excellent concerts ... but she stepped it up a few notches " for the Confessions Tour . Ben Wener of The Orange County Register reported that " No one ? but no one ? stages elaborate eye @-@ candy productions like Madonna , whose highly impressive Confessions Tour opened Sunday night at a packed Forum so sweltering it seemed as though it were being prepped for the world 's largest Bikram yoga session . " Lina Das from the Daily Mail complimented the show , saying that Madonna still had the ability to grab the headlines with her shock tactics . Thomas Inskeep from Stylus Magazine complimented the finale of the tour saying , " There 's not a better way the Confessions Tour could ? ve closed . " Tom Young from the BBC called the show " a big fat neon light of a pop @-@ dance explosion . There 's a party going on , and unless you were there in the first place , you ? re not invited . Whistles and whoops rarely cease and applause ripples throughout building into regular raptures for a consistently first @-@ class performer . It 's almost enough to make those who weren ? t there jealous . Almost . "

Jim Harrington of the ANG Newspapers commented that fans were " certainly happy " with the tour , though , Terry Armour of the Chicago Tribune noted from a report from The Arizona Republic that fans were " hot and bothered " over Madonna 's alleged requests that the air conditioning be turned down in venues during her tour . It was reported that the result of this was due to Madonna wanting to preserve her voice . In one article , it was said that the air conditioning concerns " are nothing new in the entertainment business " in which voice problems " can cost performers millions in lost revenue . " Another story said that Madonna does not like the air conditioning on during her performance because it dries out her throat . Ed Gonzalez of Slant Magazine stated that the tour was a " reminder that Madonna 's music need not be motivated by sex or politics to be good as long as it displays a smidgen of heart and soul . [...] Her Confessions Tour , though spotty and compromised but often breathtaking , is something of a coup after the fierce but icy theatrics of her Drowned World Tour and the shrill aggression of her Re @-@ Invention Tour . " Bill Lamb of About.com noted that the " highest points of the Confessions Tour prove [d] that a combination of great songs , riveting staging , and accomplished choreography always amount to a brilliant concert experience . " Christian John Wikane of PopMatters commented that " even the most rabid anti @-@ Madonna listener or cynical music lover would find elements of the Confessions Tour

impressive . "

= = Commercial reception = =

Tickets for the tour sold out within minutes of going on sale at many venues in North America and Europe , and new dates were immediately announced ? included five new dates at Wembley Arena and new dates in New York , Chicago , Paris and Los Angeles . Madonna rang up eight sellouts at Wembley Arena beginning August 1 , 2006 , notching the highest Billboard gross of 2006 in the process . She grossed \$ 80 million (\$ 93 @, @ 905 @, @ 579 in 2016 dollars) for the US shows alone throughout the summer , and it instantly became the highest grossing summer tour of the year 2006 . In particular , NRJ reported that the two French dates sold out within 15 minutes of going on sale , resulting in two shows being added . The two original dates in London sold out almost instantly , and five new shows at Wembley Arena were announced . On April 8 , 2006 , Madonna sold 30 @, @ 000 tickets in under 40 minutes in Montreal , breaking a record previously held by U2 . On July 9 , 2006 , 50 @, @ 000 tickets went on sale for Madonna 's Osaka and Tokyo shows . The tickets were sold out in a record breaking five minutes . It was Madonna 's first time touring Japan in 13 years , and an additional date was added , September 21 , 2006 , at the Tokyo Dome , to meet high demand . On August 8 , 2006 , more than 35 @, @ 000 tickets for the first ever Madonna concert in Moscow went on sale and , as claimed by show organizers , all were sold out in four days , which could be a new record in that country as all other artists had taken more than two weeks to sell out the tickets in the region . However , after many problems with the concert including venue uncertainty , rescheduling , ticket exchange and huge amount of tickets in the hands of speculators , tickets were on sale at their nominal values until the last minute .

According to Billboard and tour producer Arthur Fogel , the tour grossed over US \$ 194 @. @ 7 million (\$ 228 @, @ 542 @, @ 704 in 2016 dollars) from 60 shows and 1 @. @ 2 million audience , becoming highest grossing tour ever for a female artist and breaking the record previously held by Cher for her Living Proof : The Farewell Tour (2002 ? 2005) . Madonna broke her own record in 2008 , with her Sticky & Sweet Tour , which became the highest grossing tour by a solo artist , earning US \$ 408 million (\$ 450 @, @ 021 @, @ 405 in 2016 dollars) . Confessions Tour is also recognized as the highest @- @ grossing music tour per concert in the 2007 edition of the Guinness World Records , with \$ 3 @. @ 2 million (\$ 3 @, @ 756 @, @ 223 in 2016 dollars) grossed per concert . It received the " Most Creative Stage Production " at the Pollstar Concert Industry Awards , as well as , " Top Boxscore " from the Billboard Touring Awards .

= = Reaction to the performance of " Live to Tell " = =

Madonna 's performance of " Live to Tell " faced strong reaction from religious groups . The performance included Madonna being raised from the floor hanging on a mirrored cross wearing a red blouse and velvet pants , with a crown of thorns on her head . During the performance , the number 12 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 flashed above her on the stage 's backdrop screens , along with images of African children . This was intended to detail the estimated number of children who have been orphaned by the AIDS pandemic in Africa .

German prosecutors in Düsseldorf threatened to sue her for blasphemy , and Protestant bishop Margot Käßmann said that " maybe the only way an aging superstar can attract attention is to offend people 's religious sentiments . " The Russian Orthodox Church and the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia (FJCR) described Madonna 's performance as amoral , and urged all members to boycott her upcoming concert in Moscow . The performance at Rome 's Olympic Stadium ? located near the Vatican ? was condemned as an act of hostility toward the Roman Catholic Church by religious leaders . Italian cardinal Ersilio Tonini called the concert " a blasphemous challenge to the faith " and a " profanation of the cross " , also calling for Madonna to be excommunicated . Reverend Manfredo Leone described it as " disrespectful , in bad taste and provocative " .

Muslim and Jewish leaders also criticized the performance . Mario Scialoja , the head of Italy 's

Muslim League commented " I think her idea is in the worst taste and she 'd do better to go home . " Riccardo Pacifici , the spokesman for Rome 's Jewish community said " It 's a disrespectful act , and to do it in Rome is even worse . " Madonna released a statement about the controversy :

" I am very grateful that my show was so well received all over the world . But there seems to be many misinterpretations about my appearance on the cross and I wanted to explain it myself once and for all . There is a segment in my show where three of my dancers ' confess ' or share harrowing experiences from their childhood that they ultimately overcame . My ' confession ' follows and takes place on a Crucifix that I ultimately come down from . This is not a mocking of the church . It is no different than a person wearing a Cross or ' Taking Up the Cross ' as it says in the Bible . My performance is neither anti @-@ Christian , sacrilegious or blasphemous . Rather , it is my plea to the audience to encourage mankind to help one another and to see the world as a unified whole . I believe in my heart that if Jesus were alive today he would be doing the same thing .

My specific intent is to bring attention to the millions of children in Africa who are dying every day , and are living without care , without medicine and without hope . I am asking people to open their hearts and minds to get involved in whatever way they can . The song ends with a quote from the Bible 's Book of Matthew : ' For I was hungry and you gave me food . I was naked and you gave me clothing . I was sick and you took care of me and God replied , ' Whatever you did for the least of my brothers ... you did it to me.'

Please do not pass judgment without seeing my show . "

= = Broadcasts and recordings = =

The show was filmed at the Wembley Arena , in London on August 15 and 16 , 2006 . After plans failed with HBO , The Confessions Tour ? Live from London aired on November 22 , 2006 on NBC . The television version omitted the performances of the " Sorry " video interlude , " Drowned World / Substitute for Love " , " Paradise (Not For Me) " and " Lucky Star " . In the United States , the performance of " Live to Tell " was censored , the broadcast displayed the video backdrop shown on the tour instead of Madonna performing on the mirrored cross . She does not appear until she has come down from it . Outside of the US , the performance was not censored . In the UK it was broadcast on Channel 4 and later on E4 .

In January 2007 , Warner Bros. Records released The Confessions Tour CD + DVD package . After its release , the album reached the top of the official charts in a number of European nations while reaching the top ten in United Kingdom and Canada . It reached a peak of fifteen on the Billboard 200 albums chart in United States . At the 2008 Grammy Awards held on February 10 , 2008 at Staples Center in Los Angeles , the album won an award for Best Long Form Music Video .

A photography book by Guy Oseary , titled Madonna : Confessions was released in October 2008 during Madonna 's Sticky & Sweet Tour . It contains over 250 never @-@ before @-@ seen images from the 2006 Confessions Tour with photographs from backstage and during the show . All author proceeds from the book will be donated to Raising Malawi . On January 13 , 2013 , MTV broadcast a high definition version of The Confessions Tour ? Live from London special for the very first time at 00 : 00 AM (CET time) with more scheduled broadcasts at 7 AM and 10 AM CET the following days .

= = Set list = =

" Future Lovers / I Feel Love "

" Get Together "

" Like a Virgin "

" Jump "

" Confessions " (Dancers Interlude) (contains elements from " Live to Tell ")

" Live to Tell "

" Forbidden Love "

" Isaac "

" Sorry " (Pet Shop Boys Remix)
" Like It or Not "
" Sorry " (Remix) (Video Interlude)
" I Love New York "
" Ray of Light "
" Let It Will Be " (Paper Faces Remix)
" Drowned World / Substitute for Love "
" Paradise (Not for Me) " (performed with Yitzhak Sinwani)
" The Duke Mixes the Hits " (Video Interlude) (contains excerpts from " Borderline " , " Erotica " , " Dress You Up " , " Holiday " and " Disco Inferno ")
" Music Inferno " (contains elements from " Disco Inferno " , with excerpts from " Where 's the Party ")
" Erotica " (contains excerpts from " You Thrill Me ")
" La Isla Bonita "
" Lucky Star " (contains elements from " Gimme ! Gimme ! Gimme ! (A Man After Midnight) " along with excerpts from " Hung Up ")
" Hung Up " (contains elements from " Lucky Star ")
Source :

= = Shows = =

= = Personnel = =

Personnel adapted as per the Confessions Tour booklet and DVD .