

= The Fame =

The Fame is the debut studio album by American singer Lady Gaga . It was released on August 19 , 2008 through Interscope Records . After joining Kon Live Distribution and Cherrytree Records in 2008 , Gaga began working on the album with different producers , primarily RedOne , Martin Kierszenbaum and Rob Fusari . Musically , The Fame is a synthpop and dance @-@ pop album that has influences of pop music from the 1980s . Lyrically , the album visualizes Gaga 's love of fame in general while also dealing with subjects such as love , sex , money , drugs and sexual identity . Promotion was primarily through The Fame Ball Tour and multiple television appearances . The Fame was included as a bonus disc on the deluxe edition of the extended play , The Fame Monster ( 2009 ) .

The album received generally favorable reviews from music critics , who commended the album 's lyrical content and Gaga 's musicianship and vocal ability . The album was a commercial success , topping the charts in different countries worldwide , including the United Kingdom , Canada , Germany , Ireland , Poland and Switzerland . In the United States , it peaked at number two on the Billboard 200 , while topping the Dance / Electronic Albums chart for 106 non @-@ consecutive weeks . The Fame became the fifth best @-@ selling album of 2009 . It has sold 4 @.@ 7 million copies in the United States as of April 2016 and is the seventh best @-@ selling digital album in history . The album sold 15 million copies worldwide as of November 2010 .

The first two singles from The Fame ? " Just Dance " and " Poker Face " ? gained international success , topping the charts in several countries worldwide , including the United States , United Kingdom and Australia . Subsequent single " LoveGame " and " Paparazzi " , were commercial successes as well , charting within the top ten of more than ten countries worldwide . " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " had a limited release , while " Beautiful , Dirty , Rich " was a promotional single .

The Fame has won multiple awards since its release . It was nominated for a total of five Grammy Awards at the 52nd Grammy Awards , including the Grammy Award for Album of the Year . It won the Grammy Award for Best Electronic / Dance Album and the Best Dance Recording for the single " Poker Face " . It also won Best International Album at the 2010 BRIT Awards . In 2013 , Rolling Stone named The Fame as one of the " 100 Greatest Debut Albums of All @-@ Time " .

= = Background and development = =

While establishing herself as an artist and working her way up through the New York underground club scene , Gaga released her debut studio album , The Fame . Speaking about the title and concept of the album , Gaga explained : " The Fame is about how anyone can feel famous . [ ... ] Pop culture is art . It doesn 't make you cool to hate pop culture , so I embraced it and you hear it all over The Fame . But , it 's a sharable fame . I want to invite you all to the party . I want people to feel a part of this lifestyle . " Gaga stated in an interview with MTV UK that she had been working on the album for two and a half years and completed half of it during the first week of January 2008 . As well as writing the lyrics , Gaga worked on the melodies and synth work of the album , with record producer RedOne . According to Gaga , the first track " Just Dance " is a joyous , heart @-@ themed song , which appeals to people going through tough times in their life . " LoveGame " , the second track , was inspired by Gaga 's sexual crush on a stranger in a night club to whom she said , " I wanna ride on your disco stick " . It was written in four minutes based on the disco stick hook . " Paparazzi " has been interpreted with different meanings . However Gaga explained in an interview with About.com , that the song was inspired by her struggles and hunger for fame and love . Essentially a love song , " Paparazzi " dealt with enticing the media and asked the question , whether one can have both fame and love .

" Poker Face " was inspired by Gaga 's boyfriends who enjoyed gambling , and also dealt with her personal experience of bisexuality ; her fantasies about women while having sex with men , thus representing her ' poker face ' . " " Boys , Boys , Boys " was inspired by the similarly titled Mötley Crüe song " Girls , Girls , Girls " . Gaga explained that she wanted a female version of the song that

rockers would like too . " Beautiful , Dirty , Rich " summed up her time of self @-@ discovery , living in the Lower East Side and dabbling in drugs and the party scene . " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " was about breaking up with a boyfriend and finding someone new . " Brown Eyes " was inspired by the British rock band Queen and , according to Gaga , is the most vulnerable song on the album .

Gaga further clarified the ideas behind The Fame , and her inspirations and visions for the album . She believed that the most important thing missing from contemporary pop music was the combination of the visual imagery of the artist with the music . Gaga incorporated theatrics in her live performances of the songs from the album . Hence she hoped that people would take notice of the performance art , which she was trying to bring back with the album and its music ; according to her , the music put the lifestyle in front of it .

" I just feel like this record is really different- you [ ' ] ve got club bangers to more 70s glam to more singer @-@ songwriter records to rock music . [ ... ] The Fame is not about who you are ? it 's about how everybody wants to know who you are ! Buy it and listen to it before you go out or in the car . [ ... ] I think you 've really got to allow artists ' creativity to marinate . It took me a while but really delving into myself I finally got it . I couldn 't be more proud of it . It 's not just a record [ , ] it 's a whole pop art movement [ . ] It 's not just about one song . "

= = Composition = =

Musically , the album drew influences from late 1970s glam rock musicians such as David Bowie and Queen . Gaga incorporated their glam @-@ rock sound while devising catchy pop melodies and hooks to create what she has dubbed , " theatrical pop " . Songs like " Poker Face " , " Just Dance " and " LoveGame " are uptempo dance songs , with " Poker Face " carrying a dark sound with clear vocals on the chorus and a pop hook . " Just Dance " is synth @-@ based while " LoveGame " has a more dance @-@ oriented beat , and " Money Honey " has a moderate techno groove . All of them combined synths of clipped marching beats , sawing electronics and contained mild R & B @-@ infused beats . " Paparazzi " carried a sultry beat while " Summerboy " had influences of the music of Blondie . " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " is credited as a ballad compared to the rest of the dance @-@ fueled tracks from The Fame . The song has a 1980s synthpop feeling in it , while incorporating the " Eh , Eh " hook from Rihanna 's single " Umbrella " ( 2007 ) .

Lyrically , the songs on The Fame talk about being famous and achieving popularity ; " Poker Face " is about sexual innuendo and teasing . Gaga explained in an interview with the Daily Star that the lyrics carry a bit of an undertone of confusion about love and sex . According to the BBC , the " Mum @-@ mum @-@ mum @-@ mah " hook used in the song is copied from Boney M 's 1977 hit " Ma Baker " . " Just Dance " talks about being intoxicated in a party , with lyrics like " What 's going on on the floor ? / I love this record , baby but I can 't see straight anymore " . " LoveGame " portrays a message about love , fame and sexuality which is akin to the central theme of album . " Paparazzi " portrays a stalker who is following somebody being his or her biggest fan . The lyrics also portray the desire of capturing the attention of the camera as well as achieving fame . Gaga explained that , " This idea of The Fame runs through and through . Basically , if you have nothing ? no money , no fame ? you can still feel beautiful and dirty rich . It 's about making choices , and having references ? things you pull from your life that you believe in . It 's about self @-@ discovery and being creative . The record is slightly focused , but it 's also eclectic . [ ... ] The music is intended to inspire people to feel a certain way about themselves , so they 'll be able to encompass , in their own lives , a sense of inner fame that they can project to the world , and the carefree nature of the album is a reflection of that aura . I like to funnel interesting ideas to the rest of the world through a pop lens . "

= = Critical reception = =

The Fame received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 71 , based on 13 reviews . Matthew Chisling from Allmusic called the album " a well @-@

crafted sampling of feisty anti @-@ pop in high quality " , and wrote that it " fails to come up short on funky sounds to amuse fans of this dance genre . " Nicole Powers of URB complimented its " irony @-@ laden lyrics , delivered in a style that owes a little something to Gwen Stefani , " as well as the album 's " deluxe ditties " . Mikael Wood of Entertainment Weekly called it " remarkably ( and exhaustingly ) pure in its vision of a world in which nothing trumps being beautiful , dirty , and rich . In this economy , though , her high @-@ times escapism has its charms " . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian found it " packing an immensely addictive melody or an inescapable hook , virtually everything sounds like another hit single " , and predicted that it " certainly sounds like it could be big . " Daniel Brockman from The Phoenix wrote that " Gaga ups the ante in terms of catchy songwriting and sheer high @-@ in @-@ the @-@ club @-@ banging @-@ to @-@ the @-@ beat abandon . " Ben Hogwood of musicOMH praised Gaga 's " blend of sassy attitude , metallic beats and sharp , incisive songwriting " , elements which he felt are integral to " creating pop music " .

Although he panned " Eh Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " , " Paper Gangsta " , and " Brown Eyes " , Evan Sawdey of PopMatters called The Fame " a solid dance album " and wrote that " much of the album 's success can be attributed to rising club producer RedOne . " Joey Guerra from the Houston Chronicle felt that although the songs present in the album are not innovative , Gaga deserved credit for bringing real dance music to the mass . Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club felt that the " whole point " of the album is " glitter @-@ laced , dance @-@ inciting energy that bodes well for extended club play " . Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani viewed that Gaga 's lyrics veer between " cheap " and " nonsensical drivel " , while her singing is " uneven at best " . He added that the highlights such as " Poker Face " , " Starstruck " , " Paper Gangsta " , and " Summerboy " rely " almost solely on their snappy production and sing @-@ along hooks . " Freedom du Lac from The Washington Post criticized the album for lacking originality . MSN Music 's Robert Christgau gave the album an " honorable mention " and quippedly referred to it as " shallowness at its most principled . " The Fame garnered five Grammy nominations at the 52nd Grammy Awards on December 2 , 2009 . The album itself was nominated for Album of the Year and won Best Electronic / Dance Album .

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , The Fame debuted at number seventeen on the Billboard 200 with sales of 24 @,@ 000 on the issue dated November 15 , 2008 . After fluctuating down the charts , the album reached number ten on the issue dated March 7 , 2009 . It then reached a peak of number two on the chart . The album also topped Billboard 's Dance / Electronic Albums chart ; it stayed at the number @-@ one spot for 106 non @-@ consecutive weeks . In March 2010 , the album was certified three @-@ times platinum for shipments of three million copies , by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . With the release of The Fame Monster , which was also combined with The Fame as a deluxe edition , the album jumped from 34 to 6 on the Billboard 200 with sales of 151 @,@ 000 . It reached its highest sales week on the issue dated January 9 , 2010 with 169 @,@ 000 copies sold . On the issue dated January 16 , 2010 , The Fame moved to a new peak of two on the Billboard 200 after being on the charts for 62 weeks . By the end of 2009 , The Fame became the fifth best @-@ selling album of the year . The Fame has sold 4 @.@ 7 million copies in the United States as of April 2016 and is the seventh best @-@ selling digital album , selling 1 @.@ 086 million digital copies .

In Canada , the album reached number @-@ one , and has been certified seven times platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) for shipment of 560 @,@ 000 copies , and sold 476 @,@ 000 copies as of March 2011 . The album debuted at number six , and peaked at number two in New Zealand as well as being certified double platinum . In Australia , the album debuted at number twelve and peaked at number three . The album has been certified three times platinum in Australia , by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipments of 210 @,@ 000 copies .

The Fame debuted in the United Kingdom at number three with first week sales of 25 @,@ 228 copies . After spending ten weeks in the top ten , it replaced Ronan Keating 's Songs for My Mother

at the top position . Since then , the album spent four consecutive weeks at the number @-@ one spot . It has since been certified nine @-@ times platinum by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) , and has sold 2 @,@ 896 @,@ 724 copies as of September 2014 . It has also become the first album to reach the platinum certification based on digital sales after selling 300 @,@ 000 units in the UK . The album is the ninth best @-@ selling album in the UK of the 21st century .

In France , The Fame debuted at number @-@ seventy @-@ three and reached a peak at number @-@ two for five weeks . It has been certified diamond status by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique and , as of February 2012 , has sold 630 @,@ 000 copies . In Ireland , the album entered the charts at number @-@ eight , and in its fifth week climbed to number @-@ one for two consecutive weeks . In mainland Europe , the album peaked at number one on the European Top 100 Albums , the Austrian Albums Chart and the German Album Chart . In Germany , it became the fourth most downloaded album ever . It also reached the top twenty in Mexico , Belgium , the Czech Republic , Denmark , Finland , Greece , Hungary , Italy , the Netherlands , Norway , Poland , Russia , and Switzerland and the album has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide .

= = Promotion = =

To promote the album , Gaga did several performances worldwide . Her first televised appearance was on Logo 's NewNowNext Awards on June 7 , 2008 . She also performed on Michalsky StyleNite at Berlin Fashion Week , So You Think You Can Dance , Jimmy Kimmel Live ! , The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , as well as in Vietnam for the 57th Miss Universe beauty pageant during the swimsuit competition . On January 31 , 2009 , she performed on television in Ireland on RTÉ One 's show Tubridy Tonight . Three songs from The Fame were used in the second season of The CW 's series Gossip Girl : " Paparazzi " in the episode " Summer , Kind of Wonderful " , " Poker Face " in " The Serena Also Rises " , and " Money Honey " in " Remains of the J " . Gaga also performed " Poker Face " on American Idol on April 1 , 2009 . To celebrate the launch of the show Dirty Sexy Money , ABC created a music video of Gaga 's song " Beautiful , Dirty , Rich " , directed by Melina Matsoukas . It was initially announced as Gaga 's second single , but " Poker Face " was chosen instead . There were two videos released for the song ? the first was composed of clips from Dirty Sexy Money , and the second was the actual music video . The song charted on the UK Singles Chart due to digital downloads and peaked at number eighty @-@ three .

The album received further promotion from her first headlining concert tour The Fame Ball Tour , which started on March 12 , 2009 in San Diego , California . It was Gaga 's first concert tour with North American shows in March , followed by dates in Oceania and a solo trek through Europe . Dates in Asia soon followed , as well as two performances at England 's V Festival and two shows in North America that had been postponed from April . Gaga described the tour as a traveling museum show incorporating artist Andy Warhol 's pop @-@ performance art concept . Tickets were distributed for charity also . Alternate versions of the show with minimal variations were planned by Gaga to accommodate different venues .

The show consisted of four segments , with each segment being followed by a video interlude to the next segment , and it ended with an encore . The set list consisted of songs from The Fame only . Gaga appeared on the stage in new costumes including an innovative dress made entirely of bubbles and premiered an unreleased song called " Future Love " . An alternate set list with minor changes was performed for European dates . The show received positive critical appreciation with critics complimenting her vocal clarity and fashion sense as well as her ability to pull off theatrics like a professional artist . Gaga 's second headlining tour , The Monster Ball Tour was also heavily consistent with songs from The Fame album , besides tracks from the follow @-@ up EP , The Fame Monster . Her 3rd concert tour , " The Born This Way Ball " had 4 songs off The Fame as well .

= = Singles = =

" Just Dance " was released as the album 's lead single commercially worldwide on June 17 , 2008

, through digital distribution . The song was critically acclaimed with reviewers complimenting its club anthem @-@ like nature and the synthpop associated with it . It 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 sixteen other countries . 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 " .

" Poker Face " was released as the second single from the album . It was also well received by the critics , most of whom have praised the robotic hook and the chorus . The single achieved greater success than " Just Dance " by topping the charts in almost all the countries it was released to . " Poker Face " became Gaga 's second consecutive number one on the Hot 100 . On December 2 , 2009 , " Poker Face " received three Grammy nominations in the categories of Song of the Year , Record of the Year , and won for Best Dance Recording .

" Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " was the album 's third single in Australia , New Zealand , Sweden and Denmark and fourth in France . The song received mixed reviews . Some critics compared it to nineties Europop while the others criticized it for bringing the party @-@ like nature of the album to a halt and thus being an embarrassment to the album . It failed to match the success of the previous singles in Australia and New Zealand by reaching fifteen and nine respectively . It peaked at two in Sweden and at seven in France .

" LoveGame " was released as the third single in the United States , Canada and some European nations . It was the fourth single in Australia , New Zealand , and the United Kingdom . The song was critically appreciated for its catchy tune and the " I wanna take a ride on your disco stick " hook . The song has reached the top ten in countries such as the United States , Australia and Canada and the top twenty in others .

" Paparazzi " was announced as the third single in the United Kingdom and Ireland with a release date of July 6 , 2009 , the fourth single in the United States , and the fifth single overall . The song has reached the top five in Australia , Canada , Ireland and the United Kingdom . It has also reached the top ten in the United States . The song has received critical acclaim for its fun @-@ filled , club @-@ friendly nature and is deemed the most memorable and telling song from the album . The associated music video for the song was shot as a mini @-@ movie with Gaga starring as a doomed starlet who is almost killed by her boyfriend , but in the end takes her revenge and reclaims her fame and popularity .

= = The Fame Monster = =

Originally intended to be a re @-@ release of The Fame with eight additional tracks , The Fame Monster was announced by Gaga and her record label as a standalone album containing the eight new songs . The deluxe edition of the album contains The Fame in its entirety along with The Fame Monster . The album deals with the darker side of fame , as experienced by Gaga over the course of 2008 ? 09 while travelling around the world , and are expressed through a monster metaphor . Gaga compared the feel of her debut album and The Fame Monster with the Yin and yang concept . Cover artwork was done by Hedi Slimane and has a gothic look which Gaga had to convince her record company to allow her to shoot . The composition takes its inspiration from Gothic music and fashion shows . Contemporary critics gave a positive review of the album , with the majority of them complimenting the songs " Bad Romance " , " Telephone " , and " Dance in the Dark " . In some countries the album charted together with The Fame while in others like the United States , Canada and Japan , it charted as a separate album . It has reached top ten in most of the major markets . She announced The Monster Ball Tour supporting the album , which started on November 27 , 2009 , and continued through until Spring 2011 .

= = Track listing and formats = =

Notes

^ a signifies an additional co @-@ producer

= = Credits and personnel = =

#### Management

Recorded at Record Plant and Chalice Recording Studios , Los Angeles ; Cherrytree Recording Studios , Santa Monica ; 150 Studios , Parsippany ; Poe Boy Studios , Miami ; 333 Studios and Dojo Studios , New York ; New Road Studios

#### Personnel

Credits and personnel adapted from The Fame liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =