

= Video Phone (song) =

" Video Phone " is a song by American singer Beyoncé from her third studio album , I Am ... Sasha Fierce (2008) . The track was released as the eighth single from the album . A remixed version featuring Lady Gaga was released later . Musically , the song consists of simple lyrics and hidden innuendos , with Gaga and Beyoncé trading verses with each other , in the remix . The lyrics refer to putting up a show on camera .

The song received generally mixed reviews from most of the critics , who noted that Gaga 's featured appearance failed to add anything to the tune . The original version charted in the lower regions of the charts of Australia and its Urban chart , Spain , United Kingdom and on the US R & B charts . The remixed version charted at sixty @-@ five on the Billboard Hot 100 , and topped the Hot Dance Club Songs chart . It also charted in Australia and its Urban chart , the Czech Republic , New Zealand , while it bubbled under the main charts of Belgium .

A music video was created to accompany the song featuring Gaga . It portrayed her and Knowles in a number of costumes , brandishing colorful guns towards men and paying homage to the film Reservoir Dogs and pinup legend Bettie Page . It received mixed feedback from critics who called it un @-@ interesting , and felt that it did not present anything new . However , they complimented the costumes and the cinematic homage of the video . The video went on to win the BET award for Video of the Year .

= = Background and composition = =

" Video Phone " was written by Beyoncé Knowles , Shondrae Crawford , Sean Garrett and Lady Gaga in the remixed version . It was produced by Bangladesh , The Pen and Knowles . Initially , " Video Phone " was sent to US urban contemporary radios on September 22 , 2009 . The release was later recalled and in October 2009 , Life & Style reported that Knowles and pop singer Lady Gaga were collaborating for a remixed version of the song . The remixed version featured both Knowles and Lady Gaga trading verses with one another . The remixed version of the song that features Lady Gaga was included on the 2009 deluxe edition of I Am ... Sasha Fierce .

Musically , " Video Phone " is a crunk song . According to the sheet music published at Sheetmusicplus.com by Hal Leonard Corporation , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate groove tempo of 120 beats per minute and in the key of A minor . It consists of simple lyrics , with hidden innuendos , and is backed by thin @-@ spread beats ; Knowles and Gaga uttering gasps and groans while singing the song . Chris Willman from Yahoo ! said that the lyrics are a reference to " celebration of Skype sex and putting on a solo show , on camera , for a guy you just met at the club . "

The female protagonist sings how she will dance for a man , while he is filming her with his videophone , this being illustrated in the line , " Press ' record ' and I 'll let you film me " , and " You want me naked ? If you like this position you can tape it " . According to James Reed of The Boston Globe the lines " What ? You want me naked / If you likin ' this position , you can tape it " are sung with an accent which was " part Long Island , part Barbados " . Michaelangelo Matos of The A.V. Club commented that " Video Phone " is very similar to Missy Elliott 's songs . Rolling Stone 's Christian Hoard and The Washington Post 's J. Freedom du Lac found similarities between " Video Phone " and the songs by rock band Nine Inch Nails . San Francisco Chronicle 's Aidin Vaziri noted that the song sounded like it was swiped from Björk .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received mixed reviews . Alexis Petridis from The Guardian compared the song to " Diva " , stating that " Video Phone " is " Almost equally weird , but much better , [and it] introduces us to the unlikely figure of Beyoncé Knowles , amateur pornographer : ' You want me naked ? If you like this position you can tape it . ' She doesn 't make for the world 's most believable Reader 's Wife , but it doesn 't matter , because the spare , eerie backdrop of groans and echoing electronics is so

thrilling . " A writer of Rolling Stone said that Knowles sings in a " dirty groove on the slippery " song . Colin Mcguire from PopMatters wrote that " ' Video Phone ' is sexy enough to the point where it almost becomes uncomfortable to think of her listening back to this with her father in the room . " Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine commented that the song ended the album abruptly . Daniel Brockman of The Phoenix noted that the song was " smutty " for an artist like Knowles . J. Freedom du Lac of The Washington Post chose the song as a highlight on I Am ... Sasha Fierce saying , " The moaning , groaning ' Video Phone ' positions Beyoncé as the star of a sex tape set to a thrillingly spare soundtrack that sounds like a Nine Inch Nails instrumental . " A negative review for the song was given by Bernard Zuel of The Sydney Morning Herald who described it as " awful " .

For the collaboration , Fraser McAlpine from BBC Radio 1 reviewed the song negatively , writing : " So anyway , this brings me to ' Video Phone ' ? and what exactly is the point of Gaga featuring in this song ? I know Beyoncé fans won 't like me saying this , but I can 't help but think that in this instance it 's a case of ' if you can 't beat em , join em ' [...] For someone as naturally brilliant as Beyoncé (and a better singer than Gaga and Rihanna put together) , perhaps she should actually stop trying so hard and do what she does best - singing proper songs . " Chris Willman from Yahoo ! compared the song to Gaga 's " Telephone " , where Knowles appears as a featured artist , and wrote that " Maybe it 's because the lack of a video for Gaga 's " Telephone " leaves more to the imagination , but if this were a contest , I 'd have to say her tune trumps Beyoncé 's . [...] [Her] greatest promises of unbridled exhibitionism can 't quite make the genre feel fresh . " The New York Times ' Jon Caramanica commented that " Video Phone " and " Telephone " , " promised a new direction , but all Beyoncé did was show up to prove she could out @-@ Gaga Gaga , then return to her comfort zone . " Kyle Anderson of MTV , felt that " Gaga got a bit lost in the mix " of " Video Phone " . David Balls of the website Digital Spy gave a negative review for the remix version , grading it two out of five stars . He further commented ,

" Needless to say , the pair work their superstar pulling power for all it 's worth . Over sparse and eerie beats , they deliver innuendo @-@ laced lyrics , groan near @-@ orgasmically and generally tease us with the prospect of doing all sorts of naughty things on , well , your video phone . While the promo clip offers some of the intended thrill , the track itself - single number eight from I Am ... - lacks the sparkle of previous offerings . It may provide a brief rush of excitement to the loins , but ultimately leaves you feeling fluffed rather than fully @-@ serviced by the twosome . "

On The Village Voice 's 2009 Pazz & Jop singles list , " Video Phone " was ranked at number 307 .

= = Chart performance = =

After the album 's release in 2008 , the song charted on the US Bubbling Under R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . Upon release as a single in 2009 , it debuted at number 70 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart and eventually peaked at 37 . With " Video Phone " , I Am ... Sasha Fierce became the first album of the 21st century to have seven entries on this chart , following " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " , " If I Were a Boy " , " Diva " , " Halo " , " Ego " and " Sweet Dreams " . On the week ending December 12 , 2009 , the extended remix of " Video Phone " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 65 , becoming the lowest peaking song from the album . The song sold 28 @,@ 000 digital downloads , 93 % of which were for the extended remix though radio stations preferred to spin the original album version . " Video Phone " also became Knowles ' fourteenth number @-@ one Hot Dance Club Songs chart @-@ topper . It is also her sixth consecutive chart @-@ topped . According to Nielsen SoundScan , the combined versions of " Video Phone " has sold 287 @,@ 000 copies as of June 2010 .

In Australia , the original version of the song , debuted at 89 and peaked at 66 on the ARIA Singles Chart . The remixed version debuted at 40 on November 30 , 2009 and peaked at 31 the next week . The original and the remixed version , respectively , both peaked at 29 on the ARIA Urban Chart . In New Zealand , the remixed version debuted at 33 and peaked at 32 after two weeks . In the United Kingdom , the original version of " Video Phone " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at 91 , and peaked at 58 . The original and remixed version peaked on the UK R & B Chart at 21 and 36 respectively . Across Europe , the remixed version of the song charted in Spain and outside the

official charts in Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia) . In the Czech Republic , the extended remix of " Video Phone " debuted at thirty @-@ nine on issue date February 17 , 2010 .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and concept = =

A music video for the extended remix of " Video Phone " was directed by Hype Williams , along with producer Cisco Newman and art director Lenny Tso . On October 15 , 2009 , a spokesperson for Williams confirmed to MTV , that reports of Gaga and Beyoncé working on the music video together were true . It was shot at Brooklyn 's Greenpoint neighborhood , under tight security . The artists were reported to be wearing fashionable dresses , with Knowles in " a feathered dress " and Gaga sporting " something wild " . In an interview with New York 's Z100 radio station , Gaga further commented on her collaboration with Knowles , for the music video . She said , " When I was doing her video with her , she called me and she said , ' What do you want to do ? ' [...] And I 'm like , ' I don 't want to show up in some frickin ' hair bow and be fashion Gaga in your video . ' I said , ' I want to do you . ' [...] I want to do my version of Beyoncé . So the whole time I was learning the choreography they were calling me Gee @-@ yoncé . " Later , during an interview with MTV News , she explained :

" What I was excited about is with B [eyoncé] , I had no ego . Neither of us had an ego . It wasn 't about competition . It was about , like , ' Man let 's give the world what they want . Let 's do a real girl @-@ power collaboration where we support one another . ' I said , ' I want to do you in your video , and I want to tribute you . I want to dress up like you ' . And Hype Williams ... was so excited . He was like , ' Gaga I want no makeup on your face . ' It was really stripped down ? real Beyoncé hair , and we wore the same outfit in the video , and I [paid tribute to] her . [...] I wanted to [work with her] because this was an era for her in her career where she defined herself aesthetically . And that should be applauded that a woman did that . She 's so great at what she does . "

The video was initially set to premiere on November 5 , 2009 but did not actually premiere until November 17 , 2009 . Two previews of the video were posted online one day before its official release , on November 16 , 2009 .

= = Synopsis = =

The video begins with Knowles walking down an alley , accompanied by several men in suits , an homage to Quentin Tarantino 's 1992 film Reservoir Dogs . As the main section of the song begins , cameras zoom in on Knowles as she dances in a black and white latex leotard while holding sunglasses with hand signals on them . When the first verse begins , Knowles seductively dances for two men who have cameras as heads . Another scene shows her teasing men with futuristic toy guns while wearing a skin @-@ colored latex top . During Gaga 's verse , she and Knowles appear wearing white leotards ; they both sing to the camera while shooting more toy guns in open fire . Knowles next brandishes a bow and fires arrows at a cameraman who 's strapped to a rotating dart board . She and Gaga , now in front of a white backdrop , perform a synchronized dance together , with Gaga wearing a pair of yellow Louboutins heels . Knowles then appears dressed as an homage to Bettie Page , while handling several different firearms . Throughout the video , the two singers fire their guns and arrows at men . The video ends with Knowles shooting a gun while perched upon a stationary motorcycle and surrounded by images from the start of the video .

= = Reception = =

James Montgomery from MTV commented that " it 's a little surprising that the just @-@ released clip for Beyoncé 's ' Video Phone ' has nary a flame or fish @-@ eye shot (there are , of course , plenty of outlandish costumes) . However , don 't make the mistake of thinking this video is by any

means straightforward ? it 's plenty WTF ! [...] It 's definitely not the Gaga we 're used to seeing , but her appearance isn 't exactly run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill , either . And neither is this video , for that matter . Especially not when you 're watching Beyoncé snap her gum and shake her hips and grope an AK @-@ 47 while the screen pops from electric green to Kool @-@ Aid red . " Jocelyn Vena of the same publication noted , " The clip is charged with energy , and the cynics out there might wonder if putting two sizzling divas in a room together created any kind of rivalry . " Jim Farber from New York 's Daily News compared Knowles ' look to that of pin @-@ up model Bettie Page , and said " The clip for ' Video Phone ' [...] doesn 't offer much in the way of chemistry or even interaction between the two divas . [The] clip seems about as innovative as a rotary dial up . " Daniel Kreps from Rolling Stone commented that the video was an " almost seizure @-@ inducing parade of cinematic homages and wardrobe changes . " He also compared Knowles ' look to Page , as well as Katy Perry and rapper M.I.A. The Daily Mail gave a positive review of the video , calling it avant @-@ garde and naughty .

New York magazine 's Amy Odell commented that " The intricacy of her [Knowles '] wardrobe [in the video] suggests she 's feeling the Gaga pressure . " She further added : " In a burgeoning phenomenon we might call the Gaga Effect , divas everywhere may feel the pressure to push avant @-@ garde fashion to the max to keep up with the pantsless wonder . Beyoncé 's fashion efforts in ' Video Phone ' ? which make her epic diva money fan a mere distant memory ? deserve a look @-@ by @-@ look analysis , because she tried really hard . " In another review , she said " Together they play with colored fire @-@ spitting water guns and look like the best of diva friends . " Entertainment Weekly 's Leah Greenblatt commented that the video was " B [eyoncé] ' s show ? La [dy] Gaga 's just guesting in it . " Greenblatt also praised the fashion designs used in the video and the Bettie Page " vibes " . Spin 's Chris Zakorchemny felt that Gaga " does her best Beyonce impression " in the video for the song . However , he said that " Even with Gaga involved , the Hype Williams @-@ produced video doesn 't veer too much into the weird ; it 's certainly not Gaga @-@ setting @-@ men @-@ on @-@ fire weird . " Margaret Wappler of The Arizona Republic praised the video saying that it had " electrifying color schemes and high @-@ shine lighting , resulting in a fantastical pop mirage between Lady Gaga and Beyonce " . She further called it a " kinetic spectacle to behold , with enough guns to make Ted Nugent weep with jealousy and some hot Bettie Page bangs on Beyonce that should prompt plenty of ladies to run to the hairdresser " . Wappler finished her review by concluding that " the whole video has a distinct and not unpleasant 90s vibe . " Francesca Stabile of The Village Voice gave a positive review for the video praising the outfits used in the video and the " oversized sequined sweater that makes an appearance toward the end " .

= = = Achievements = = =

The music video ranked at ninety @-@ nine on BET : Notarized Top 100 Videos of 2009 countdown . In 2010 , the music video of " Video Phone " received a nomination at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards Japan , in the category of " Best Collaboration Video " . The video received two nominations at the 2010 BET Awards for " Video of the Year " and for " Best Collaboration " , winning the former category on April 27 , 2010 . On August 3 , 2010 , the video received five nominations at the 2010 MTV Video Music Awards , in the categories of Best Choreography , Best Collaboration , Best Pop Video , Best Female Video and Best Art Direction .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from I Am ... Sasha Fierce liner notes .

Beyoncé ? Primary artist , producer

Lady Gaga ? Featured artist , extended remix

Tom Coyne ? Mastering

Mark " Spike " Stent - Mixing Engineer
Jim Caruana ? Vocal Engineer
Eddy Schreyer ? Mastering , extended remix
William " Vybe Chyle " Burke ? Mixing Engineer , extended remix
Mathew Knowles ? Executive producer
Miles Walker ? Engineer
Bangladesh ? Producer
Phlex ? choreographer

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =