

= LoveGame =

" LoveGame " is a song by American singer Lady Gaga from her debut album , The Fame ( 2008 ) . Produced by RedOne , the track was released as the album 's third single in North America and Europe and the fourth single in Australia , New Zealand , and Sweden after " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " . " LoveGame " was also released as the fourth single in the United Kingdom , after " Paparazzi " .

Critics appreciated the song 's rhythm and the " I wanna take a ride on your disco stick " hook . Gaga had explained that the term " disco stick " is a euphemism for a penis and was inspired by her sexual attraction to a stranger at a night club . Musically carrying the vibe of underground New York discos , " LoveGame " talks about love , fame , and sexuality which was the central theme of the album . The song received a number of remixes , one of them featuring rocker Marilyn Manson . " LoveGame " was a commercial success , charting within the top ten in the United States , Australia , New Zealand , Canada , France , Germany , and other European countries . It became Gaga 's third consecutive number @-@ one song on the Billboard Pop Songs chart and achieved double platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America .

The New York underground inspired music video for the song was directed by Joseph Kahn , and portrayed Gaga dancing at an underground subway station and in a parking lot . The music video was a tribute from the singer to the New York lifestyle including its glamour , fans and fashion . It was influenced by the music video for Michael Jackson 's " Bad " , which also took place in a subway station . The music video was banned from broadcast at the PG rated time slots in Australian television channels because of its sexual content . " LoveGame " has been performed live a number of times by Gaga , including The Fame Ball and The Monster Ball tours , where she performed it while holding her characteristic disco stick in one hand .

= = Background and release = =

Towards the end of 2007 , Lady Gaga 's management company introduced her to songwriter and producer RedOne , whom they also managed . By 2008 , Gaga relocated to Los Angeles in order to work extensively with her record label to complete her debut album , The Fame , and set up her own creative team called the Haus of Gaga . " LoveGame " was one of the songs written by Gaga and RedOne who also produced the track . With Rolling Stone , Gaga explained that she was at a nightclub and had a " sexual crush " on somebody . She went up to the person and uttered the line , " I wanna ride on your disco stick " . Thinking it to be a thoughtful metaphor for penis , Gaga went to the recording studio the next day and wrote the song in roughly four minutes . Gaga also had ideas for the live performance of the song where she used " an actual stick ? it looks like a giant rock @-@ candy pleasuring tool ? that lights up " .

While commenting in regards to the lyrical content of the song on Australian talk show , Rove , Gaga said that she was unrepentant about her " disco stick " metaphor , though it led to a banning of the music video on Network Ten in Australia . She added that the metaphor was not meant to be subtle and was clear what the lyrics constituted off . " If anything , I happen to think people are frivolously hard on me " , Gaga generalized . She went on to relegate " lot of youth @-@ oriented pop music " as much racier than hers with their sexually provocative lyrics , but Gaga felt that the whole context of her visuals alongside the music was what made people react . " It 's the music in relation to the visual , in relation to the way I move and the way I articulate the lyrics . But if I wanted to make music to make people sing ' la di da ' that would be very boring , " she concluded .

" LoveGame " was released as the album 's third single in North America and Europe and the fourth single in Australia , New Zealand , and Sweden after " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " . In the US it was sent to Contemporary hit radio ( CHR ) formats for airplay from May 12 , 2009 . The track initially had been planned as the third single release in the United Kingdom , but deeming its lyrics and music video potentially controversial , it was decided that " Paparazzi " would be released instead . " LoveGame " has received a number of remix treatments , one of which featured rocker Marilyn Manson in the vocals . Rolling Stone reported that the remix was conceived during Gaga 's

photoshoot with the magazine in May 2009 , when Manson arrived at the set . The rocker was impressed by the shoot and wanted to collaborate with Gaga , saying that " she 's a great musician , she 's a great singer , and she 's laughing when she 's doing it , the same way that I am " . In return , Gaga also lent vocals for a remix of a song from Manson 's seventh studio album , The High End of Low .

= = Recording and composition = =

" LoveGame " was recorded at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood and Chalice Recording Studios , Los Angeles , California . Along with the production work of the track , RedOne also contributed to its background vocals , instrumentation , programming , audio engineering and recording . Other personnel involved in creating the final version of the song included Robert Orton who did the audio mixing , and Gene Grimaldi who mastered the song at Oasis Mastering , Burbank , California .

Musically , " LoveGame " is an uptempo electro and R & B song . According to Kerri Mason of Billboard , the composition has a vibe of the New York downtown musical scene , but has a more mainstream appeal to it , making it perfect for radio , " without losing its smut and sass " . The song does not have a massive sound like previous single " Poker Face " , nor has a big melody like subsequent single , " Paparazzi " . Instead the composition of the song is electro @-@ R & B , consisting of big beats and a number of hooks , with Gaga repeating the word " huh ! " from time to time .

Gaga explained that the lyrics of " LoveGame " were clear about what the song is all about . She thought that the lyrics portrayed a powerful message about love , fame , and sexuality which was the central theme of The Fame . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " LoveGame " is set in the time signature of common time and is composed in the key of B minor with a moderate tempo of 104 beats per minute . Gaga 's vocal range spans from B3 to G5 . It follows in the chord progression of Am ? Dm ? C ? Am ? Dm ? C in the first two verse and chorus while progressing as Am ? Dm ? Am ? Dm in the intermediate verse before the final chorus .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received mostly positive reviews from critics . The Phoenix music editor Daniel Brockman said that " Gaga ups the ante in terms of catchy song writing and sheer high @-@ in @-@ the @-@ club @-@ banging @-@ to @-@ the @-@ beat abandon . " He also commented on the lyrics saying that " ' Let 's have some fun , this beat is sick / I wanna take a ride on your disco stick ' might be the trashiest @-@ yet @-@ awesomest refrain I 've heard on a major @-@ label record this year . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine criticized the song for " cheap " lyrics and " painfully enunciat [ ing ] without any resemblance of actual sex appeal " . While reviewing The Fame , BBC said that the song sounded robotic in the line " I wanna take a ride on your disco stick " , though deemed it a brilliant track which " leaves us awarding Gaga the yearbook title of ' pop star most likely to kill ' . "

Nick Levine from Digital Spy believed that lines like " I wanna take a ride on your disco stick " was a direct reason of Gaga 's commercial success . Although he felt that the song was " attention @-@ seeking " , he knew that it would provoke reaction from the masses , be it good or bad . Genevieve Koski from The A.V. Club called the song as a " propulsive club anthem " and complimented its synths and drum programming . She described it aurally as " a dizzying sonic trip that approximates the high point of a chemically enhanced night of club @-@ hopping . " Evan Sawdey from PopMatters complimented RedOne 's production of the song , listing it as one of the best tracks on The Fame .

Ben Hogwood from musicOMH declared the song as " top notch , diamond @-@ encrusted pop " along with other tracks like " Starstruck " and " Paparazzi " . He found the lyrics to be sometimes odd , especially the statement , " I 'm on a mission , and it involves some heavy touchin ' . " Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe said that the song " has a gutter level quippage with sinuous moves " . Priya Elan from The Times was not impressed with the song and called it calculated . Billboard

music editor Chris Williams gave the song a positive review , commenting that " It has all the winning ingredients of its predecessors : a radio @-@ friendly , club / electropop feel ; a provocative , yet silly enough catchphrase and hook ; and a dash of ' 80s synth magic , so the adults can play along . On ' LoveGame ' Gaga is in it to win it . "

While reviewing The Fame on its fifth year anniversary , Bradley Stern from Idolator noted that " LoveGame " could " easily be erased from Gaga 's back catalog with little consequence " since he felt it to be nothing more than an " electro @-@ dance " track . But Stern believed that " LoveGame " was an important component of Gaga 's career trajectory , since it was the last testament of her image as " that of the disco @-@ stick wielding pop star from out of space " ? the image was later deconstructed as the doomed starlet in the music video of " Paparazzi " . He concluded by saying that the song " is a wonderful moment of pop frivolity which served to keep the upstart Lady Gaga machine chugging along at the beginning of her career . "

= = Chart performance = =

Following its release , " LoveGame " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 96 for the week ending April 4 , 2009 , but fell off the chart the following week . After six weeks it reached number six on the Hot 100 by selling 107 @,@ 000 digital downloads and becoming the week 's greatest digital gainer . Two weeks later , " LoveGame " peaked at number five on the chart . It reached number @-@ one on the Hot Dance Club Songs , and also became Gaga 's third number @-@ one on the Mainstream Top 40 chart . The Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) certified " LoveGame " double platinum for shipment of two million copies across United States . It has sold 2 @,@ 630 @,@ 000 paid digital downloads in the United States as of April 2016 , according to Nielsen Soundscan .

In Canada , the song debuted on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 68 before its official release as a single . Its second appearance was on the chart of January 10 , 2009 , at number 87 . After a few weeks , " LoveGame " entered the top ten of the Canadian Hot 100 and climbed to number five . After fluctuating down the chart for a few weeks " LoveGame " reached a new peak of two on the chart . The song was certified double platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association ( CRIA ) in June 2009 , for sales of 160 @,@ 000 paid digital downloads .

In Australia , the song debuted at number 92 on the ARIA Charts , and then moved up the charts to number 41 the next week . On the issue dated May 11 , 2009 , the song peaked at number four , becoming Gaga 's third top five single there . " LoveGame " was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipment of 70 @,@ 000 copies of the single . In New Zealand , the song debuted at number thirty @-@ six and moved up to a peak of number 12 . The Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) certified it gold for shipment of 7 @,@ 500 copies of the single . On the issue dated March 6 , 2009 , the song entered the Irish Singles Chart at number 49 and peaked at number 30 , after eight weeks on the chart . It also debuted at number 19 in Finland and has since moved to a peak of number 12 .

In early 2009 , the song charted on the UK Singles Chart and peaked at number 89 based on downloads only . It re @-@ entered the chart at number 64 after the release of the single was announced , and peaked at 19 , becoming her lowest @-@ charting single in the UK at that time . The British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) certified it silver , for sales of 200 @,@ 000 copies . In the Netherlands the song debuted at number 28 and has peaked at number five . The song debuted at number six in France and moved to its peak of number five the next week . It debuted at numbers 19 and 38 on the Belgian Ultratop Flanders and Wallonia charts respectively . In Flanders it has reached a peak of six , while in Wallonia it moved to a peak of five . " LoveGame " also reached a peak of number seven on the Billboard European Hot 100 Singles chart .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and development = =

The music video of " LoveGame " was directed by Joseph Kahn and premiered on March 23 , 2009 , in Australia , and on August 13 , 2009 , at UK on 4Music channel . The video mainly takes place in a subway station , hence several scenes are reminiscent to Michael Jackson 's " Bad " music video , which was also shot in a similar location . Although the production and shooting of " LoveGame " took place in January 2009 alongside the music video for " Eh , Eh ( Nothing Else I Can Say ) " , it nevertheless has a New York City setting .

Gaga spoke to Whitney Pastorek of Entertainment Weekly during a " Behind the Scenes " episode of the shoot , about her inspirations for the video . She wanted to have a " giant " dance video with " LoveGame " , describing it as " plastic , beautiful , gorgeous , sweaty , tar on the floor " . There would be scary and dangerous looking men also in the video . Gaga had the idea of portraying herself and her co @-@ actors as New York inhabitants taking on the role of designers , performance artists , dancers etc . She enlisted people from downtown New York as dancers , who normally would not get cast in a video .

One of the props developed for the video was a pair of sunglasses made of wire . According to Gaga , she imagined " a downtown , bad @-@ ass kid walking down the street with his buddies , grabbing a pair of pliers , and making a pair of sunglasses out of a fence on the street " . She wore them on the opening shot of the music video along with a chain link hood garment , saying that " they look so hard . It looks like I plied them right out of the fence and put them on my face " .

= = = Synopsis and reception = = =

The video starts with the heading " Streamline presents " and three men moving through Times Square . They open a man @-@ hole cover on which " Haus of Gaga " is written . Gaga is then shown naked with blue and purple paint and glitter on her body , frolicking with two men who have the words " Love " and " Fame " shaved into their heads . The scene shifts to a subway where Gaga starts singing in a grey @-@ white leotard with a hood . She carries her characteristic disco stick and wears chain @-@ linked glasses . The chorus starts with Gaga and her dancers progressing through the subway and dancing down a staircase . Two harlequin Great Danes , are also shown on top of the staircase .

The video shifts to a train where the second verse takes place with choreographed dance routines and Gaga wearing a black jacket . During the intermediate music , Gaga is shown entering a ticket booth with an inspector while kissing and caressing . As the camera pans from right to left the inspector changes from a man to woman in each frame . The final scene shows Gaga doing a choreographed dance routine with her crew of backup dancers . The video comes to an end as Gaga and her dancers hold their groins , gesturing towards the camera .

The music video was censored in many countries after its release in 2009 . The video faced censorship troubles in Australia where it was rated AV18 + by Network Ten for the " suggestive video footage involving bondage and sexual acts " . The channel demanded an edited version of the video which would not violate censorship rules . Video Hits refused to air the video in its G and PG rated time slots . They cited " numerous sexual references both visually and lyrically " as the reason they could not create a child @-@ friendly edit without bleeping the repeated hook " I wanna take a ride on your disco stick " . However , Australian programs like Rage and cable networks Channel V and MTV aired the video in its original form .

The video also faced a ban from MTV Arabia citing the same reason as Australia . Since it was very rare to ban videos in MTV , head of MTV Arabia Samer al Marzouki commented , " We represent the young generation 's mentality and culture so we can 't play something that conflicts with that . If they can 't watch something comfortably with their brother , sisters or friends then we will not play it . " In the United States , VH1 and MTV played an edited version that removed the scenes showing Gaga naked , and blurred the label on a bottle of alcohol held by a dancer , but they did not change the lyrics .

= = Live performances = =

Gaga first performed " LoveGame " live in June 2008 on the Isle of Malta special of MTV Asia . She later performed it on the UK program , The Album Chart Show , on February 4 , 2009 , while promoting The Fame . On March 20 , 2009 , the song was performed live at the AOL Sessions along with Gaga 's other singles such as " Just Dance " , " Paparazzi " , " Beautiful , Dirty , Rich " , and an acoustic version of " Poker Face " . An acoustic version of " LoveGame " was performed at the MTV Sessions in January 2009 .

The song was a major part of Gaga 's Fame Ball tour as the second number of the set list , and was performed alongside album track , " Starstruck " . Gaga wore a silver and black short skirt looking like a tutu and shaped like a peplum . She had a triangular piece attached on the dress on her right breast , and completed her look with high heeled ultra spike shoes . Gaga 's hair was made an austere blond bob , and she accessorized with black sunglasses . Her dancers surrounded the stage , holding plates encrusted with crystals , which completely hid them . As the performance of the opening number " Paparazzi " ended , the plates opened up and Gaga started singing the song " Starstruck " while standing on the platform . Pre @-@ recorded music and mixing were provided in the background by DJ Space Cowboy . Gaga also brought out the disco stick for the performance of " LoveGame " . It ended with Gaga doing a dance routine for the last chorus and coming down to the front of the stage .

On May 17 , 2009 , Gaga performed the song live on Australian talk show , Rove . She also performed the song at the season finale of the eighth season of Dancing with the Stars . A remixed version of " Poker Face " and " LoveGame " was performed at the 2009 MuchMusic Video Awards ( MMVA ) , during the indoor @-@ outdoor street @-@ side show . The performance , which included Gaga being trapped in a fake subway car surrounded by fake police officers , was billed as a tribute to New York City . In 2014 , Toronto Sun listed the performance as the fifth most " jaw @-@ dropping " moment in the history of MMVAs , when Gaga introduced her characteristic " flaming bra " during the song . On September 8 , 2009 , Gaga performed " LoveGame " at the season seven premiere of The Ellen DeGeneres Show . A version featuring a full live band was performed at the thirty @-@ fifth season of American comedy show Saturday Night Live , while wearing a big gyroscope @-@ like contraption that rotated around Gaga .

In late 2009 , " LoveGame " was added to the set list of Gaga 's The Monster Ball Tour . In the original version of the tour , the singer wore an off @-@ white costume with skeletal lighted headgear and breastplates shaped like ribs . A digital background of flames and mechanical fog was featured , with her dancers also wearing skeletal headgear . On the revamped shows of The Monster Ball during 2010 ? 11 , the intro of the song had a video showing Gaga puking green liquid on the white dress of her look @-@ alike . " LoveGame " was introduced during the second act and featured a New York City subway car on stage from which Gaga and her dancers emerged . While wearing a revealing plastic dress and an exaggerated nun 's habit , Gaga wielded the disco stick , which was modified to look like a torch . The performance incorporated the Chew Fu remix of the song which commenced at the end with Gaga asking the audience to dance along with her .

The song was also included on the set list of the 2012 Born This Way Ball tour . The song was shortened and had Gaga performing it in a clear bath tub while wearing a Statue of Liberty styled head piece . Gaga ventured into the crowd during the song , through the extended pathways from the stage and after the performance she invited a fan onstage . Joey Guerra from the Houston Chronicle believed that the appearance of " LoveGame " during the tour proved it to be a far superior track than the ones from Gaga 's second studio album , Born This Way ( 2011 ) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Lady Gaga ? vocals , songwriting , background vocals

RedOne ? songwriting , production , background vocals , instrumentation , programming , audio

engineering , recording at Record Plant Studios , Hollywood and Chalice Recording Studios , Los Angeles , California

Robert Orton ? audio mixing

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

Credits adapted from The Fame album liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =