

= The Virgin Tour =

The Virgin Tour was the debut concert tour by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna . The tour supported her first two studio albums , Madonna (1983) and Like a Virgin (1984) . Although , initially planned for an international audience , the tour was restricted within the United States and Canada only . Warner Bros. decided to send Madonna on the tour , after Like a Virgin became a success . After an official announcement on March 15 , 1985 , Madonna and her team started production plans for it . Madonna wanted the tour to be a reflection of her own self and collaborated with designer Maripol for the costumes . Beastie Boys were signed as the opening act , while record producer Patrick Leonard was signed as the music director for the tour .

The stage was triangular in shape and consisted of ramps around it , with lighting arrangements hanging about 30 feet above the stage . Four giant screens lined the outer perimeter of the stage , on three sides . The set list consisted of songs from Madonna and Like a Virgin ; the songs were performed by Madonna , who was backed by two dancers , as she moved energetically across the stage . The show ended with Madonna in a wedding dress , performing " Like a Virgin " and " Material Girl " .

The Virgin Tour received mixed reception from critics , but was a commercial success . As soon as the tour was announced , tickets were sold everywhere . Macy 's New York department store was flooded with buyers , who bought the tour merchandise , ranging from shirts , sunglasses , the crucifix earrings and fingerless gloves . After its end , the Virgin Tour was reported to have grossed over \$ 5 million (\$ 11 million in 2016 dollars) , with Billboard Boxscore reporting a gross of \$ 3 @. @ 3 million (\$ 7 @. @ 26 million in 2016 dollars) . The tour was recorded and released in VHS , as Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour , and received a gold certification by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . With the commencement of the Virgin Tour , a wide ranging audience ? especially young women ? thronged to attend , attired in Madonna inspired clothing . This frenzy regarding Madonna gave rise to a new term called Madonna wannabe ? a word that was ultimately officially recognized by the Webster 's Dictionary in May 1991 .

= = Background = =

The Virgin Tour was officially announced on March 15 , 1985 , by Warner Bros. Records . Prior to the tour , Madonna 's only live performances were limited to evening shows at Danceteria , CBGB and Mudd Club , and only the 1984 MTV Video Music Awards , where she performed her song " Like a Virgin " . Following the success of the Like a Virgin album , the record label wanted to milk @-@ in the success of the album by sending Madonna on a worldwide tour . However , the tour was restricted within United States and Canada . It did not visit Europe , Asia or other continents . Early on there were plans to schedule dates in Britain and Japan due to Madonna 's large fan bases in both countries , however the final schedule did not reflect the idea . In the end several more U.S. dates were added and the tour was moved to larger concert venues due to overwhelmingly strong ticket sales . Madonna was quite nervous to perform in front of a huge audience , and singing with a live band for the first time . During a 2009 interview with Rolling Stone , interviewer Austin Scaggs asked Madonna regarding her feelings and emotions during the tour , since it was the first time she was playing in arenas . Madonna replied saying ,

" That whole tour was crazy , because I went from playing CBGB and the Mudd Club to playing sporting arenas . I played a small theater in Seattle , and the girls had flap skirts on and the tights cut off below their knees and lace gloves and rosaries and bows in their hair and big hoop earrings . I was like , ' This is insane ! ' After Seattle , all of the shows were moved to arenas . I 've never done a bus tour . Everyone says they are really fun . "

= = Development = =

After the tour was confirmed , Madonna and her troupe started working on it . Madonna wanted it to be " loud and brazen , and a reflection of my street @-@ style and DGAF attitude . " She wanted a

concert where people can enjoy themselves as much as she would enjoy performing . Commenting on the development , Madonna said " I normally hate performances where there is just a singer singing , and a lame @-@ ass band playing in the background ; or shows where there is a rocker screaming his lungs out and jumping on the crowd . That just plain sucks ! That 's why I wanted something different , something that would be memorable . " For the show , Madonna collaborated with her designer friend Maripol for the clothes and the fashion . Maripol operated a small fabric boutique called Maripolitan in Greenwich Village , where the designs and the clothes for the tour were decided by her and Madonna . Rehearsals for the show started in late February , with auditions and choosing the dancers going on in @-@ between . Madonna specifically wanted male back @-@ up dancers , citing that the " provocative moves that I do on stage works better with men beside me . " To further promote the tour , Warner Bros. Entertainers Merchandise Management Corp. introduced the Boy Toy collection , named after the belt buckle Madonna wore on the Like a Virgin album cover picture . It consisted of a rectangular buckle , with the words " Boy " and " Toy " emblazoned on it in gold color . For choosing a music director for the tour , Madonna 's manager Freddy DeMann contacted record producer Patrick Leonard , who had just returned from the Victory Tour by The Jackson 5 . At first Leonard said no , feeling exhausted from the Victory Tour , but after he spoke to Madonna on the phone , he found her charming , and agreed to sign for the tour .

Beastie Boys were signed as the opening act for the tour . Adam " MCA " Yauch of the group recollected : " One day , Russell Simmons , co @-@ founder of Def Jam Recordings , came in and said , ' Hey guess what ? Madonna 's manager called . Do you guys want to go on tour with her ? " DeMann had asked for another group called The Fat Boys , but Simmons did not manage them and lied , saying " Oh , the Fat Boys have another gig that week . What about Run ? D.M.C. ? " But they were too expensive according to DeMann , and hence ultimately Beastie Boys were chosen . Adam " Ad @-@ Rock " Horowitz from the band commented : " It 's not like any of us knew Madonna that much , but we all used to hang out at Danceteria [club] so we knew about each other . I don 't know why she thought it would be a good idea [to open for her tour] , though . It was a terrible idea . But it was great for her in a way because we were so awful that by the time she came onstage , the audience had to be happy . " The circular stage for the tour , consisted of three ramps around the perimeter , which were connected with each other . A long line of stairs descended to the main stage from the central ramp ; it was flanked by the band . About 30 feet above the stage , the speakers were suspended from a circular beam . Four giant screens lined the outer perimeter of the stage , on three sides .

= = Concert synopsis = =

The show opened with Beastie Boys performing six of their songs for 30 minutes . They were accompanied by a DJ who scratched the music , with The Beastie Boys prancing around the stage , making lewd gestures towards the audience . As they finished their performance , the backdrops started displaying Madonna 's images from her music videos . The band ? consisting of guitarists , bassists , a drummer and three synthesizer players ? came into focus , and the music started . Madonna 's voice was heard , saying : " Don 't be afraid ... it 's gonna be alright . " Then , Madonna 's silhouette appeared behind a white screen on top of the stairs as the first beats kicked in . The white screen lifted and she is finally seen , wearing a psychedelic housecoat , a blue see @-@ through crop @-@ top and her characteristic black bra . She also had lacy leggings and crucifixes around her ear and her neck . She posed on the stairs before reaching the microphone to sing " Dress You Up " . After dancing to the last note of the music , Madonna and the two male back @-@ up dancers went to the back of the stage , as the music of " Holiday " began . Taking a moment to ask the audience how they are feeling , Madonna declared , " I was never elected homecoming queen , but I sure feel like one now " , and started the performance of " Into the Groove " , playing a tambourine . A boombox was present on the stage during the performance , Madonna sitting and playing with it , and addressing it as her " box " . She continued with " Everybody " , while asking the audience to clap along with her . As she finished the vigorous performance of " Everybody " , the lights were dimmed and the introduction music of " Angel " started . Rotating lights fell on the stage .

Madonna appeared sitting on top of the stairs and gradually descended . During the intermediate bridge , she and her dancers moved energetically around the whole stage , as white balloons fell on them from above . Madonna continued singing as the lights were dimmed again . She finished the performance and disappeared behind the wings for a costume change . She appeared on the stage wearing a black , fringed micro @-@ top and similar skirt , with her belly @-@ button exposed , and a number of crucifixes in different sizes , hanging from different parts of her body .

As the guitar intro of " Gambler " started , Madonna stood on the side @-@ stage and started dancing energetically , as flashlights fell on her . While singing the song , she sometimes opened her jacket and sometimes straddled a steel structure present on the side of the stage . The performance ended with Madonna jumping off the side stage , onto the main one . She then performed " Borderline " , " Lucky Star " and " Crazy for You " ? while touching the hands of the audience members . Madonna then returned to the microphone and started singing " Over and Over " from Like a Virgin . It was followed by " Burning Up " during which she caressed one of the guitarist , ultimately disappearing for another costume change . As the music of the song " Like a Virgin " started , Madonna returned on the stage , wearing a wedding dress , holding a bouquet in her hand and a long white veil behind her . Accessorized by a white bow atop her head and lacy , three @-@ quarter length gloves , she also had a crucifix on her waistband and another hanging from a long chain around her neck . Madonna asked the audience " Will you marry me ? " When the audience answered affirmatively , she threw the bouquet towards them and started singing the song . Madonna continued singing the song while rolling around the floor , and added a snippet of Michael Jackson 's Motown @-@ style single , " Billie Jean " . Balloons floated out towards the audience again as she pulled apart her veil and threw it towards the audience . She returned to the stage in the arms of one of the backup dancers , wearing a boob tube and a tight white skirt , carrying a bunch of notes in her left hand , and a number of garlands around her neck . In a self @-@ parodying performance of the song " Material Girl " , at the end of the performance Madonna asked the audience " Do you really think I 'm a material girl ? ... I 'm not ... Take it [Throwing fake money] ... I don 't need money ... I need love . " As she began to strip off more clothes and jewelry , she was apprehended and marched offstage by an extra posing as her father . In Detroit , her father Tony Ciccone himself did the honors . The show ended with Madonna returning onstage once more to take her fur coat and doing a curtsy .

= = Critical reception = =

The tour received generally mixed reviews from critics . Jason Stratley from The Philadelphia Inquirer said that " On stage , wiggling and writhing , a rock @-@ video vision of messy , bleached-blond hair , bare skin , sequined paisley and dime store diamonds was the flash @-@ and @-@ trash rock queen Madonna . Behold the Madonna clones ? she is turning into one fine legend . " Jeff Sewald from the Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette felt that " the modus operandi [of the tour] was clear . Madonna was not only selling her music to throngs of teen @-@ agers and adults alike , but she was selling herself and the entire package proved to be a joy for the 14 @-@ 500 screaming fans . [...] Madonna 's ' Virgin Tour ' had torn the cover off Pittsburgh 's sexuality . " Rachel Lee from The Sacramento Bee felt that " more than any pop star in recent memory , even Boy George and Prince , Madonna is an image . Her hour @-@ long concert here Tuesday night , as professionally performed and well @-@ choreographed as it was , did nothing to give her more dimension than the two already bestowed on her . " Arthur Daniels from Lexington Herald @-@ Leader felt that " Madonna looked grim , but the fans were delighted when the blond rock star made her first major concert appearance to kick off her ' Virgin Tour ' . [...] She looked blank and did not look up as she passed fans who gathered by the stage door before the show . "

Robert Hilburn from the Los Angeles Times commented : " Madonna represents a contemporary fantasy figure that revives the glamour , innocence and raw sexuality of many of Madonna 's own teen heroes , including Marilyn Monroe and James Dean . Like the early Monroe , Madonna may portray a bimbo , but there she 's clearly no pushover . Though the audience was on its feet throughout , it often seemed that Madonna was operating beneath her potential in this pop format . It

's important to demonstrate that she can handle herself live , but the simplicity of pop concerts doesn 't begin to tax her ambition or talent . In fact , she has so little to do other than express this aggressive , sexy attitude that the show seemed long at just over an hour . Heidi Sherman from Spin commented , " The Virgin Tour was Madonna 's first , yet it put her in the same league as Prince and Bruce Springsteen . It proved that Madonna was beyond real . And if her stage presence indicated she was more showgirl than musician , at least she knew how to gussy up her act for the postfeminist MTV age . Boy Toy ? Not exactly . She was a bonafide pop star in the process of becoming a cultural icon . "

Laura Fissinger from South Florida Sun @-@ Sentinel felt that " ' Virgin Tour ' establishes Madonna more as a bimbo , rather than the strong , independent woman people think her to be . " David O 'Reilly from Philadelphia Daily News said that with the concert " Madonna proved once more why she was called a ' talentless bimbo ' ; it was utter trash . " Richard Defendorf of Orlando Sentinel gave a positive review , saying " Madonna 's ' Virgin Tour ' was very enjoyable and she put her music video charms in her live performances . " Maya Hathoray from The Miami Herald said that " We know [Madonna is] sexy , exotically beautiful and her funk / pop songs make us want to dance , but on stage , she is extremely tame compared to her raw persona in her music videos . She is like daddy 's little girl . " Mary Edgar Smith from The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution observed that " It was obvious from the apparel of the young girls at last week 's Virgin Tour concerts in Tampa and Orlando , Fla . , that the 26 @-@ year @-@ old singer [Madonna] had more to give to the music world than what others suggest . She will be a force to be reckoned with . " Stephen Holden from The New York Times commented , " While her pubescent lookalike fans cheer approvingly , the star 's manipulation of such symbols as a wedding gown , a cross , furs and jewels becomes a lighthearted communal psychodrama . Madonna has brought traditional little girl 's games of dress @-@ up and playing with dolls (using oneself as model) into the television age by turning them into a public spectacle . " A review in Variety by John Gleeson said that " Madonna 's singing was like a soundtrack to a more visceral display of herself , her persona , her nonstop dancing and her surprisingly explicit sexual dare , which included a visual climax ? so to speak ? to every other song . " Paul Grein from Billboard said that " Madonna 's show was stylish , well @-@ paced and consistently entertaining . "

= = Commercial reception = =

As soon as the tour was announced , tickets were sold out almost everywhere . In San Francisco , tour shirts were selling at a clocked rate of one every six seconds . All 17 @,@ 672 tickets for Madonna 's show at New York City 's Radio City Music Hall were completely sold out in a record @-@ breaking 34 minutes . Both the shows at Chicago 's UIC Pavilion were sold in a single day with a record breaking 18 @,@ 000 tickets being sold . In Philadelphia , record breaking 31 @,@ 000 tickets were sold in under four hours . Along with ticket sales , merchandise associated with the tour also sold rapidly . T @-@ shirts , posters and promo @-@ magazines featuring Madonna 's image were picked up by the fans , even though most them were overpriced compared to the market value . After its end , the Virgin Tour was reported to have grossed over \$ 5 million (\$ 11 million in 2016 dollars) , with Billboard Boxscore reporting a gross of \$ 3 @.@ 3 million (\$ 7 @.@ 26 million in 2016 dollars) .

= = Recordings = =

The 1985 Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour VHS documents a Detroit stop on the tour . " Angel " , " Borderline " and " Burning Up " were part of the tour set list but were not included on the official VHS release . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipment of 50 @,@ 000 copies and received a " Video Software Dealers Award " for the Most Popular Music Video in September 1986 . The video received mixed reviews from critics . Annie Temple from Philadelphia Daily News said that the release was " not so flattering " and " was a sloppy job " . Dennis Hunt from the Los Angeles Times said that " the video is sometimes distracting and blurry ,

wonder what went wrong during recording . The angles are awkward , especially when the audience members are shown touching Madonna 's hand . Was it really necessary to show a fan coming unannounced on the stage ? " Terry Atkinson from the same paper said , " This follows the typical concert video format of putting you in the best seat in the hall and letting the aura of a superior performer encaptivate your senses . " Joe Logan and Gail Shister from The Wichita Eagle said that " seeing Madonna live in an arena and seeing her up , close and personal in the tour cassette is totally different . The energy , the movements , the provocation ? all captures you more . " The release debuted at 14 on Billboard 's Top Music Videocassettes chart , on December 7 , 1985 , and reached a peak of 11 , the next week . The video started a slow climb on the chart , and on the issue dated January 18 , 1986 , it reached the top of the chart , replacing Prince & The Revolution : Live by The Revolution . On May 24 , 1986 , the video again climbed back in the top ten of the chart , at position two . It was present on the chart for a total of 65 weeks . Live ? The Virgin Tour was the top selling music videocassette for 1986 . The video was certified two @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipment of 200 @,@ 000 copies and received a " Video Software Dealers Award " for the Most Popular Music Video , in September 1986 .

= = Legacy = =

When the tour first started , people ? especially women ? thronged to see it wearing clothes inspired by Madonna . Debbi Voller , author of Madonna : The Style Book , observed that " Hundreds of thousands of young girls came to the concert dressed like her , with bleached and tousled hair , see @-@ through tops , bras , fingerless gloves and crucifixes . Magazines and TV shows ran lookalike competitions . " This frenzy regarding Madonna gave rise to a new term called Madonna wannabe ? a word that was ultimately officially recognized by the Webster 's Dictionary in May 1991 . Madonna was mystified as to why all the women would want to copy her look . She commented ,

" I never set out to be a role model . I am a strong woman , a successful woman , and I don 't conform to a stereotype . For so long women have been told that there are certain ways they mustn 't look if they want to get ahead in life . And there I was dressing in a forbidden way and yet obviously in charge of my life . It was then I realized why were all of them out there in their seats , dressing like me . "

While the tour was going on , the American lingerie industry reported that their turnover was suddenly up by 40 percent and that Madonna 's image was responsible for this underwear revival . Sam Gower from Rolling Stone commented , " In the sixties , women burned their bras , now they wear five at a time , and bare their belly buttons . Madonna has done for the corset and crucifix what punk did for the safety pin . Macy 's New York department store was flooded with buyers , who bought the tour merchandise like the crucifix earrings and fingerless gloves . " The demand was so huge that Macy 's had to refill the merchandise time again . Madonna 's subversive antics on the tour provoked fiery and antics among the press . Rolling Stone said : " Like Marilyn Monroe , Madonna is bent on epitomizing and championing a vision of female sexuality , and like Monroe she is often dismissed as an artist for doing so . " Suzanne Ferriss , author of On Fashion said that " Virgin Tour exemplified Madonna 's extended desire to treat boys as toys and her chastity belt coming off at her own whim and desire . Her dance numbers with men during the tour shows them as her underlings , accessories that she toys with and totally dominates . "

= = Set list = =

" Dress You Up "
" Holiday "
" Into the Groove "
" Everybody "
" Angel "

" Gambler "
" Borderline "
" Lucky Star "
" Crazy for You "
" Over and Over "
" Burning Up "
" Like a Virgin " (contains excerpts from " Billie Jean ")
" Material Girl "

Source :

= = Shows = =

= = Personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals
Ian Knight ? set designer
Brad Jeffries ? choreographer
Patrick Leonard ? keyboards / MD
Billy Meyers ? keyboards
Jonathan P. Moffet ? drums
Bill Lanphier ? bass guitar / synth bass
James Harrah ? guitars
Paul Pesco ? guitars
Michael Perea ? backup dancer
Lyndon B. Johnson ? backup dancer
Freddy DeMann ? personal management , for Weisner @-@ DeMann Entertainment
Dave Kob ? audio mixing
Maripol ? costume designer