

= What 's My Name ? (Rihanna song) =

" What 's My Name ? " is a song recorded by Barbadian recording artist Rihanna , for her fifth studio album Loud (2010) . Featuring guest vocals from Canadian rapper Drake , the song was released as the second single from Loud on October 29 , 2010 through Def Jam Recordings . The electro @-@ R & B song was produced by the Norwegian production duo StarGate , and was written by the duo along with Ester Dean , Traci Hale , and Drake . Lyrically , it incorporates themes of sexual intercourse and romance .

Music critics gave the song positive reviews , citing it some of Rihanna 's best vocal work to date ; there was a praise regarding its romantic nature , as well as its sexual tones . " What 's My Name ? " was a commercial success and topped the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , giving Rihanna her sixth number @-@ one single in 2010 , as well as her eighth overall on the chart . The song also topped the charts in Hungary and the United Kingdom and reached the top five in Canada , Ireland , New Zealand , Norway and Slovakia . The song received a nomination at the 54th Grammy Awards for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration .

An accompanying music video , directed by Philip Andelman , portrays a romantic encounter between Rihanna and Drake in a grocery store along with romantic scenes between the pair and Rihanna walking through Manhattan 's Lower East Side . " What 's My Name ? " was promoted with live performances , including Saturday Night Live in America and the series seven finale of The X Factor in the United Kingdom .

= = Development and release = =

In November 2009 , in an interview with MTV News , Canadian rapper Drake praised Rihanna 's then @-@ upcoming fourth studio album , Rated R (2009) . During the same interview , he revealed that they have collaborated on a track that didn 't make the final cut on the album , " the record we have is great . It 's a special record , so for it not to make it , I know something had to click . It 's all good . I think the project 's gonna be great no matter what . " Talking for the same publication , Tor Erik Hermansen of Norwegian production duo StarGate recalled that during an event Rihanna met with Drake backstage and asked him to record a verse on her song , " She 's calling me up saying , ' Where are the files ? ' That 's one thing you don 't hear often from artists on her level . " " What 's My Name ? " was written by Mikkel S. Eriksen , Hermansen , Ester Dean , Traci Hale and Drake , while the production was done by StarGate . In an interview for HitQuarters , Hale explained that she got into the project that 's to a phone call she received from Dean . She also elaborated that her work on the song was mostly lyrical , while Dean and StarGate did most of the music . When asked what 's the inspiration behind the song she stated , " Oh love , love , love ! And it ? s sexy ? it started as a real sexy track and then you put something sexy over it . "

The collaboration was originally planned to be a remix of the song , while the solo version would have been included on Rihanna 's fifth studio album Loud . However , in the end it made the final cut on the album . Regarding Drake 's inclusion on the song , Rihanna told MTV News , " Drake is the hottest rapper out right now and we 've always been trying to work together . " According to her , when he heard the song he liked it and wrote his verse after three days . Rihanna has further described the song as very youthful , playful and very melodic track ; according to her that 's why Drake was the perfect choice to be on it , " cause he 's a young rapper who has incredible melodies " . " What 's My Name ? " was released as the second single from Loud ; it was sent to contemporary hit and rhythmic radio in the United States on October 26 , 2010 . The single was made available for digital download on November 12 via the iTunes Store . A CD single featuring the song and a remix of it was released on January 21 , 2011 in Germany .

= = Production = =

" What 's My Name ? " was recorded at the Roc the Mic Studios in New York City and at the Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles by Eriksen and Miles Walker . Rihanna 's vocals were

recorded by Kuk Harrell , Josh Gudwin and Marcos Tovar and Harrell also produced them . Bobby Campbell served as the vocal assistant . Drake 's vocals were recorded by Noah " 40 " Shebib at The Hit Factory Studios in Miami . The recording of his vocals was assisted by Noel Cadastre and Brandon Joner . Its mixing was done by Phil Tan at Ninja Beat Club in Atlanta while Damien Lewis provided an additional and assistant engineering . All the instruments were provided by Eriksen and Hermansen while Dean sang the background vocals .

In May 2011 , in The Mix Review , an analyzing commercial productions , Mike Senior of Sound on Sound revisited the original mixing of the song . According to him , before he started the mix , Senior played the song a couple of times before releasing what thing about it " bugged " him . Working it out , he noted that the harmony of the mix is undermined by the kick drum . " What 's My Name ? " contains basic harmonies that are a bar of F # minor , a bar of A major and two bars of D @-@ major . Senior stated that on the other side however , there 's a very little in the arrangement that could be seen like a traditional melodic bass @-@ line . As the result of that , the " 808 @-@ style " kick @-@ drum 's pronounce pitched components with a power of 37 Hz and 74 Hz fill that help void with a ' D ' note . According to Senior , " the problem is that this only really supports the D ? major chord , destabilizing the home chord of F # minor (by implying that it 's actually part of a D ? major 7th chord) and clashing nastily with the A ? major . " He further stated that although might not be as apparent on small speakers , it still represents " weakness " for him . The section of the song at 3 : 12 has four bars without the kick @-@ drum and four without it .

= = Composition = =

" What 's My Name ? " is a mid @-@ tempo electro @-@ R & B song , produced by Norwegian producers , StarGate , who return Rihanna to the " Island @-@ pop " of her early career with a backing track consisting of " heavy reggae " and ska beats with synthesised organs . Bill Lamb from About.com noted that before Rihanna 's vocals start , there is an internal buildup of " dreamy drum machine rhythms " . Overall he described the backing track as " simple " and " atmospheric " . The song was written by Mikkel S. Eriksen , Tor Erik Hermansen , Ester Dean , Traci Hale and Drake and incorporates themes of " sex and romance " . Jocelyn Vena from MTV described the vocal delivery and lyrical content of the song as " sassy " . Lamb as said that " lyrically , [What 's My Name ?] amounts to romantic , sexual sweet nothings " . Rihanna called the collaboration " young and playful " , something which Stacy Anderson from Spin and Nick Levine of Digital Spy both picked up , when commenting on the sexual innuendos in the lyrics . In particular , Anderson and Levine noted an arithmetic @-@ based joke during Drake 's guest vocal , where he says " The square root of 69 is 8 something , right / ' Cuz I been trying to work it out " . Megan Vick from Billboard noted that " Rihanna 's lush vocal turn denotes a startling leap in maturity from previous singles " .

= = Critical reception = =

" What 's My Name ? " received positive reviews for its romantic tone and sentiments . Thomas Conner from the Chicago Sun @-@ Times neither praised nor criticized the song , but instead focused on the steamy nature of the composition . " [Rihanna] and panting duet partner Drake steam the recording studio windows as he raps a helpless play @-@ by @-@ play " . Bill Lamb from About.com gave the song a positive review , saying that " There it is , the chorus opens the track with " Oh na na ... what 's my name ? " and the hook is firmly implanted . It 's not long before Drake 's added on rap kicks in with clever , sexy and romantic rhyming . Then the dreamy drum machine rhythms and Rihanna 's vocals kick in again . This is a hit ... " What 's My Name ? " is a good addition to that romantic evening playlist . " Jocelyn Vena from MTV praised the " song 's chorus " and " Drake 's verse " . Molly Lambert of Pitchfork Media praised Rihanna 's performance saying that " On ' What 's My Name ' , Rihanna doesn 't have to tell us how desirable she is ? it is a given . There is never any doubt in her delivery that Rihanna really might as well be the only girl in the world " .

Nick Levine from Digital Spy said " ' What 's My Name ? ' is essentially the long , luxuriant lovemaking session to ' Rude Boy 's hard 'n'fast rut ... it manages to stay classy even when Drake makes a dodgy joke about the ' square root of 69 ' and Rihanna delivers a not @-@ so @-@ coy reference to oral sex . " Megan Vick from Billboard said " As much as ' What 's My Name ' is a joint effort , Rihanna owns the song by delivering a more polished version of her pop persona . " According to Jon Dolan from Rolling Stone with the release of " What 's My Name ? " as second single from the album Rihanna created " a perfect little tropical storm " . He continued : " [...] Over dark , humid synths and swirling snare skitters , she 's in full @-@ on Caribbean @-@ queen mode , dialing up her islander accent and rolling out a to @-@ do list for any adult male seeking entrance into her chambers " . However , he also criticized Drake 's " Square root of 69 " line , stating that Drake sounds like a nerdy guy from a fraternity while he raps it .

= = Chart performance = =

" What 's My Name ? " debuted at number sixty @-@ seven on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart for the chart week of October 30 , 2010 and steadily rose to a peak of number two . The song debuted at number eighty @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 after being sent to mainstream radio , and in the third week it jumped to number one , after being released digitally ; becoming Rihanna 's eighth number @-@ one single on the chart and Drake 's first . " What 's My Name ? " managed to reach number one on the chart , before the lead single " Only Girl (In the World) " , which topped the chart after two weeks . In the same week , it reached the top spot on US Hot Digital Songs with first week sales of 235 @,@ 000 . Rihanna became the first artist in Billboard Hot 100 history to have their first single go to number one after their second single (" Whats My Name ? " followed by " Only Girl (In the World) ") . Also , Rihanna became the first artist to score a trio of Hot 100 leaders in a year since 2008 , when she achieved the same feat with " Take a Bow " , " Disturbia " and featured vocals on T.I. 's " Live Your Life . " By its seventh week of digital release , the single crossed the one million mark . The song has sold more than 3 million downloads in the United States alone , and has been certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America .

In the United Kingdom , following the release of Loud , " What 's My Name ? " debuted at number eighteen on the UK Singles Chart on November 27 , 2010 . The other week , on December 5 , 2010 the song reached a new peak of number eight , and during the same week , Rihanna had two other top @-@ ten singles with " Only Girl (In the World) " at number seven and " Who 's That Chick ? " (by David Guetta featuring Rihanna) at number nine . With that , Rihanna became the fourth artist in UK chart history to make this achievement . On December 19 , 2010 , the song reached a new peak of number two , where it remained for three weeks before reaching number one on January 9 , 2011 . As a result , Rihanna became the first female artist in UK chart history to have a number @-@ one single in five consecutive years and only the second artist overall to do so ; the first was Elvis Presley , who posted number one singles from 1959 ? 63 . It is also Rihanna 's fourth number @-@ one single in the UK . It was also the second time in her career that Rihanna simultaneously topped the singles and albums charts in the UK , the first time being in May 2007 when " Umbrella " and Good Girl Gone Bad topped the UK Singles and UK Album chart , respectively . Rihanna would score another chart double later that year , this time , with " We Found Love " and Talk That Talk . " What 's My Name ? " was also Drake 's first UK number one and remains his highest charting single to date . As of January 2016 , the song has sold 847 @,@ 800 copies in the UK .

= = Music video = =

Rihanna shot the music video for the song on September 26 , 2010 in the Lower East Side of New York City and also a small scene in India , Mumbai with Raam Kapoor and director Philip Andelman . Parts of the video shot with Drake were filmed on October 27 , 2010 . The music video premiered on November 12 , 2010 on Rihanna 's Vevo channel on YouTube .

The video starts with different views from the city , then shifts to a store where Drake is speaking to

the cashier . Rihanna enters , grabbing his attention . She smiles at him and walks towards a fridge and grabs a milk package . Drake follows her and his verse begins . He holds her hand as he raps his verse , the milk package falls from her hand as she holds his , thus spilling milk on the floor . When Drake 's verse is over , Rihanna pushes him and walks away with a smile .

When Rihanna 's verse starts , she is shown walking on the street and dancing . Views of people holding instruments and walking on the street are shown , in addition to scenes where Rihanna and Drake are in a bedroom together , flirting , talking and drinking champagne . The final scene shows Rihanna in an outdoor reggae @-@ inspired night party with the people previously shown are now playing instruments as Rihanna sings and dances . The video ends with Drake kissing Rihanna on her cheek in the bedroom .

= = Live performances = =

" What 's My Name ? " was performed for the first time (without Drake) on October 30 , 2010 , during Rihanna 's stint on the television show Saturday Night Live . Her outfit for the performance (high @-@ waisted Daisy Dukes and a bikini top) drew comparisons to an outfit worn by Rihanna 's friend , singer Katy Perry . Then on November 15 , prior to the album 's release , Rihanna reprised her performance of " What 's My Name ? " for MTV 's The Seven , Live from Times Square , New York . Just a day later , she performed the single again , this time on the Late Show with David Letterman . On November 17 , 2010 , she was interview for and performed the song as part of her set list for her appearance on Good Morning America . At the American Music Awards of 2010 on November 21 , 2010 , Rihanna performed a mini medley of her recent hits which included " Love the Way You Lie (Part II) " , " What 's My Name ? " and concluded with " Only Girl (In the World) " .

In the United Kingdom , Rihanna was invited back to series seven of The X Factor on December 11 , 2010 , to perform " Unfaithful " with finalist Matt Cardle and a solo performance of " What 's My Name ? " . The finale was watched by fifteen million viewers but attracted complaints , in the thousands , about Rihanna 's choice of outfit and sexual performance . Vivienne Patterson , director of Mediawatch UK , said " I don ' t think it was suitable for a pre @-@ watershed broadcast , I think that ? s quite clear " . Britain 's media regulator , Ofcom , later confirmed that it had launched an investigation into the matter after four thousand complaints were registered regarding Rihanna and Christina Aguilera 's appearances at The X Factor finale . Rihanna performed the song with Drake for the first time at the 53rd Grammy Awards on February 13 , 2011 , as well as performing the song as a part of a medley with " Only Girl (In the World) " and " S & M " live at the 2011 Brit Awards on February 15 , 2011 . Rihanna also performed the song with Drake at the NBA All Star Game on February 20 , 2011 as well as performing the song as a part of a medley of " Umbrella " / " Only Girl (In the World) " / " Rude Boy " / " All of the Lights " (with Kanye West) . The song was part of the set list for the Australian leg of the Last Girl on Earth Tour , Loud Tour and the Diamonds World Tour . In May 2011 Rihanna gave a performance of " What 's My Name ? " on NBC 's Today show , as a part of the Summer Concert Series , along with " Only Girl (In the World) " , " S & M " and " California King Bed " . Rihanna performed " What 's My Name ? " at Radio 1 's Hackney Weekend on May 24 , 2012 , as the sixth song on the set list .

= = Formats and track listings = =

Digital download

" What 's My Name ? " (featuring Drake) ? 4 : 24

Digital Remixes EP

" What 's My Name ? " (Low Sunday Up On It Extended) ? 5 : 03

" What 's My Name ? " (Low Sunday Up On It Instrumental) ? 5 : 00

" What 's My Name ? " (Kik Klap Mixshow) ? 4 : 10

" What 's My Name ? " (Original Version Clean) ? 4 : 27

German CD single

" What 's My Name ? " (featuring Drake) ? 4 : 24

" What 's My Name ? " (Low Sunday " Up On It " Radio) ? 3 : 47

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Loud .

Locations

Recorded at Roc the Mic Studios , New York City ; Westlake Recording Studios , Los Angeles ; The Hit Factory , Miami

Mixed at Ninja Beat Club , Atlanta

Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =