

= ArtRave : The Artpop Ball =

ArtRave : The Artpop Ball (stylized as artRAVE : The ARTPOP Ball) was the fourth headlining concert tour by American singer Lady Gaga . Supporting her third studio album Artpop (2013) , the tour ran from May 4 , 2014 to November 24 , 2014 . The tour dates included cities where Gaga had canceled shows of her previous Born This Way Ball tour after suffering a hip injury . The ArtRave tour was preceded by a performance at the South by Southwest music festival , which drew controversy due to a segment where an artist vomited on Gaga , and a seven @-@ day residency at the Roseland Ballroom in Manhattan , New York .

ArtRave 's concept and name are derived from the similarly named release party for Artpop . The stage resembled a cave and consisted of two sections connected by catwalks made of translucent lucite , allowing the audience to move underneath the catwalks while still being able to watch the show . Gaga 's costumes in the show included one with tentacles , one with bejeweled wings , a rave @-@ inspired outfit and a necklace made of marijuana leaves . Costume designers and choreographers aspired to make a single , coherent show . The lighting fixtures used for the concert were from Clay Paky and the main idea was to create an immersive rave experience with the lights . They were also designed to accommodate minor changes in the show sequences .

The tour was produced by Live Nation , and promoted by Absolut Vodka in the United States and O2 in the United Kingdom . Tickets for several shows sold out immediately once available , prompting additional dates . Negative reports about the tour 's commercial performance were dismissed by Live Nation chairman Arthur Fogel . Gaga repeatedly placed within the top @-@ ten of the Billboard Boxscore lists for the 2014 tour grosses . At the end , ArtRave : The Artpop Ball grossed a total of \$ 83 million from 920 @,@ 088 sold tickets at the 74 reported performances . Billboard also listed it as the ninth best concert tour of the year with 76 reported shows . The tour additionally received positive response from reviewers , but some criticized it for being disjointed . On November 24 , 2014 , the concert was streamed live from Bercy Arena in France .

= = Background = =

While releasing her third studio album Artpop , Gaga held a private event in New York known as ArtRave , where she performed songs from the album and showcased art pieces . Later , she took the concept of ArtRave and created ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tour . After abruptly cancelling the North American leg of her previous Born This Way Ball (2012 ? 13) tour due to a major hip injury , the tour began with its first leg in the United States on May 4 , 2014 , in Fort Lauderdale , Florida . ArtRave : The Artpop Ball had the singer visiting cities where she canceled tour dates in order to undergo the surgery , as well as playing new cities . Gaga explained to The Independent : " When I 'm onstage with the Artpop Ball , the point of the show is to take what was the mess of my life and make art of it ? to raise the spirit of artistic dreams and creativity and take all the things I was feeling in pain about , and rage ... I take a much more meditative approach to the performance . I 've got wide @-@ open ears . The ArtRave has routines , and there 's a performance @-@ art aspect that has been designed . " Prior to the beginning of the tour , Gaga headlined six shows (March 28 , 30 , 31 and April 2 , 4 , and 6) at the Roseland Ballroom in Manhattan , New York , and these shows were the final performances at the venue . A seventh show was also added for April 7 and officially closed the venue .

Gaga also held a one @-@ off concert for ArtRave : The Artpop Ball inside a six @-@ storey vending machine at Doritos ' annual South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival at Austin , Texas . The city 's Music and Entertainment division had initially denied permission to Gaga for playing inside the venue citing that it was for " public safety concerns " . Don Pitts from the division said that the venue being in close proximity with a parking lot was the reason they had to cancel Gaga 's application . On March 6 , 2014 , it was announced that Gaga would indeed play at the venue . Tickets were sold to the fans through different competitions and challenges . Randal Lane from Forbes reported that the concert would support Gaga 's Born This Way Foundation and charity events , but nevertheless opined that " the way they 're doling out the tickets is still crass " . The

concert was criticized when artist Millie Brown vomited a green liquid over Gaga during the performance of " Swine " from Artpop . The performance received complaints about " glamorizing " eating disorders . In response to the controversy , Brown told MTV News : " I can understand why people would make that association , but my performance is really not a statement about eating disorders themselves . " Gaga herself told Today " Millie and I know that not everybody 's going to love that performance , but we both really believe in artistic expression and strong identities , and I support her and what she does . Artpop , my new album , is about bringing art and music together in the spirit of creative rebellion , and for us , that performance was art in its purest form . "

= = Development = =

= = = Stage setup = = =

For the tour , Gaga told Capital FM that she wanted something other than the " Monster Pit " arrangement she previously had in the Born This Way Ball tour , since she was always limited to performing on one portion of the arena . Hence Gaga and her team thought of building two stages , one main stage and an accompanying one on the far end of the arena . It would be enhanced by the addition of a catwalk which would wind all around the arena floor , enabling the singer to interact with the audience . In March 2014 , Gaga tweeted a picture of the stage which showed a runway extending from the main platform up to the general admission seats and then bifurcating into two additional runways , ending in small stages within the audience . At the end of the first runway , another platform was constructed which descended into the crowd directly . Gaga noted that the 110 feet (34 m) long runways would be made of lucite rendering them translucent , so that the crowd can dance underneath it while still being able to watch the show . The main stage was described as a white cave , reminiscent of Atlantica from the 1989 Disney film The Little Mermaid , and featured a digital backdrop showing stars and the moon .

The band was placed inside the white dome like structures on the stage , described by John Jurgenson from The Wall Street Journal as like the planet Tatooine in the Star Wars series . At the end of one of the Lucite runways , a piano was hidden beneath enormous stalagmite @-@ like structures reminiscent of Superman 's Fortress of Solitude in the comics . There was also a bar overlooking the piano area , where the audience could order drinks while watching the show . Carl Williot from Idolator website compared the stage with that of ArtRave , and felt that it looked like an " insect " with the extended runway and smaller stages . Following the reveal of the image , the hashtag # LadyGagaTourStage started trending globally in Twitter . According to Stacy Lambe from Out magazine , the stage took over 21 @,@ 000 hours to construct , including the catwalks . There are 15 inflatable trees which are air hosed on the stage to re @-@ create a garden during one of the segments . The whole set up took three hours to dismantle and 21 trucks to carry it from one venue to another . Production manager Jason " JD " Danter explained that the whole set up started from 8 : 00 am in the morning , with lighting and sound checks taking six hours to complete .

For the production of the show , Gaga enlisted choreographer Richard Jackson and together with him and the Haus of Gaga , they came up with ideas regarding how the show should be constructed and what music should be performed . They also had to find a way to co @-@ mingle all the different ideas to make a single , coherent show . For the choreography , which encompassed all the stages present , Jackson had to employ a different approach , so that the audience could see the performance from every angle .

= = = Costume design = = =

Gaga did not preview the costumes for the tour until the opening night . There were seven outfits created for the show , all throughout the different segments . The first was a bejeweled leotard which had the Jeff Koons blue gazing ball attached in the middle ; the ball was previously used in the album cover art for Artpop . Gaga accessorized the dress with a pair of feathered wings while

wearing a blond bob wig reminiscent of her looks from The Fame era . A rave inspired outfit was worn for the last segment and consisted of colorful dreadlocks and legwarmers made of fur . She added a shirt consisting of straps and plastic sleeves with it . One of the complex outfits was made of latex and consisted of a polka dotted leotard and a number of tentacles attached to the dress as well as a headpiece with two tentacles from it .

The singer also wore a short dress coupled with a platinum bob wig ; another version of the dress had a gown attached to it , with Gaga wearing a long wig inspired by Donatella Versace . Before the final performance Gaga wore black latex pants and a top , with a green wig on her head and a necklace made of marijuana leaves . Finally , Gaga also wore a seashell bikini top and voluminous wig ; the ensemble had been worn by Gaga in previous live performances for the Artpop era . Her dancers wore neon colored outfits with matching head gears and accessories . Gaga also had a number of unique props , including a Gibson Flying V guitar during " Venus " , a plastic chair shaped like a claw and a keytar which was shaped like a sea horse .

BBC News reported that some of the costumes for the tour were designed by Sunderland University fashion graduate Dayne Henderson . He had been chosen by one of Gaga 's stylists after seeing his tweet to the singer with a photo of his design which included clothing inspired by fetish fashion . Henderson developed hoods , masks and head pieces for Gaga and her dancers . He had to produce the clothes in latex , and within 12 days had to deliver it to Gaga 's management .

= = = Lighting fixtures = = =

Production and lighting designer Roy Bennett used Clay Paky 's A.leda B @-@ Eye K20 LED @-@ based moving lights and Clay Paky Sharpys as lighting attachments . Also around 120 B @-@ Eyes by PKG , were obtained for the tour as well with lighting control from three full @-@ sized grandMA2s and 10 NPU's . According to lighting programmer Jason Baeri , " Bennett 's approach to the show was to make it an immersive rave that reflected Gaga 's non @-@ stop party aesthetic ... That means active , alive , vibrant and high energy ? it requires us to be just as active on stage as in the crowd . The audience is every bit as much a set piece as they are a room of spectators , so we had to include them as part of Gaga 's same party not just watching the spectacle from afar . Cue wise , that 's almost like programming two shows at once : Both had to behave as one cohesive element . "

Bennett had started designing the lighting from November 2013 and three months later presented it to Gaga . She approved off the audience experience theme that Bennett developed . The B @-@ Eyes , which were previously used in the Roseland shows , were mounted above the 3 by 40 feet (0 @. @ 91 m × 12 m) video screens in the tour . Sharpy rigging were used throughout , in the front of the stage , rear , side , as well as on the pods over the audience . They were the main lighting accessory for the tour . Baeri explained that they had faced technical challenges , due to high pixel content . The B @-@ Eyes added a total of 4 @, @ 500 pixel and was varied through all possible configurations . The lighting effects varied along with the tone and the inflections of the song being performed . Clay Paky was distributed by A.C.T Lighting in North America . Solotech were signed as the video contractor , while 8th Day Sound group were the audio contractors throughout the tour .

= = Concert synopsis = =

The show starts off with a video introduction about the tour , followed by dancers appearing on stage with balloons and blue gazing balls . The video continues to play as Gaga emerges from beneath the stage , wearing a golden leotard with wings . She proceeds to sing " Artpop " and then " G.U.Y. " , the latter having choreography from its music video . The song transitions to " Donatella " with the screen showing flashing stars and colorful cloud formations . Gaga then performs " Fashion ! " on the piano and goes back for a costume change as the band plays the remaining part of the song .

Next section starts with " Venus " as large inflatable flowers rise from below on stage . Gaga appears in the seashell bikini ensemble and also uses a guitar as a prop . After a short speech , "

Manicure " and " Cake Like Lady Gaga " are performed . Gaga disappears inside for another outfit change as the band plays an outro . She emerges back onto stage in the white outfit and wig as a video shows her twirling on screen . A short version of " Just Dance " is sung , with her dancers dressed as " sea people " . The sea horse shaped keytar is used for the performance . It is followed by short versions of " Poker Face " and " Telephone " , transitioning to another outfit .

The section begins with Gaga wearing the tentacle dress , performing " Partynauseous " and " Paparazzi " with some ambient and quiet music . As she makes her way down the runways , her dancers bring the " Monster Paw Chair " and puts it on one of the small stages . There Gaga sings " Do What U Want " and near the end she reaches for the piano to perform an acoustic version of " Born This Way " . A speech ensues , which is followed by " Jewels n ' Drugs " , as Gaga disappears beneath the stage . A video interlude starts showing the singer dancing . Gaga rises from the stage , wearing the black latex dress near the piano , to sing the chorus of " Jewels n ' Drugs " .

" Aura " triggers off the next act with Gaga and the dancers performing on the main stage . A red couch is brought out on which " Sexxx Dreams " is sung . Following this , white chairs are brought out onto the stage by the dancers for " Mary Jane Holland " , during which a choreography is shown with the chairs . " Alejandro " takes place on the lucite runways while Gaga declares that she would change costume on stage . " Ratchet " plays as an intro as Gaga strips naked while her stylists help change into the rave inspired outfit and wig . The performance of " Bad Romance " starts with the original choreography from its music video , followed by " Applause " , during which a video backdrop shows the singer in various disguises . Next Gaga begins performing " Swine " , during which her dancers fire stuffed animals into the crowd using cannons . Gaga leaves the stage for a final costume change , appearing to perform " Gypsy " for the encore . Gaga performs most of the song at the piano then makes her way along the runway to finish the performance on the main stage and closes the show .

= = Commercial reception = =

= = = Ticket sales = = =

The tickets were first available to members of Gaga 's social network website , Littlemonsters.com. They were provided with a unique code for ordering tickets from online , but were limited to four tickets per member . According to Live Nation , the first batch of tickets for the tour went on sale from December 9 , 2013 , and sell @-@ out shows were reported from Toronto , Winnipeg , Calgary , Los Angeles and Edmonton within hours . This led to two new dates being added to the itinerary : June 26 at Milwaukee 's Marcus Amphitheater , and June 28 at Atlantic City 's Boardwalk Hall . On January 29 , 2014 , Gaga released the dates for the European leg of the tour , which would begin September 23 , 2014 , from Belgium . The singer partnered with British mobile network O2 , for a deal which would enable the company 's customers to avail tickets for the tour three days prior to the general release . The deal included Gaga being featured in a new advertisement , for promoting the UK leg of the tour and showed her wearing a dress with large , glittering shoulder pads while running towards a concert stage . This was the second time Gaga partnered with O2 , first in November 2013 , for exclusive access to the tracks from Artpop , ahead of its UK release . Upon release , Ticketmaster reported that the UK venues sold out within five minutes , prompting the singer to add another two dates in London . In April and May 2014 , she released more floor tickets for sale , after ensuring larger crowd capacity for all the UK venues and a total of eight new dates .

For the US dates , Gaga partnered with Absolut Vodka , who transformed the bar adjacent to the stage into a lounge called " Absolut Artpop Lounge " , where some of the lucky fans could watch the show , while ordering cocktails of their choice . Two fans would be chosen on the spot to have seats at the bar ; tickets could also be won through a contest at the Absolut website . Gaga explained that with the help of Absolut she could " [create] a special experience where fans can actually sit inside the stage and have their own bar . It 's going to be a huge rave in the spirit of art and creativity . " Other promotions announced at the website included winning an all @-@ expense @-@ paid trip to

see Gaga 's show on September 30 at Stockholm , Sweden , and Gaga @-@ inspired runway shows at LGBT bars across the nation , from where another set of tickets could be won . Four dates were added in Australia , starting from August 20 , 2014 , at Perth . She had one concert at Dubai 's Meydan Racecourse on September 10 , but newspaper Gulf News reported that the show would be censored for respecting cultural traditions in the UAE . According to Marco Riois , chairman of AMI Live which organized the show in Dubai , " there will be some edits ... It cannot be the full show , because it wouldn 't be allowed . So it 's a special show for Dubai and for the culture " .

= = = Boxscore = = =

Forbes spoke about the commendable ticket pricing ensued by Live Nation for the tour . Jesse Lawrence from the magazine noticed how the ticket prices were lowered to an average of \$ 68 in Gaga 's primary markets and ensuing fast sell @-@ outs , compared to those of her contemporaries , like Miley Cyrus ' Bangerz Tour which had an average ticket price at \$ 86 . Conversely , the average price was raised to as high as \$ 269 in Gaga 's secondary markets , although with fewer tickets available than Cyrus ' tour . This again ensued that the revenue was earned with profit . Lawrence concluded by saying that " Lady Gaga 's pricing , seems to be taking a longer @-@ term view and is focused on providing access to as many of her fans as possible as opposed to wringing out every last dollar on the current tour . " In April 2014 , Lawrence reported that following Gaga 's performance at Roseland Ballroom , the tour ticket prices in the secondary markets went up by 5 @.@ 3 % , with major increases being visible at Philips Arena in Atlanta . Tickets at Madison Square Garden rose up to \$ 338 @.@ 81 , which was 42 @.@ 6 % higher than the average price . Other locations where ticket prices saw an increase were MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas , TD Garden Arena in Boston and United Center in Chicago . A higher price was set for the first of two nights at Staples Center in Los Angeles , resulting in one of the costliest tickets in the show . The pricing was leveled off for the second night and they gradually decreased with the tour 's progress . This was evident in the tour date switch up between May 12 and 15 at Washington and Philadelphia , respectively , where the ticket prices fell by 29 @.@ 5 % .

Reports arose in the media that the ticket sales for the tour were falling , leading Arthur Fogel , Chairman of Live Nation 's Global Touring division , to brand them as " ridiculous " . He clarified to Billboard that the about 80 % of the tickets were sold in North America and Europe , and they were still in the process of releasing future dates for numerous venues . The 29 shows in North America had grossed around US \$ 26 million , with an average of almost \$ 900 @,@ 000 per show . Fogel also addressed concerns that Live Nation had lost \$ 30 million from Gaga 's tour , saying that if a similar situation really happened , then the company would have cancelled the concerts . " I just don 't know how this shit gets any traction without people doing their homework ... Just a complete fool would say something like that and it could only come from somebody who has an agenda , because it makes absolutely no sense , on any level " , Fogel concluded . A total of 800 @,@ 000 tickets have been sold for the tour , as reported by Billboard .

In June 2014 , Billboard released the first boxscore figures for the tour , up to the June 2 date . Gaga placed at number four on the boxscore list with total gross of \$ 13 @.@ 9 million , and more than 171 @,@ 000 tickets sold . The boxscore figure for her Roseland Ballroom performance was also revealed to have grossed \$ 1 @.@ 5 million with more than 24 @,@ 000 tickets sold . In October 2014 , the second set of boxscore were released , with sales of 509 @,@ 741 tickets and a gross of \$ 46 @,@ 933 @,@ 594 , ranking at number two on the boxscore list . Final boxscores were released in December 2014 , with the last performance at Paris ' Palais Omnisports Bercy grossing \$ 1 @.@ 2 million and audience of 13 @,@ 013 . In total , ArtRave : The Artpop Ball grossed \$ 83 million from 920 @,@ 088 sold tickets at the 74 reported performances to Billboard Boxscore . On Pollstar 's Year @-@ end Top 20 Worldwide Tours list , Gaga ranked at number seven with \$ 88 @.@ 7 million in gross and 947 @,@ 852 tickets sold for 84 shows , including the seven shows from Roseland Ballroom . Billboard listed it as the ninth best concert tour of the year with 76 reported shows .

= = Critical response = =

= = = North America = = =

John Walker from MTV News reviewed the opening concert in Fort Lauderdale , and was impressed with the show . He particularly liked the segment , when after the performance of " Alejandro " , Gaga decided to change her costume onstage and did so with the help of her stylists . Walker added that " to prove this , [Gaga] ripped the green , shoulder @-@ length wig right off of her head . Yes , she literally snatched her own wig . Reverse Warholian expedition says what ? " Walker further emphasized in another review for MTV that the tour expanded on Gaga 's characteristic " fan @-@ to @-@ artist " connections and theatrics she had developed with the Born This Way Ball . Adam Carlson from Billboard praised the show saying that it turned the " spectacle " into a " surprise " . He complimented the choreography and the constant costume changes , explaining that " talking about [Gaga 's] performances is more fun than listening to them , but don 't take that as an insult . There 's just a lot to talk about . " Chris Richards from The Washington Post said that " for a pop concert in an arena [Verizon Center] , it felt good . As a public exercise in reciprocal , unconditional love , it felt unique [from Gaga] . "

Glenn Gamboa from Newsday was impressed with the performances , saying " Whether it was the goofiness of ' Venus ' , the playfulness of ' Donatella ' or the throwback soul of ' Do What U Want ' , which she crowned with an a cappella bit of gospel , she filled the songs with an intensity that was infectious . " Lauren Moraski from CBS News felt that Gaga was in " full @-@ force " during the concert and " seemed right at home " with the New York crowd . Frank Scheck from The Hollywood Reporter commended the stage setup , the costumes and the overall entertainment aspect of the tour , saying that " Unlike Madonna , who engages in similar , but decidedly chillier , over @-@ the @-@ top theatrics , Gaga invests her spectacles with an undeniable sweetness and heart . " Scheck was positive about the performances of " Gypsy " and " Born This Way " .

Negative commentary came from Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone who reviewed the show at Madison Square Garden and was disappointed , calling it " a run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill arena @-@ rock show , the kind where a band has a shoddy new album to flog " . He was not impressed that Gaga chose to ignore songs from Born This Way and its successful singles . Dan DeLuca from Philadelphia Daily News wrote that " the show was seriously marred by too many electro powered would @-@ be dance cuts from ARTPOP whose weaknesses were exposed whenever she reached back to her more enticing greatest hits " and that she performed " far too many songs " from Artpop . The Boston Globe writer James Reed felt that " something " was missing from Gaga 's performance , and it felt " hollow " . He also criticized Gaga 's reliance on backing tracks to sing her songs . Joey Guerra from Houston Chronicle found the show to be " disjointed " , saying that there was " little in the way of real transition between sequences , particularly in the later moments . "

= = = Oceania , Asia , and Europe = = =

Candice Barnes from The Sydney Morning Herald gave the show positive review , saying that Gaga " delivered a show fit for a queen " at Perth Arena . " Plugged as an ' art rave ' , it was hard to distinguish where the art finished and the music began " , she concluded . Conversely , Ross McCrae from The West Australian panned the show calling it " middle of the road arena rock show " , and noticed the public 's lack of interest in the performances . The lack of ticket sales was also noted by a reviewer for News.com.au , who went on to add that " one could never accuse Lady Gaga of lacking attention to detail in her live productions or failing to put in a wholehearted and energetic performance . " Jenny Valentish from Time Out awarded the show in Melbourne five stars , calling Gaga " a phenomenal singer with an immense voice (...) who could try her hand at any genre " , also praising her live band and the costume changes .

The National critic Saeed Saeed described the show as " hugely entertaining " and something that " delivers pop music 's ultimate mandate : to dance your worries away " . Writing about the subdued

concert in Dubai due to religious sentiments , Mohammed Kadry from Khaleej Times noted that Gaga could still put on a " spectacle " and she " was determined to connect with her local audience as she attempted to piece together flattering colloquial phrases " . Debra Kamin from The Times of Israel praised Gaga 's vocals , adding that " show was everything Gaga promised and everything fans have come to expect from her ? loud , florescent , sexually explicit and mind @-@ numbingly bright . "

Dave Simpson from The Guardian gave a positive review for the Birmingham concert , awarding the show with 4 out of 5 stars . He stated that " Gaga has often been accused of being all artifice and no heart , but tonight 's show is a powerful statement from a star who refuses to be pinned down or written off . " Daniel Dylan Wray from The Independent awarded the Birmingham concert with 4 out of 5 stars and described ArtRave as " loud , colourful and frequently emblematic of feel @-@ good , throwaway party times " . Katie Fitzpatrick from Manchester Evening News awarded the concert with 5 out of 5 stars . She praised Lady Gaga 's voice , her live band , the outfits and the connection of the fans ? especially in this show that Gaga helped a fan to propose to his partner on stage . Katie stated that " the ostentatiously named ArtRave may reaffirm that Gaga the show @-@ woman is definitely about her art . But this little lady with the powerful set of lungs is also undoubtedly all heart . " Ludovic Hunter @-@ Tilney from the Financial Times rated the concert three out of five stars . He criticized the songs from Artpop except the title track , but complimented the acoustic and piano sequences .

= = Broadcast and recording = =

On November 17 , 2014 , Gaga announced through her social medias that the last concert show , which took place at Bercy Arena in France on November 24 , would be streamed live around the world , online on Yahoo ! Live . The concert started with a 30 @-@ minute video presentation of Gaga 's portraits , as shot by Robert Wilson , and which were previously exhibited at the Louvre Museum in Paris . The live stream broke records for Yahoo ! Live and Live Nation .

= = Set list = =

This setlist is representative of the show in Milan , Italy . It does not represent all dates throughout the tour .

= = Shows = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Management

Main personnel

Personnel taken from ArtRave : The Artpop Ball tour book .