

= Fantasy ( Mariah Carey song ) =

" Fantasy " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . It was released on September 12 , 1995 by Columbia Records as the lead single for her fifth studio album , Daydream ( 1995 ) . The song was written by Carey and Dave Hall , both serving as primary producers alongside Sean Combs . The song heavily samples Tom Tom Club 's 1981 song " Genius of Love , " and incorporates various other beats and grooves arranged by the former . The song 's lyrics describe a woman who is in love with a man , and how every time she sees him she starts fantasizing about an impossible relationship with him . The remix for the song features rap verses from Ol ' Dirty Bastard , something Carey arranged to assist in her transition into the hip @-@ hop market .

The song was positively reviewed by contemporary music critics , many of whom complimented its clever use of the " Genius of Love " hook as well as Carey 's vocal performance . " Fantasy " experienced strong success around the world , especially in the United States . It became the second song in Billboard history , and the first by a female , to debut atop the Hot 100 . Additionally , aside from topping the chart for eight consecutive weeks , the song achieved strong success outside the United States , topping the charts in Australia , Canada and New Zealand and becoming a top @-@ five hit in Belgium , Finland , France and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " Fantasy " live on several television and award show appearances around the world . Carey performed the song at the 23rd annual American Music Awards , held on January 29 , 1996 . Additionally , it was performed live on British music chart program Top of the Pops and on French television . " Fantasy " was part of the set @-@ lists on several of Carey 's succeeding tours , making its debut during the album 's accompanying set of concerts , the Daydream World Tour and is featured on her compilation albums , # 1 's ( 1998 ) , Greatest Hits ( 2001 ) , The Remixes ( 2003 ) and Playlist : The Very Best of Mariah Carey ( 2010 ) .

The cover of the single was shot by top fashion photographer Steven Meisel . The cover for her album Daydream is a cropped version of the single cover . Carey directed the music video for " Fantasy " , making it her directorial debut . Carey created the video 's concept and chose the filming location . After being disappointed with the final result in many of her previous videos , Carey decided to single handedly direct the video . The video showed Carey 's roller blading through an amusement park , singing and enjoying herself . Mid @-@ way through the video , Ol ' Dirty Bastard makes a cameo appearance as a clown . The video concludes with Carey dancing atop the sunroof of a car , with many others present and enjoying the music and celebration .

= = Background = =

With Daydream , Carey began incorporating urban R & B and hip hop into her music , something very noticeable in " Fantasy . " After Carey began writing songs for her new album Daydream , she decided to include the hook from the Tom Tom Club song " Genius of Love " into an up @-@ tempo song . Afterwards , Carey and Hall began incorporating the sample into the lyrics and melody she had already produced . Carey described how the idea to sample the song became a reality :

I was listening to the radio and heard ' Genius of Love ' , and I hadn 't heard it in a long time . It reminded me of growing up and listening to the radio and that feeling the song gave me seemed to go with the melody and basic idea I had for " Fantasy . " I initially told Dave about the idea , and we did it . We called up the Tom Tom Club and they were really into it .

Carey recalled how the writers of the song were really intrigued by the idea of Carey sampling the song , and immediately signed over the rights . After Carey presented Hall with the sample , the chorus and beat , he developed a familiar groove that he felt would " highlight Carey 's voice . " After they completed the song , Carey 's husband and CEO of Columbia , Tommy Mottola listened to " Fantasy " and agreed to include it on the album . The cover of the single was shot by top fashion photographer Steven Meisel . A cropped version of the photograph was used as the album cover as well . Hall described his experience with writing the song with Carey :

[ It ] was a fun song to do . Mariah brought me ' Genius of Love ' and I laid some strings on it and

put it into a groove I felt really fit and highlighted her voice . And that song didn 't take us but a minute to do , because she really busted that out within two days . We did a rough copy and let Tommy Mottola hear it and he loved it , so all we had to do was bring it back in and mix it .

= = Composition = =

" Fantasy " is an uptempo pop , contemporary R & B , and dance @-@ pop song , which blends elements of funk , hip hop , and bubblegum pop . " Fantasy " moves at a tempo of 102 beats per minute . The remix , which features rap verses from O.D.B , also incorporates hip @-@ hop into the bridge . The song uses heavy bass and percussion , as well as a sample from " Genius of Love " . The song is set in the signature common time , and is written in the key of G major . It features a basic chord progression of A ? -F ? -1 . Carey 's vocal range in the song spans from the note of D3 to the high note of F6 ; the piano and guitar pieces range from D ? 4 to E ? 5 as well . The song contains choral lyrics written by Carey , who also developed the song 's melody and original beat . Instrumentation and production was performed by Dave Hall , while co @-@ arranging and producing the track as well . The members of the Tom Tom Club , Tina Weymouth , Chris Frantz , Steven Stanley and Adrian Belew are all credited as writers due to the inclusion of the music sample they wrote .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon its release , " Fantasy " garnered mostly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Bill Lamb from About.com was very positive on the song , calling it " truly inspiring " and a " career high water mark " for Carey . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic also praised the song , saying " Carey continues to perfect her craft and that she has earned her status as an R & B / pop diva . " Stephen Holden from The New York Times gave the song praise , writing " with ' Fantasy , ' Ms. Carey glides confidently into the territory where gospel @-@ flavored pop @-@ soul meets light hip @-@ hop and recorded some of the most gorgeously spun choral music to be found on a contemporary album . " Additionally , he claimed " Fantasy " held some of the album 's best moments , writing " she continues to make pop music as deliciously enticing as the best moments of " Fantasy . " Slant Magazine ranked the song at number sixty on their " Best Singles of the ' 90s " list , writing it is " escapism perfected , [ a ] summer bubblegum gem with a sweet , flawless vocal line driven by a diva in her prime . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Fantasy " achieved strong commercial success around the world . The song became Carey 's ninth number one single on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart . It became the first single by a female artist to debut atop the chart , and only the second single to do so after " You Are Not Alone " by Michael Jackson . It debuted at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 due to the strong sales , which were expected to exceed 229 @,@ 000 copies . It spent eight weeks at the top of the chart , from September 24 to November 18 , 1995 , Carey 's longest stay at the time alongside " Dreamlover " ( 1993 ) . It replaced " Gangsta 's Paradise " by Coolio , and was replaced by Whitney Houston 's " Exhale ( Shoop Shoop ) " . " Fantasy " spent 23 weeks in the top 40 and was successful on other Billboard formats , including the R & B and dance charts . Its strong sales led it to be certified double @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , Carey 's first single to do so . " Fantasy " was the second best @-@ selling single of 1995 in the US , with sales of 1 @,@ 500 @,@ 000 . It was ranked seventh on the Hot 100 year @-@ end charts for 1995 and 49th on the 1996 year @-@ end charts . " Fantasy " ranked at number 15 on the Hot 100 decade @-@ end chart for the 1990s .

In Australia , the song topped the chart and was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) . In Canada , the song debuted on the RPM Singles Chart at number 95 on the RPM issue dated October 2 , 1995 , and reached the top of the chart on November 20 ,

1995 . It was present on the chart for a total of 20 weeks , and ranked 18 on the RPM Year @-@ end chart for 1995 . " Fantasy " also reached the top 10 in most countries across Europe , and the top 20 on the Oricon chart in Japan . It peaked within the top @-@ five in Belgium ( Wallonia ) , Finland , France and the United Kingdom ; and in the top 10 in Belgium ( Flanders ) , The Netherlands , Ireland , Norway and Switzerland . " Fantasy " was certified silver in France and the United Kingdom , by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique ( SNEP ) and British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) , respectively . According to The Official Charts Company , the song has sold 280 @, @ 000 copies in United Kingdom . The song also topped the charts in New Zealand , where it was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) .

= = Remixes = =

Carey worked with producer Puff Daddy to create the official remix , the Bad Boy remix of " Fantasy " . While Columbia allowed Carey more leniency with the music she recorded , they became hesitant when she featured Ol ' Dirty Bastard in the remix for " Fantasy " . They feared the sudden change was completely left field for her music , and worried it would jeopardize the album 's success . Finally , the Bad Boy remix used guest raps from O.D.B and background vocals by Puff Daddy . Some of the song 's R & B elements were removed for the remix , while the bassline and " Genius of Love " sample were emphasized & the bridge from the original version was used as the chorus . There is a version omitting Ol ' Dirty Bastard 's verses . The " Bad Boy Fantasy Remix " , combines the chorus from the original version and the chorus of the Bad Boy Remix together , removing Ol ' Dirty Bastard 's vocals from his 2nd verse . Carey re @-@ recorded vocals for club remixes of the song by David Morales , titled " Daydream Interlude ( Fantasy Sweet Dub Mix ) " . The Bad Boy remix garnered positive reviews from music critics . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly praised the song , claiming its one of the few tracks where Carey " defines herself " . Additionally , he complimented the song , writing " At her best , as she is on this clipped , spunky track , Carey is a disco diva for the ' 90s , a worthy successor to trailblazing women like Donna Summer and Vicki Sue Robinson , R & B singers with an affinity for the endless groove . Disco ? No wonder most rock critics can 't get behind her . Party on , Mariah . "

Carey has stated that the Bad Boy remix contributed to over half of the sales of " Fantasy " .

The " Bad Boy Mix " and " Def Club Mix " would be featured on 2003 's The Remixes , while the " Bad Boy Fantasy " version would feature on 2015 's # 1 to Infinity .

= = Music video = =

The single 's music video was the first that Carey directed entirely on her own . Carey had been open about the fact that she had not been happy with some of her previous music videos . She therefore decided to single handedly direct the video , so the outcome would be to her exact choosing . Carey said her inspiration for the video was to give off a " free and open feeling , " trying to portray the freedom she had finally achieved in being allowed to direct her first video . The video for " Fantasy " debuted on September 7 , at the " MTV Video Music Awards " . The video begins with Carey exploring the Playland amusement park , located in Rye , New York , on roller blades and riding a wooden coaster . The video continues showing snippets of Carey at the park , until the end of the second verse . Afterwards , Carey proceeds to an outdoor celebration that involves people dancing atop their cars .

I 'd done a lot of videos and wasn 't always a hundred percent thrilled . For the most part , I was never thrilled with the results , so I figured I would give directing a shot . It was a pretty simple concept . Most of the scenes were featured at the amusement park , at a late @-@ night outdoor celebration . I was really happy to be able to include O.D.B in the remix video .

Following in their actions , Carey joins in the festivities and hops atop a car and begins singing and dancing to the strong bass and R & B beat playing from the stereos . The video also contains a scene involving a lovable young girl who tries to emulate Carey and whose character reappears in the video for Carey 's single " Shake It Off " ( 2005 ) . The video shoot took place in mid @-@

August 1995 . In the official video for the song 's remix , O.D.B makes a few cameo appearances as a clown , as well as on the Boardwalk during additional scenes with Carey .

= = Awards and accolades = =

" Fantasy " won many prestigious awards throughout the music industry in 1995 and 1996 . At the Blockbuster Entertainment Awards , the song won the award for " Favorite Single . " Additionally , the song was awarded the " Pop Award " honor at the 1996 annual American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers ( ASCAP ) . Carey won the " Dance Record of the Year " award at the " National Dance Music Awards " in 1996 . " Fantasy " won two awards at the 1996 " Winter Music Conference National Dance Music Awards , " for " Favorite Single " and " Dance Record of the Year . " The song won a Broadcast Music Incorporated ( BMI ) " Pop Song of the Year " award in 1997 , as well as the " Favorite Single " award at the annual " Archer Awards . " The song also was nominated for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance at the 38th Grammy Awards .

= = Live performances = =

" Fantasy " was performed at the 23rd Annual American Music Awards , where Carey won two of the top awards . For the performance , Carey wore a long black trench coat and matching boots , pants and blouse , and was backed by three background vocalists . Additionally , Carey sang " Fantasy " on the British music chart program Top of the Pops , during a promotional stop in the United Kingdom on September 12 , 1995 . During its taping , she wore a blue blouse and black jumper . Two days later , Carey appeared on French television where she performed the song alongside several male and female dancers . Carey donned a mid @-@ waist baring white blouse and black leather pants and matching heeled boots . Trey Lorenz and two female back up vocalists were also featured on stage during the show 's taping . Aside from live television appearances , the song was performed on several legs of Carey 's tours .

" Fantasy " was performed at every show on her Daydream World Tour ( 1996 ) set to the album version . The performance was tuned similarly to Carey 's recital at the American Music Awards , featuring a similar outfit , dance routines and set up . The remix version was performed on her Butterfly World Tour ( 1998 ) , Rainbow World Tour ( 2000 ) , Charmbracelet World Tour : An Intimate Evening with Mariah Carey ( 2004 ) , and The Adventures of Mimi tour ( 2006 ) , and The Elusive Chanteuse Show ( 2014 ) each of which featured a varying synopsis . In 1998 , it became the first time Carey performed the remix version in concert , placing a large projection screen on to the stage , and featuring snippets and cuts of O.D.B. throughout the video . Additionally , Carey was dressed in blue jeans and a white blouse , and danced several chair routines with several male dancers . During the Charmbracelet Tour and Rainbow Tour , the shows segment was similar to her previous tour . The song was featured on the select set @-@ list on three of Carey 's live taped shows , Fantasy : Mariah Carey at Madison Square Garden , The Adventures of Mimi , and Around the World . Carey also featured the song as the ninth in the setlist for her 2015 Las Vegas residency , Mariah Carey Number 1 's .

= = Legacy = =

" Fantasy " exemplified how a music sample could be transformed " into a fully realized pop masterpiece " . The song and its remix arguably remains as one of Carey 's most important singles to date . Due to the success and influence of the song , Carey is credited for introducing R & B and hip hop collaboration into mainstream pop culture , and for popularizing rap as a featuring act through her post @-@ 1995 songs . Sasha Frere @-@ Jones , editor of The New Yorker commented in referencing to the song 's remix , " It became standard for R & B / hip @-@ hop stars like Missy Elliott and Beyoncé , to combine melodies with rapped verses . And young white pop stars ? including Britney Spears , ' N Sync , and Christina Aguilera ? have spent much of the past ten years making pop music that is unmistakably R & B. " Moreover , Jones concludes that " Her

idea of pairing a female songbird with the leading male MCs of hip @-@ hop changed R & B and , eventually , all of pop . Although now anyone is free to use this idea , the success of " Mimi " [ ref. to The Emancipation of Mimi , her tenth studio album released almost a decade after Fantasy ] suggests that it still belongs to Carey . "

John Norris of MTV News has stated that the remix was " responsible for , I would argue , an entire wave of music that we 've seen since and that is the R & B @-@ hip @-@ hop collaboration . You could argue that the ' Fantasy ' remix was the single most important recording that she 's ever made . " Norris echoed the sentiments of TLC 's Lisa Lopes , who told MTV that it 's because of Mariah that we have " Hip @-@ Pop . " Judnick Mayard , writer of TheFader , wrote that in regarding of R & B and hip hop collaboration , " The champion of this movement is Mariah Carey . " Mayard also expressed that " To this day ODB and Mariah may still be the best and most random hip hop collaboration of all time " , citing that due to the record " Fantasy , " " R & B and Hip Hop were the best of step siblings . " In the 1998 film Rush Hour , Soo Yong is singing the song while it plays on the car radio , shortly before her kidnapping . In 2011 the experimental metal band Iwrestledabearonce used the song at the beginning and end of the video " You Know That Ain 't Them Dogs ' Real Voices " .

Indie artist Grimes has called " Fantasy " one of her favorite songs of all @-@ time and has said Mariah is the reason there is a Grimes .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Daydream liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? co @-@ production , songwriting , vocals

Dave Hall ? co @-@ production , songwriting

Tina Weymouth ? songwriting

Chris Frantz ? songwriting

Steven Stanley ? songwriting

Adrian Belew ? songwriting

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Chart successions = =