

= Dance in the Dark =

" Dance in the Dark " is a song by American recording artist Lady Gaga , from her third EP , The Fame Monster . Inspired by Gaga 's " Fear of Self Monster " , the song deals with the intimate experience between two people alone in a bedroom . According to Gaga , the record is about a girl who likes to have sex with the lights off because she is embarrassed about her body . She explained that she came across such women while working on the MAC AIDS Fund , and that the song is not about freedom , but rather the assurance that Gaga understood their feelings . The song was initially planned to be released after " Telephone " , but due to a dispute between Gaga and her record company , " Alejandro " was released instead . It was later released as a digital download and radio @-@ only single in Australia , Belgium , and France .

" Dance in the Dark " contains retro and new wave music influences , and begins with a stuttering introduction . It includes a spoken interlude , where Gaga says the names of famous people whose lives ended tragically . The song has received critical acclaim from music critics . It charted on the UK Singles Chart and Billboard 's Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , while reaching the top @-@ thirty in Australia and the top @-@ ten in Slovakia , Hungary and Czech Republic .

Gaga performed " Dance in the Dark " as the opening song of The Monster Ball Tour . In the first leg of the tour , she appeared behind a scrim @-@ lit screen to perform the song , while in the revamped shows , Gaga performs it on a set reminiscent of a New York City night scene . The song was also performed at the 2010 BRIT Awards , where Gaga dedicated it to her close friend , Alexander McQueen , who had committed suicide a few days earlier . It was nominated for Best Dance Recording at the 53rd Grammy Awards , but lost to Rihanna 's " Only Girl (In the World) " .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

Gaga told Los Angeles Times that the inspiration behind " Dance in the Dark " as being the intimate experience taking place between two people alone in a bedroom , the fear of Sex Monster . According to her , the record is about a girl who likes to have sex with the lights off , because she is embarrassed about her body . " She doesn 't want her man to see her naked . She will be free , and she will let her inner animal out , but only when the lights are out , " Gaga explained . She added that like the song , she has to struggle with issues of body image and self @-@ doubt in her own life . While working on the MAC AIDS Fund , she realized that women of her age do not speak their mind , in fear that their boyfriends would not love them if they did so .

" All of these new things entering my life are changing the way I view my purpose , but ' Dance in the Dark ' in particular is about me wanting to live ? but also , the song isn 't called ' Dance in the Light ' . I 'm not a gospel singer trying to cross people over . What I 'm saying is , ' I get it . I feel you , I feel the same way , and it 's OK.'

" I hope and pray that I can inspire some sort of change in people subliminally through the show . They 're singing ' Dance in the Dark , ' but they 're dancing and they 're free , they 're letting it out . But the songs are not about freedom , they 're about [the fact that] I get it . I feel the way you feel . "

According to MTV , the song was initially planned to be released after " Telephone " , but due to a dispute between Gaga and her record company , " Alejandro " was released instead . The song was released to Belgian iTunes on November 9 , 2009 .

= = Recording and composition = =

" Dance in the Dark " infuses influences of retro and new wave music in its composition . Michael Hubbard from musicOMH wrote that the song begins with a stuttering introduction and orgasmic groans , followed by Gaga singing the song . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " Dance in The Dark " was written in the time signature of common time , with a tempo of 121 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of D minor with Gaga 's vocal range spanning from B ? 3 to D5 . It follows a basic sequence of Am ? Dm

/ A ? F / A ? G as its chord progression . A spoken interlude is also present .

The lyrics of the song refer to vampires and werewolves : " Run run her kiss is a vampire grin / The moon lights her way while she 's howlin ' at him " . Gaga explained that the lines were means of expressing how people rely on external motivations to cope with internal anxiety . " She doesn 't feel free without the moon , " Gaga said . " These lyrics are a way for me to talk about how I believe women and some men feel innately insecure about themselves all the time . It 's not sometimes , it 's not in adolescence , it 's always . " The spoken interlude refers to famous people who met with a tragic end of their lives , namely Marilyn Monroe , Judy Garland , Sylvia Plath , JonBenét Ramsey , Liberace , Jesus Christ , Stanley Kubrick , and Princess Diana .

= = Critical reception = =

The song has received critical acclaim from music critics , with many citing it as a highlight of the album . Paul Lester from BBC felt that the song was " generic machine RnB " . Evan Sawdey from PopMatters commented that " Dance in the Dark " , along with " Monster " are a " delightfully dirty retro workout to make for one surprisingly effective pop cocktail . " Scott Plagenhoef from Pitchfork Media felt that Gaga had morphed into Madonna on the song . Nick Levine from Digital Spy commented that " ' Dance in the Dark ' is the sort of song that , well , makes you want to dance with your top off in a grotty German bondage basement . " Edna Gunderson from USA Today called the song " campy " .

Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine commented that " ' Bad Romance ' and ' Dance in the Dark ' are stacked with towering new @-@ wave synths and seemingly endless hooks ; if melodies could be time @-@ stamped , these would have " ' 80s " branded on their asses . [...] The song isn 't a cautionary tale per say [sic] , but a call to arms to misfits everywhere . " She went on to declare the song as one of the highlights of The Fame Monster but added that " After a stuttering intro of orgasmic groans it becomes a little bit Gaga @-@ by @-@ numbers , which is a shame given the standard of the early tracks " . Ben Patashnik from NME felt that " Dance in the Dark " , along with another song " Monster " , was " slightly disposable " . Michael Hubbard from MusicOMH complimented the song for its " monumental chorus and some Madonna @-@ esque spoken @-@ word moments , including this shout out to a lost Royal : ' You will never fall apart Diana , you 're still in our hearts / Never let you fall apart / Together we 'll dance in the dark . ' "

= = Chart performance = =

In Hungary , the song debuted on the Mahasz Single Top 10 lista chart at number nine on November 30 , 2009 but fell off the chart the next week . In the United Kingdom , " Dance in the Dark " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 89 on December 12 , 2009 , but was present on the chart for one week . In Canada , the song charted on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 88 on the issue dated November 11 , 2009 . " Dance in the Dark " debuted at number 93 on the Australian Singles Chart , after it was released to Australian radio , moving to number 43 and then to a peak of number 24 in the following weeks . In France , the song entered the French Digital Singles Chart at forty and has thus far reached a peak of thirty . On the Billboard issue dated August 21 , 2010 , " Dance in the Dark " debuted on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart at number 22 , and on the Hot Dance / Electronic Digital Songs at number nine , on the issue dated October 9 , 2010 . As of September 2010 , " Dance in the Dark " has sold 120 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the United States , according to Nielsen Soundscan .

= = Live performances = =

Gaga performed " Dance in the Dark " as the opening song of The Monster Ball Tour . The show began with Gaga appearing behind a giant , green laser lit video screen featuring scrim lights , in a futuristic silver jewelled jumpsuit with bulbs on it . She had matching eye makeup and wore a mask , beginning to sing " Dance in the Dark " , " while dancers dressed in white balaclavas and white

jumpsuits moved around her . " The scrim resembled an electric math grid which was lifted during the performance . Jane Stevenson from Toronto Sun felt that it was not until Gaga had moved on to the next song after " Dance in the Dark " , that the Monster Ball " was alive " . In the revamped 2010 @-@ 11 shows of The Monster Ball tour , the song was once again added as the opening song of the setlist , as a part of the segment titled " City " . Gaga performed it in a set , reminiscent of New York City night scene , with flickering neon signs displaying the words " Ugly " , " Sexy " and " Liquor " , fire escape stairwells and a broken yellow taxi .

Gaga performed " Dance in the Dark " at the BRIT Awards on February 16 , 2010 , at Earls Court Exhibition Centre . The performance was inspired by the recent death of her friend , fashion designer Alexander McQueen . Initially she had planned a different version of the performance , but changed the concept at the last minute , since she wanted to pay tribute to McQueen . Hence she chose acoustic versions of her songs " Telephone " and " Dance in the Dark " . She started the performance by sitting in front of a piano and announcing " This is for Alexander McQueen . " The whole performance was low @-@ key compared to her previous ones . The stage was decked out in white , and perched on a pedestal was a statue of Gaga wearing a piano skirt and the lobster @-@ claw heels she wore in her " Bad Romance " music video . After finishing an acoustic performance of " Telephone " , she got up from her piano as the disco groove of " Dance in the Dark " was heard throughout the room . She wore a lace bodysuit and a large bouffant wig , took to a giant keytar and performed a techno rendition of the track . After the show , she posted a message on her Twitter account : " Tonight 's performance is inspired by our friend . Mask by Phillip Treacy , Sculpture by Nick Knight , Music by Lady Gaga . We miss you . "

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Dance in the Dark " ? 4 : 49

= = Credits and personnel = =

Lady Gaga ? vocals , songwriter , co @-@ producer , additional instrumentation and arrangement

Fernando Garibay ? songwriter , producer , instrumentation , programming and arrangement

Jonas Westling ? recording and tracking engineer

Dan Parry ? recording and tracking engineer

Christian Delano ? recording and tracking engineer

Recorded at Metropolis Studios , London , England

Tracked at Paradise Studios , Hollywood , Los Angeles , California

Robert Orton ? audio mixing at Sarm Studios , London , England

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

Credits adapted from The Fame Monster album liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =