

= Love Sex Magic =

" Love Sex Magic " is a song recorded by American singer Ciara for her third studio album , Fantasy Ride (2009) . Featuring fellow American recording artist Justin Timberlake , the song was written by Timberlake and his production team The Y 's and Mike Elizondo . The Y 's and Elizondo also produced the track . The song was released from Fantasy Ride as the lead single internationally , and was the second single from that album released in the United States .

The song reveals a complete departure from Ciara 's previous style , neither a sensual ballad nor incorporating Crunk & B influences . It embraces a dance @-@ pop sound , while including R & B and funk via a retro 1970s @-@ style guitar which is present in the piece . Many critics noted the similarities between the song and music on Timberlake 's album FutureSex / LoveSounds (2006) . Critics gave the song mixed reviews , complimenting the song 's funk and retro feel and the chemistry present between Ciara and Timberlake . The song would later go on to be nominated for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals at the 52nd Grammy Awards .

" Love Sex Magic " peaked at number ten on the Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Ciara 's fifth top ten hit as a lead artist , her eighth including features , and her first since " Get Up " in 2006 . Internationally , the song peaked within the top ten of the charts in Australia , Canada , France Germany , New Zealand , the Republic of Ireland , Sweden , Switzerland and the United Kingdom . The music video also exhibits a retro feel inspired by the Crazy Horse cabaret show , and features Timberlake , Ciara , and several different kinds of foreplay , as well as Ciara dancing . For its routines it was nominated for Best Choreography at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards . Ciara has performed the song on television a number of times , including on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and with Timberlake on Saturday Night Live .

= = Background = =

A song entitled " Magic , " performed by Justin Timberlake , leaked online in November 2008 . In February 2009 , Rap @-@ Up reported that Ciara and Timberlake had recorded a new duet for her then @-@ upcoming album , Fantasy Ride . The final version of the song , initially titled " Love and Sex and Magic , " featured Timberlake dueting with Ciara . Eventually known as " Love Sex Magic , " the song was written by Timberlake , Mike Elizondo , and Timberlake 's production team The Y 's ? James Fauntleroy II , Timberlake , and Robin Tadross . Timberlake wanted to create a song that both genders could relate to . The Y 's and Elizondo produced the song . Ciara said that her collaboration with Timberlake was one of the best of her career , because they actually collaborated in the studio , rather than him being added as a guest feature after the initial recording . She explained , " I actually went into the studio to make the record from scratch , or he had the record there for me , but us being together was a very rare case I 've had over the years . " Ciara enjoyed her time with Timberlake , and valued the opportunity to work with him as an " artist and producer . " She also noted how passionate Timberlake was about his work , and mentioned his humbleness and positive attitude .

= = Composition = =

With " Love Sex Magic , " Ciara moved in a more pop direction than her past music . Jordan Sargent of PopMatters noted that while a pop fan might see the singer " back in her mind creatively , " a Ciara fan would see the song as " signal [ing] the end of the singer 's career as it once was . " Sargent stated that the song " sounds nothing like the chrome @-@ plated crunk & b nor the moonlit balladry that Ciara has staked her name on . " Musically , the song is a dance @-@ pop @-@ R & B number which makes use of electro and funk music , as well as displaying disco and soul influences . The song has a minimalistic dance beat , with a " funky , retro 70s style R & B guitar " as the backdrop . Lauren Carter of the Boston Herald said that the song is influenced by Timberlake 's disco @-@ funk work on FutureSex / LoveSounds , stating that " it sounds like a reworked version of his bass @-@ heavy dance number " Sexy Ladies . " Carter commented that Timberlake was "

ushering Ciara away from her typically crunk @-@ laced stylings in favor of JT ? s electro @-@ slide . " Ann Powers of The Los Angeles Times said that the song was " Madonna @-@ esque . " Both Ciara and Timberlake provide verses , accompanied by vocal whims and falsetto .

= = Critical reception = =

Dan Gennoe of Yahoo ! Music UK said that with the track , Ciara " lucked into the sexiest thing to happen to pop since Timberlake 's own FutureSex / LoveSounds , " calling the song one of the " biggest anthems of the year . " Gennoe went on to call the song the " highlight " and " saving grace " of Fantasy Ride . Nick Levine of Digital Spy said that " the track itself is nearly as sexy as the promo clip " , commenting " Ciara purrs , and Timberlake , if you 'll pardon the pun , more than rises to the occasion . All in all , ' Love Sex Magic ' is pretty much spot on . " Lauren Carter of the Boston Herald said " It ? s not quite magic , but it grows on you . " Jeremy Medina of Entertainment Weekly said , " Hooking up with Timberlake essentially guarantees a one @-@ way ticket back to chart supremacy , so nice work there , Ciara . " Medina went on to call the song an early candidate for " song of the summer . "

Jon Caramanica welcomed the " female aggression " presented by Ciara on the track . Caramanica called it an unexpected twist , calling Ciara " still curiously anonymous " . He noted that Timberlake , not a " vocal powerhouse " himself , out @-@ sings Ciara on the track . Tom Breihan of Pitchfork Media said that the song was not bad and complimented the song 's disco feel . He said that it gained Ciara a " radio foothold that had been hers to lose a couple of years ago " , and commented that it seemed like " a bargain @-@ basement Justin Timberlake track , the sort of thing he could 've had lying around in a closet somewhere nearly three years after FutureSex / LoveSounds . " Breihan pointed out that " Timberlake 's nerdy swagger really highlights Ciara 's total lack of presence . " Jordan Sargent of PopMatters criticized the song for being generic , calling it " a formulaic FutureSex / LoveSounds disco retread " , commenting " The song probably could ? ve been given to any struggling female singer and become a hit , and the fact that Ciara had to use it as her parachute is as puzzling as it is unfortunate . " Andy Kellman of Allmusic called the song a " hobbling flop " and said that it was " easily forgettable . "

At the 52nd Grammy Awards , " Love Sex Magic " was nominated for the award for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals . It lost to Jason Mraz and Colbie Caillat 's " Lucky . "

= = Chart performance = =

The song debuted at number eighty @-@ six on the Billboard Hot 100 , and the next week jumped to number twenty @-@ seven . In its third week , the song rose to number ten , becoming Ciara 's fifth top ten single . It was her first top ten entry since " Get Up " in 2006 . It was her highest @-@ charting song on the Hot 100 since " Like a Boy " in 2007 . " Love Sex Magic " appeared on multiple Billboard component charts , reaching number fourteen on the Pop Songs chart , number eighteen Hot Dance Club Songs chart , and eighty @-@ three on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . On the Canadian Hot 100 , the song debuted at number nine , and would later peak at number six .

Although the single did not rank among Ciara 's most successful singles in the United States , it performed well overall in international markets . In Australia , the song debuted at number six on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart , peaking at number five the next week . It spent fourteen weeks on the chart , and was eventually certified Platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , for shipments totalling 70 @, @ 000 copies . In New Zealand , the song debuted at number fourteen on the New Zealand Singles Chart . It remained stagnant the next week until it peaked at six on the chart the following week . Having spent thirteen weeks on the chart , the song was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , for shipments totalling 7 @, @ 500 copies .

Across Europe , the single charted in the top ten of seven charts , and the top twenty of four others . Due to its numerous chartings in Europe , the song peaked at number six on the European Hot 100 chart . In the United Kingdom , " Love Sex Magic " debuted at number six on the UK Singles Chart ,

peaking at number five the following week . The song spent seventeen non @-@ consecutive weeks on the chart , as well as topping the UK R & B Chart for two weeks . In the Republic of Ireland , the song peaked at number four on the Irish Singles Chart , climbing from number seven the previous week .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

The Diane Martel @-@ directed music video for " Love Sex Magic " premiered on March 22 , 2009 . In an interview with MTV News , Ciara said : " It 's all about showing another side of me with this video . I 'm basically giving you a show you 'd see in Vegas ? and it 's my love , sex and magic show . He 's the voyeur and I play with him a little bit . I got my inspiration from the Crazy Horse show and just from the shows [in Vegas] , period . It 's giving you the elements of love and sex and magic . " In a later interview about the video , Ciara stated that she had to lick Timberlake 's ear , and at one point , he was licking her neck and they were " freestyling . " Martel wanted them to do something " edgy , " so they found a " cool way to do it . " Ciara noted the different pauses in cuts in between the tapings , commenting " so it 's licking on the neck , again , then his biting on my neck , again . It was really funny . " The singer would later elaborate on the Crazy Horse show reference in an interview with Blues & Soul , explaining that she had so much respect for the show that it became her reference . On working with Timberlake , she said , " Justin is one of the most easy @-@ going , down @-@ to @-@ earth , hard @-@ working and passionate artists you could ever work with . And , with both me and him , our goal was just to make the best video we could possibly make together , and to give the fans something a little fun and a little unexpected . "

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video opens with Ciara and Timberlake face to face , caressing seductively . The camera cuts to Ciara who appears almost impervious to gravity . Dressed in lingerie , she maneuvers around a horizontal dance pole ; background dancers are veiled in vibrant color schemes and alternating strobe lights . The video then cuts to Ciara in a leotard , posing in abstract and flexible poses . Ciara is then seen dressed in a tiger @-@ striped catsuit performing solo dance moves on a stage . Timberlake performs his verse seated onstage while Ciara performs intricate tricks , such as snaking under his legs . Then the two begin to lightly move to the track before Ciara forms her body as an armrest as he leans on her . Ciara and the dancers perform choreography and cabaret @-@ style moves on the pole . The bridge of the song puts Timberlake on the ground and Ciara , standing over him , turns and performs her signature " Matrix " over him as he guides her body toward his with his right hand . The two perform and as Ciara gets up , Timberlake smacks her side as she pops to the beat . The video then cuts to a scene with Ciara in the catsuit portraying a tiger in a cage . In the final scene , Ciara and the dancers perform , dressed in 1970s @-@ inspired tuxedos and colored afros . The video ends with clips of Ciara 's multiple performance scenes from throughout the video .

= = = Reception = = =

Nick Levine of Digital Spy gave the video a positive review : " The video that accompanies this track is one of the year 's best so far ? and certainly the sexiest : Ciara licks Justin 's ear , Justin reciprocates by slapping her bum , and , well , Ciara 's flexibility would put many a poledancer to shame . Quite frankly , the whole thing could make a nun have impure thoughts . " At the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards , the video was nominated for " Best Choreography ; " it lost to Beyoncé 's " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) . " The video ranked at number thirty @-@ nine on BET 's Notarized : Top 100 Videos of 2009 countdown .

= = Live performances = =

On May 9 , 2009 , Ciara performed the song on Saturday Night Live with Timberlake , that night 's host . Accompanied by live instruments , Ciara performed choreography with backup dancers , while Timberlake played the keyboard . Timberlake and Ciara danced provocatively after he came from behind the keyboard to perform his verse . During the set , Ciara also performed " Never Ever . " A writer for BET 's Sound Off Blog said , " aside from the fact that her grunts were live and her stage humps were unreal , Ciara 's set was pretty decent . Not that I expected any less from the A @-@ Town princess , but that was a pretty tasty performance . " The writer pointed out that Timberlake was not even noted on the set until he began his verse . In an interview with MTV News , Ciara went into detail about the setup of the performance , stating :

" I just kind of felt cool , ' cause Justin can play [piano] real well and he really gets into the music and it was , like , ' Hey , let 's make you part of the band . ' Having Justin in the background for the live performance was very different from the music video for the song , where the two dance quite provocatively with one another . [We wanted to] do something different and make it fun . It was awesome to see him pick up the keys . "

On May 13 , 2009 , Ciara performed the song on The Ellen DeGeneres Show , accompanied by background dancers . Ciara and the dancers performed choreography similar to that of the video and wore the 1970s @-@ inspired suits and afros . The same day , she performed the song with " Never Ever " on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! Ciara performed the song at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards Japan on May 30 , 2009 .

= = Track listing and versions = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Ciara Harris ? vocals

Justin Timberlake ? vocals , producer , writer , instruments , music programming

James Fauntleroy ? producer , writer , music programming

Robin Tadross ? producer , writer , instruments , music programming

Mike Elizondo ? producer , writer , instruments

Spike Stent ? audio mixing

Henson Recording Studios in Los Angeles , CA - recording studio

Source

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Radio and release history = =