



“Don't you ever let a soul in the world tell you that you can't be exactly who you are.”

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta born March 28, 1986, better known by her stage name Lady Gaga, is an American pop singer-songwriter. After enrolling at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2003 and performing in the rock music scene of New York City's Lower East Side, she signed with Streamline Records, an imprint of Interscope Records.

During her early time at Interscope, she worked as a songwriter for fellow label artists and captured the attention of recording artist Akon who, recognizing her vocal abilities, signed her to his own label, Kon Live Distribution. Gaga came to prominence following the release of her debut studio album *The Fame* which was a critical and commercial success and achieved international popularity with the singles "Just Dance" and "Poker Face". The album reached number one on the record charts of six countries, topped the Billboard Dance/Electronic Albums chart while simultaneously peaking at number two on the Billboard 200 chart in the United

States and accomplished positions within the top ten worldwide. Achieving similar worldwide success, *The Fame Monster* (2009), its follow-up, produced a further three global chart-topping singles "Bad Romance", "Telephone" and "Alejandro" and allowed her to embark on her second global concert tour, *The Monster Ball Tour*, just months after having finished her first, *The Fame Ball Tour*. Her second studio album *Born This Way* topped the charts in all major musical markets after the arrival of its singles "Born This Way", "Judas" and "The Edge of Glory"—the first-mentioned achieved the number-one spot in countries worldwide and was the fastest-selling single in the history of iTunes, selling one million copies in five days. In the United States, she is among the best-selling digital artists, selling an estimated 29.3 million digital singles over the course of her career. In 2010, *Billboard* named her the Artist of the Year, and ranked her as the seventy-third best artist of the 2000s decade. Gaga has been included in the *Time* 100 list of the most influential people in the world as well as being listed in *Forbes*