

Lady Gaga Channels her Inner Madonna, Jackson

By: Lee Singletary

Sexually charged choreography? Check. Historical and religious references? Check. A reason to keep coming back for more? Duh. Today, Tuesday, June 8 marks the date for the premier of Lady Gaga's new video for the song "Alejandro," a catchy yet melodramatic pop number that is stuck in everyone's heads at the moment.



Lady Gaga, clad in a latex-inspired burka in the "Alejandro" music video

Contrary to her most recent videos, "Alejandro" does not fit within the storyline listeners have been accustomed to following. In "Paparazzi," Gaga killed her husband and in "Telephone" she gets released from jail. One would naturally assume that the next 8+ minute long music video would follow the trend and tie in with the story.

Sorry everyone, that is not what "Alejandro" is about, rather it's a dark, arty, spectacle that is soon, like all great music videos presented by pop icons, sure to cause some controversy. While Gaga's other videos may have been fun and poppy, her latest depicts a rather serious set of messages reminiscent of Madonna's "Like a Prayer" and staging comparable to "Vogue."

Situated in dreary surroundings and capturing a homoerotic feel, the music video highlights the historic fashion and expressionist era of a 1920's Weimar Germany. The dancers sport "bowl" hairstyles and austere facial expressions as they bleakly, yet motivationally move through the dimly lit spaces on the set. Gaga however, sports latex-fashioned religious attire as well as a nude two-piece and of course, an overstated headpiece at times.

A "Rhythm Nation," Janet Jackson inspired march leads the seemingly oppressed yet determined dancers through the cold and to a funeral. Gaga sings through a series of sexually charged dance sequences with her male dancers and religiously haltered slow frames.

A spectacle to watch, we can't help but to wonder why the song, which talks about losing an apparently Latin lover (Alejandro) is set to an oppressed German scene. Regardless of whether or not we understand the video's meaning, fans will always come back for more when this visionary releases more of her work.