I'm not a bot

© 2025 ABC News It's the tour that has been all over social media. People have had...a lot to say about Katy Perry's "The Lifetimes Tour," and the GRAMMY-winning singer acknowledged that several times during her show in Seattle on Monday night. "I am slightly confused," she said as she addressed the crowd. "This is not what the internet says is going on. There are people packed to the very, very, very, very top. Is the internet even real? Or is this what's real right now? You better believe it, Seattle, and on a Monday night, no doubt."Wide Awake: Photos from Katy Perry's 'Lifetimes Tour' in SeattleIf you are on social media, you have seen the clips. You have seen the less-than-kind commentary — it's almost unavoidable if you are interested in pop culture in the slightest. So, I can't lie, as I headed into this concert, I really had to clear my mind and try my best to go into it with no expectations or preconceived notions. Which was rather difficult, given the attention the tour has gotten since it began. As I arrived at Climate Pledge Arena, I was exhausted. I spent the weekend away celebrating a friend's wedding with little sleep and aching legs because this girl danced all night with her heels on at 30 (who does that?). I grabbed myself an energy drink and water from a concession stand and headed to my seat. The lights dimmed shortly after I sat down, and Rebecca Black started her opening set. You may know this artist best from her infamous 2011 single "Friday," but Black has had a metamorphosis of sorts, diving into pop, EDM and electro-pop music, finding a niche for herself as a queer musician. Recently, she performed at Seattle's Queer/Pride Festival for Pride, and she returned to the Emerald City to get the party started for Perry. And boy, did she. Photos: Rebecca Black, Heidi Montag & Countess Luann at Seattle's Queer/Pride FestivalI was wildly impressed with her vocals and range, and her energetic set did wake me up a bit. It was just her and two dancers, but they commanded the stage. I am also a lover of EDM myself, and I could hear the influence of the genre throughout the songs she chose to perform. And although she is a very different woman from the girl who released "Friday" all those years ago, she did sing a remix of the song for Seattle. It brought me back to high school in the best way. Speaking of high school, this entire night was nostalgic for me. I have been a Perry fan since my middle school days, when she released "I Kissed a Girl." I remember listening to her "Teenage Dream" album on repeat throughout my high school career. So, even though I have seen some clips of the tour that made it seem, to be frank, a bad show, I was excited to hear some of my favorite songs from a very transformative time of my life. I am going to be honest here: I had a good time. Were there some parts that made me laugh out loud, like her flipping and spinning upside down for a large portion of the night? Yes. Were some parts a little bit corny, like the AI (ugh) video-game-like transitions that played on screen about butterflies and love being the answer to everything? Yes. Did she make some comments that seemed a little passive-aggressive about what is being said on the internet? Yes.But isn't all of this stuff that Perry has leaned into for her entire career? Is this not the same artist who wore colorful wigs and cupcakes on her bra for years? None of this would really have surprised me, even if I didn't see a lot of it on TikTok beforehand. This is her "Eras Tour," of sorts. I really do think she leaned into what she was doing for all her eras during the show — the cupcake outfits, the alien/outer space vibes and wigs, for example. Perry fought aliens during her performance of "E.T." She rode a mechanical butterfly during "Roar." She sang songs that got her career started, like "I Kissed a Girl," deep cuts like "Pearl" and fan-favorites like "Wide Awake" and "California Gurls." And, of course, she ended the night with "Firework."In my opinion, people love to hate; they love to have something to say about everything, and this tour is no different. I do agree with some of the things I have heard. I am not saying people are wrong for their opinions. But for the people who really love Katy Perry — the people who are truly fans of this artist, this was a fun, over-the-top show where you can tell the artist is just wanting to have a blast giving her fans a performance. She also sounded as good as ever, because one thing about Perry is you can make fun of her for being a corny millennial or doing some odd things on stage, but you can't say that she can't sing. I definitely had some favorite moments from the night. When I put the word "soar" into the headline of this review, I meant it literally. Perry probably spent half the two-hour show suspended in the air in some capacity — and at one point, she was quite literally backflipping across platforms, followed by her soaring around the arena several times. I was both impressed and concerned. How she does not throw up from all this airtime, I will never know.There was a part of the show where she went around and called people up on stage to help perform "The One That Got Away." One of the lucky crowd members selected was about two rows in front of me, dressed up in denim shorts, a cupcake bra and purple wig. They were so excited to be chosen, and it was fun to see up close.During this portion of the night, another favorite moment, which I believe might be a favorite for everyone in attendance, was when a little girl named Sunday was chosen to be up on stage. She is 8 years old, and she helped Perry sing her favorite song, "Dark Horse," and also helped sing during "The One That Got Away." It was one of the most adorable things I have ever seen at a concert. That girl is a star in the making. Perry also introduced us to a woman in the crowd who helped her train for her space mission. The woman lives in Seattle, and Perry gifted her a ring that she wants her to wear when she finally gets her chance to go to space. It was a sweet moment. All in all, I will say that this is a concert that will make you laugh out loud a little because of how outrageous it is, cringe a little when things are a little too corny — but also make you sing songs at the top of your lungs that bring you back to the first time you heard them. In a time when everything is daunting and we have to think critically about so much daily, I think there are some things you do not need to look at through such a critical lens. You can go into some things simply to laugh, cry, sing and be entertained. That is what "The Lifetimes Tour" did for me, at least. Abby Luschei is Seattle Refined's assistant editor and digital producer. She can be reached at aluschei@seattlerefined.com. Follow her on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and X. Katy Perry, born Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson on October 25, 1984, in Santa Barbara, California, is a well-known singer, songwriter, and TV judge. Perry started singing in church as a child and explored gospel music during her teenage years. However, after her first gospel album didn’t succeed commercially, she switched to pop music. Her big break came with the release of her hit single “I Kissed a Girl” in 2008, which brought her widespread fame. Age Katy Perry was born on October 25, 1984, which makes her 39 years old as of 2024. Height She stands a height of 5 feet and 6 inches tall. Education As a child, Katy Perry went to religious schools where she received vocal training. Her primary focus and efforts were dedicated to her music career rather than pursuing a traditional academic education. Hobbies She enjoys hobbies such as cooking, gardening, and collecting vintage items during her free hours. Parents Katy is the daughter of Keith Hudson and Mary Perry. Katy Perry Photo Siblings Perry has a sister named Angela who is older than her, and a brother named David who is younger. Marriage and Partner Katy Perry tied the knot with actor Russell Brand in 2010, but their marriage ended in divorce in 2012. Presently, she is engaged to actor Orlando Bloom, with whom she shares a daughter. Career Katy Perry’s journey in the music industry began with her debut album “One of the Boys” in 2008, featuring popular tracks like “I Kissed a Girl” and “Hot n Cold.” She achieved further success with her 2010 album “Teenage Dream,” which spawned multiple chart-topping hits. Throughout her career, Perry has earned numerous awards, including Grammy nominations and Billboard Music Awards, and has also ventured into acting, appearing in films such as “The Smurfs” and “Katy Perry: Part of Me.” Perry’s vibrant pop tunes and lively performances have solidified her status as a prominent figure in the music industry. Awards and Honours Net worth Katy has amassed a net worth of approximately $330 million from her thriving music career, profitable endorsement agreements, and diverse business ventures. What religion is Katy Perry? Pentecostal pastors raised Perry in a strict Christian household. As a child, she often attended church and youth groups. However, she has expressed a close relationship with God as an adult, stating that she has “never felt closer to God”. Despite her Christian upbringing, she does not explicitly identify herself as a Christian. She holds personal and nuanced views on religion. Social Media Instagram YouTube X (Twitter) 07/26/2025Canada Life CentreWinnipegBUY VIP07/29/2025Canadian Tire CentreOttawaBUY VIP07/30/2025Bell CentreMontrealBUY VIP08/01/2025Centre VideotronQuebec CityBUY VIP08/03/2025Little Caesars ArenaDetroitBUY VIP08/05/2025Scotiabank ArenaTorontoBUY VIP08/06/2025Scotiabank ArenaTorontoBUY VIP08/08/2025TD GardenBostonBUY VIP08/09/2025Wells Fargo CenterPhiladelphiaBUY VIP08/11/2025Madison Square GardenNew YorkBUY VIP08/14/2025Prudential CenterNewarkBUY VIP08/15/2025CFG Bank ArenaBaltimoreBUY VIP08/17/2025Lenovo CenterRaleighBUY VIP08/19/2025Bridgestone ArenaNashvilleBUY VIP08/20/2025State Farm ArenaAtlantaBUY VIP08/22/2025Amalie ArenaTampaBUY VIP08/23/2025Kaseya CenterMiamiBUY VIP09/06/2025Estadio Bicentenario La FloridaSantiagoBUY VIP09/09/2025Movistar ArenaBuenos AiresBUY VIP09/10/2025Movistar ArenaBuenos AiresBUY VIP09/14/2025The Town 2025Sao PauloBUY09/16/2025Ligga ArenaCuritibaON SALE JUNE 6TH VIP09/19/2025Arena BRB Mane GarrinchaBrasiliaON SALE JUNE 6th VIP10/04/2025SSE ArenaBelfastBUY VIP10/05/2025SSE ArenaBelfastBUY VIP10/07/2025OVO HydroGlasgowBUY VIP10/08/2025AO ArenaManchesterBUY VIP10/10/2025Utilita ArenaSheffieldBUY VIP10/11/2025Utilita ArenaBirminghamBUY VIP10/13/2025The O2LondonBUY VIP10/14/2025The O2LondonBUY VIP10/16/2025SportpaleisAntwerpBUY VIP10/17/2025ZAG ArenaHannoverBUY VIP10/19/2025Royal ArenaCopenhagenBUY VIP10/21/2025Uber ArenaBerlinBUY VIP10/23/2025Lanxess ArenaCologneBUY VIP10/24/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP10/27/2025MVM DomeBudapestBUY VIP10/28/2025Tauron ArenaKrakowBUY VIP10/30/2025O2 ArenaPragueBUY VIP10/31/2025OlympiahalleMunichBUY VIP11/02/2025Unipol ArenaBolognaBUY VIP11/04/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP11/05/2025Accor ArenaParisBUY VIP11/07/2025LDLC ArenaLyonBUY VIP11/09/2025Palau Sant JordiBarcelonaBUY VIP11/11/2025Movistar ArenaMadridBUY VIP11/21/2025Olympic Sports Centre GymnasiumHangzhouBUY11/22/2025Olympic Sports Centre GymnasiumHangzhouBUY11/24/2025Mercedes Benz ArenaShanghaiINFO11/25/2025Mercedes Benz ArenaShanghaiINFO11/26/2025Mercedes Benz ArenaShanghaiBUY11/29/2025Wuyuanhe StadiumHaikouBUY12/03/2025Saitama Super ArenaTokyoBUY12/04/2025Saitama Super ArenaTokyoBUY12/07/2025Abu Dhabi Grand PrixAbu DhabiBUY 1984-presentAmerican pop singer Katy Perry initially attempted to break into the music business with a gospel album. Her image radically changed by the time of her 2008 smash single "I Kissed a Girl," from One of the Boys, and she went on to top the charts with the follow-up albums Teenage Dream, Prism and Witness. Perry is also known for her performance during the 2015 Super Bowl halftime show, her marriage to comedian Russell Brand and her selection as a judge for American Idol.Early Life and Musical AspirationsKaty Perry was born Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson was born on October 25, 1984, in Santa Barbara, California. Fans might be surprised to learn that the singer who writes about sexual exploration in "I Kissed a Girl" grew up in a very conservative family. Both of her parents are pastors, and they refused to let her listen to any rock or popular music. "The only things I was allowed to listen to were the Sister Act 1 and 2 soundtracks," Perry told Entertainment Weekly. She and her two siblings were also not permitted to watch such cable channels as MTV and VH1.Perry started taking singing lessons around the age of 9 and learned to play guitar when she was 13. Around this time, she began rebelling against her strict upbringing by piercing her own nose. She soon became interested in pursuing a career in music. With her mother, Perry made several trips to Nashville to record a gospel album, Katy Hudson, which was released in 2001. "It reached literally maybe 100 people, and then the label went bankrupt," Perry explained to Entertainment Weekly.As a teenager, Perry was exposed to other musical influences. One friend introduced her to the music of Queen, which remains one of her favorite groups. "I'm very inspired by Freddie Mercury and how flamboyant and theatrical he was," she told fashion magazine WWD.In high school, she strove to be her own person, choosing not to limit herself to one social group. "I was a hop-around. I hung out with the rockabilly crew, the guys who were trying to be rappers, the funny kids," she told Seventeen magazine. Focused on her music, Perry got her GED and moved to Los Angeles to work with producer and songwriter Glen Ballard, who had collaborated with such artists as Christina Aguilera and Alanis Morissette. She was only 17 years old at the time, and being on her own proved tough. "It was five years of living in L.A. with no money, writing bad checks, selling my clothes to make rent, [and] borrowing money," she told Seventeen. Perry also experienced a string of disappointments before getting her big break. She and Ballard were unable to find a record company willing to take them on, and her 2004 collaboration with music producers-turned-performers The Matrix was scrapped shortly before the project was to be released. After having three record deals fall apart, Perry finally signed with Capitol Records in 2007.Albums and Songs'One of the Boys'Following the November 2007 release of the single "Ur So Gay," which caught the attention of Madonna, Perry saw her career take off with her next effort, "I Kissed a Girl." The song hit the top of the charts in the summer of 2008, propelling Perry's album, One of the Boys, into the Billboard Top 10. A follow-up single, "Hot n Cold," also charted highly.Along with earning a Best Female Pop Vocal Performance Grammy nomination, Perry became famous for her theatricality. On the Warped Tour, she performed "I Kissed a Girl" with a giant tube of lip balm, referencing a line in the song. Perry has also jumped into a larger-than-life cake and appeared in a number of wild outfits while onstage. Describing her style as "Lucille Ball meets Bob Mackie," she told Esquire, "It's about innuendo. I want everybody to get the joke, but I want them to think about it for a minute."In 2009, Perry appeared in her own acoustic special on MTV. The soundtrack from the show, Katy Perry: MTV Unplugged, was released around the same time.'Teenage Dream' Picking up where she left off, Perry released a new single with Snoop Dogg, "California Gurls," in May 2010. The single shot to the top of the charts, paving the way for its accompanying studio album, Teenage Dream, to do the same. Perry's follow-up singles, "Teenage Dream," "Firework," "E.T." and "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)" all followed the path of "California Gurls," making Perry just the second artist, after Michael Jackson, to have five No. 1 hits from a single album.In 2012, she released a new edition of her hit album, called Teenage Dream: The Complete Confection. The record had several new tracks, including the successful singles "Part of Me" and "Wide Awake." 'Prism'Perry continued to dominate the music charts with 2013's Prism. The album's lead single, "Roar," climbed to No. 1, and "Dark Horse," her collaboration with Juicy J, also spent several weeks in the top spot, pushing Perry past Mariah Carey for most total weeks with a No. 1 hit (46). The album's fifth and final single, "This Is How We Do," featuring Riff Raff, also performed well.'Witness'A few months after the release of "Chained to the Rhythm," with Skip Marley, Perry dropped her latest studio effort, Witness, in June 2017. Witness debuted in the top spot, giving the artist her third straight No. 1 album. Despite the announcement of the supporting Witness: The Tour, scheduled to run from September 2017 to August 2018, the album's sales dropped in the following weeks; after her previous three albums racked up a combined 17 million in sales, Witness was at a relatively modest total of 840,000 as of January 2018.The artist was back with new music by 2019, beginning with her collaboration with Zedd on "365." She then teamed with Daddy Yankee and Snow for a remix of "Con Calma," before unveiling her new solo single, "Never Really Over," in May.'American Idol' JudgeIn May 2017, Perry was announced as the first judge selected for the reboot of American Idol. She was later joined by country star Luke Bryan and R&B and pop singer Lionel Richie, with Ryan Seacrest also agreeing to return as host.Perry had previously served as a guest judge on Idol in 2009, temporarily replacing Paula Abdul. Since then, she had turned down offers to appear on other singing competition shows, like The X Factor.The pop star immediately made waves for her behavior during the two-part premiere of season 16 in March 2018: At one point she fell while dancing on stage in high heels, and at another moment she smooched a shy contestant who said he was saving his first kiss for someone special, drawing the ire of many on social media. Perry later returned with Bryan, Richie and Seacrest for seasons 17 and 18.Super Bowl Halftime ShowOn February 1, 2015, Perry was the featured performer during the Super Bowl XLIX halftime show. Along with appearances by guest artists Lenny Kravitz and Missy Elliott, the show was remembered for the seeming mismatched choreography of two dancers in shark costumes while Perry belted out "Teenage Dream." Overall, the performance drew a reported 118.5 million viewers, making it the most-watched Super Bowl halftime show to date.Photo: Pascal Le Segretain/Getty ImagesKaty Perry attends the Chanel Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2017-2018 show as part of Haute Couture Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France.'Dark Horse' Copyright InfringementIn 2014, songwriters Marcus Gray, Emanuel Lambert and Chike Ojukwu filed a lawsuit alleging that Perry's hit "Dark Horse" copied the trio's Christian rap song "Joyful Noise," released in 2009 under Gray's stage name, Flame.In July 2019, a federal jury in a Los Angeles ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, with Perry, her five credited co-writers and the four corporations that released and distributed "Dark Horse" all found liable for copyright infringement. The following month, Perry and her collaborators were ordered to pay $2.78 million in compensation.However, the verdict was overturned upon appeal in March 2020, with a federal judge determining that the disputed portion of "Dark Horse" — an eight-note ostinato that runs through much of the song — was not distinctive enough to be protected by copyright laws.Movies and Other EndeavorsThe artist was the subject of the autobiographical documentary Katy Perry: Part of Me (2012), which featured behind-the-scenes footage and clips of young Perry along with her dazzling concert performances. She also voiced the character of Smurfette for The Smurfs (2011) and The Smurfs 2 (2013) and made a cameo as herself in Zoolander 2 (2016). In 2014, Perry also launched her own music label, Metamorphosis Music, as a subsidiary of Capitol. The label changed its name to Unsub Records in 2016.After visiting Madagascar on behalf of UNICEF in April 2013, Perry became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador late in the year. In February 2020, she was named an ambassador of the British Asian Trust by Britain's Prince Charles.Personal LifeIn 2009, Perry made tabloid headlines for her relationship with British comedian Russell Brand. They were engaged over the New Year's holiday while on a trip to India, and on October 23, 2010, the couple married in India in a traditional Hindu ceremony. According to The Times of India, the wedding featured a procession of camels, elephants and horses, plus fire jugglers, snake charmers, dancers and musicians. Their union, however, did not last long, as Brand filed for divorce in December 2011.Perry has also been romantically linked to musicians John Mayer and Diplo, as well as actor Orlando Bloom. On February 15, 2019, she announced her engagement to Bloom with an Instagram photo that showed her flower-shaped ring. Just after midnight on March 5, Perry delivered another surprise announcement by revealing a baby bump at the end of her new video for "Never Worn White."Feud With Taylor SwiftPerry and Taylor Swift, who both dated John Mayer, ended their friendship after Perry allegedly tried to poach some of Swift's tour dancers. Perry's song "Swish Swish" is apparently about the feud. “I think it's a great anthem for people to use when someone's trying to hold you down, or bully you,” Perry said. "I think ‘Swish’ is a liberation from all the negative that doesn't serve you.”On May 8, 2018, Perry put an end to their feud by extending an olive branch — literally, she sent Swift an actual olive branch — with a note that said, “I’ve been doing some reflecting on past miscommunication and hurt feelings between us." Name: Katy Perry Birth date: October 25, 1984Birth State: CaliforniaBirth City: Santa Barbara Astrological Sign: ScorpioSchool: Dos Pueblos High SchoolFact Check: We strive for accuracy and fairness. If you see something that doesn’t look right, contact us! The only things I was allowed to listen to were the 'Sister Act' 1 and 2 soundtracks.Ultimately I want Katy Perry to be as much of a household name as Madonna.Biography.com EditorsStaff Editorial Team and ContributorsThe Biography.com staff is a team of people-obsessed and news-hungry editors with decades of collective experience. We have worked as daily newspaper reporters, major national magazine editors, and as editors-in-chief of regional media publications. Among our ranks are book authors and award-winning journalists. Our staff also works with freelance writers, researchers, and other contributors to produce the smart, compelling profiles and articles you see on our site. To meet the team, visit our About Us page: Photos by West Smith I walked into Climate Pledge Arena on Monday night with extremely low expectations. I’ve never been a Katy Perry fan—songs like “I Kissed a Girl” and “Ur So Gay” rubbed me the wrong way even as a 12-year-old girl. Between her Christian fundamentalist beginnings, out-of-touch depictions of queerness, online jabs at other pop stars (which appear to be scrubbed from the internet), and public support of conservative mayoral candidate Rick Caruso, she seemed inauthentic. In Archie Comics terms, I always considered myself to be a Betty, and Katy Perry, with her black baby bangs and I’m-better-than-you attitude, is most certainly a Veronica. Despite all of this, I’ll admit, last night’s concert moved me. Here are four things I learned from my night at the Lifetimes tour. Perry’s Fans Love Her, and She Loves Them Back While I was aware that Katy Perry has an army of fans (aka Katy Cats), I assumed they had grown up with her, that they bopped along to “California Gurls” as pre-teens and are now returning to her career retrospective tour to scratch that nostalgic itch. I was wrong. At least 50 percent of the audience was under the age of 16. I saw young girls enter the arena in droves, wearing tutus, shark costumes, whipped-cream bras, and blue wigs, and holding signs that said things like “It’s my birthday today! Hear me roar!” A woman in the elevator mentioned that it was her 7-year-old daughter’s first concert. In the bathroom line, I overheard two tween girls with fresh blue highlights talking about how their hearts were racing in anticipation of seeing Perry. It was all so sweet and wholesome! I began to feel ashamed that I approached this concert with the same stuck-up, Veronica-esque attitude that made me dislike Katy Perry in the first place. When Perry rose up from beneath the stage to start the show, the crowd roared (heh) with excitement. This was by far the loudest concert I’ve ever attended, and I’ve seen My Bloody Valentine. Perry prioritized crowd work throughout her set—she grabbed a fan’s phone and recorded herself through an entire song, then snapped a selfie before returning it. She picked several fans out of the audience and brought them onstage. She hugged each one, admiring their outfits, and asking them, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” before inviting them to perform “The One That Got Away” with her. Then, in Willy Wonka fashion, she tore a piece from her cotton-candy-spun boots and handed it to an 8-year-old fan. “It’s real cotton candy,” she said. “Go ahead, try some.” Unfortunately, these aren't the cotton candy boots. She’s a Walking Contradiction Throughout the night, Perry thanked her fans for showing her “what’s real.” She noted that while the internet is full of reports about her plummeting career, she sees fans packed to the very top of the arena. However, despite her assertions that the internet is a cesspool of misinformation and deception, a carousel of AI slop played on a giant screen behind her. During “Woman’s World,” her latest, controversial (and critically panned) single, AI-generated women’s magazine covers morphed into each other with noticeably uncanny qualities—nonsense words, blacked-out eyes, and warped limbs. There were clear nods to the absurdity of modern technology and the ridiculousness of her public image, with several references to her life being a “video game,” yet she perpetuated the falseness of her image more than she critiqued it. As she closed the show with “Firework,” I considered how that song appeals to both suburban families on Independence Day and queer people looking for inspiration to come out. I cannot decide if this merging of patriotism and queerness is harmful or advantageous. At this career-spanning Lifetimes tour, which was structured similarly to Taylor Swift’s Eras tour, I learned that Perry’s radio hits from my tween and teen years sounded better than ever, and I got the sense that the crowd agreed. Perry opened with hyper-pop-inspired songs from her latest release, 143, but the energy didn’t fully pick up until she moved on to classics like “California Gurls,” “Teenage Dream,” “Hot N Cold,” “Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.),” and “I Kissed a Girl.” Looking around, you’d have thought it was 2010 with all the young girls screaming along to these 15-year-old-plus songs. I was also unexpectedly moved by her partially acoustic rendition of “Pearl,” a deep cut on Teenage Dream. While lyrically straightforward, the song taps into a more genuine, resonant type of feminism that anthems like “Woman’s World” lack. "She could be a Statue of Liberty / She could be a Joan of Arc / But he's scared of the light that's inside of her / So he keeps her in the dark,” she coos, before belting out the chorus: “Oh, she used to be a pearl / Yeah, she used to rule the world / Can't believe she's become a shell of herself / 'Cause she used to be a pearl.” I couldn’t help but shed a tear. Before winning me over with an emotional performance of “Pearl,” she had lost me with a megachurch-style sermon about her space voyage. She had long dreamed of going to space, she said, and despite her dreams being dismissed, she feels that she ultimately “manifested” her trip on Blue Origin. “Part of me did it so that I could let go of any last bit of fear that I had, because I knew that was when my life would begin again,” she said, tearing up. “And to any other girl that has a dream, you go and do it!” This drew attention to a major discrepancy in her brand regarding female empowerment—she preaches and sings about overcoming adversity (see: “Roar” and “Rise”), but the things she has overcome in her life are deeply unrelatable. At one point, she told the audience how she had dropped her 5-year-old daughter off at summer camp that morning, adding, “her father [Orlando Bloom] and I were sobbing.” For a moment, I felt sad for her, but then I thought about what happened after the emotional scene—she likely hopped onto her private jet and continued her tour. Her wealth and overall privilege make these experiences completely optional. For the majority of her fans, whether they be tween girls or members of the queer community, moments of fear are not optional, and she rarely, if ever, acknowledges that. While she doesn’t owe the public details about her marriage to accused abuser Russell Brand, her identity as a bisexual woman, or her current divorce, I can’t help but think being open about her true struggles (with less AI-airbrushing) would add a layer of authenticity to her image. But then again, the authenticity we expect from female pop stars is far beyond that of men in the same field. Is it my cynicism that keeps me from connecting to her music, or is it Katy Perry’s inauthenticity? Is she the Veronica, or am I? Bonus Katyisms: “I’m a Scorpio, bitch!” “Is the internet real, or is this what’s real?” “I dedicate [‘I Kissed A Girl’] to the community—the ones who raised me, the ones that called me out, and the ones that educated me, and for all the little girls in between like myself.” “Love is love! It’s not a gender, it’s a frequency, so tap into it, baby!” “What’s up, Amazon family?” Entertainment & Pop Culture Music, Contemporary Genres Pop Music Katy Perry (born October 25, 1984, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.) is an American pop singer who gained fame for a string of anthemic and often sexually suggestive hit songs, as well as for a playfully cartoonish sense of style. Her popular singles include “I Kissed a Girl,” “Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.),” “Roar,” and “Rise.” Katy Hudson was raised in southern California, the middle child of two itinerant born-again Christian ministers. Nonreligious music was forbidden in the Hudson household, and she grew up singing church hymns and gospel tunes. As a teenager, she learned to play the guitar and sought a musical career in Nashville with a Christian record label, but her debut album, the gospel-influenced Katy Hudson (2001), sold poorly. By then, however, Hudson had found new musical models in such rock artists as Freddie Mercury and Alanis Morissette, whom she had discovered through friends. She soon moved to Los Angeles to pursue success in the secular music realm, adopting her mother’s maiden name, Perry, to avoid confusion with the actress Kate Hudson. Perry’s initial efforts at mainstream stardom were fruitless, with two separate record labels signing and subsequently dropping her before any material was released. In 2007, however, Capitol Records put out Perry’s EP Ur So Gay, which attracted modest attention for its cheerfully flippant title track. She made a greater splash several months later with the single “I Kissed a Girl,” an assertive ode to sexual curiosity backed by a hard-edged electro-pop beat. The song quickly stirred controversy, as some critics derided it for promoting same-sex relations and others charged that the racy scenario it depicted catered to male fantasies of female sexuality. Nevertheless, the combination of titillation and polished melodicism helped “I Kissed a Girl” become a number one hit in multiple countries, powering sales for her album One of the Boys (2008). With its bouncy, sharp-tongued second single, “Hot N Cold,” also proving popular, the album—much of which Perry wrote herself—eventually registered sales of more than three million copies in the United States. By late 2009 Perry had become frequent tabloid fodder, largely because of her quirky, vividly colored fashions—which borrowed variously from 1940s pinup models, burlesque performers, and the kawaii (“cute”) cultural aesthetic of Japan—as well as her high-profile relationship with English comedian Russell Brand, to whom she was briefly married (2010–12). After recording the stripped-down live album MTV Unplugged (2009), Perry returned to the studio. The resulting release, Teenage Dream (2010), which provided a broader showcase for her full-throated voice, was even more commercially successful than One of the Boys, spawning such hits as the warm-weather frivolity “California Gurls” (featuring rapper Snoop Dogg) and the inspirational “Firework.” When “Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)” reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart in mid-2011, Perry tied Michael Jackson’s record of five number one songs from a single album. Perry maintained her grip on the mainstream with her next release, Prism (2013), which produced, among other hits, the anthemic “Roar.” Her 2016 single “Rise” was featured in television coverage of that year’s Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Perry’s fifth studio album, Witness (2017), more introspective than her earlier work, was less well received. She returned to mainstream pop with the empowerment-oriented Smile (2020). Perry later released 143(2024), which was notable for its negative reviews. While critics often disparaged Perry’s songs as vapid, the music industry was generally kinder, rewarding her with several Grammy Award nominations, including album of the year for Teenage Dream. In 2011 she made her big-screen acting debut, providing the voice of Smurfette in the film The Smurfs, and she reprised the role for a 2013 sequel. She was also the subject of the 3-D concert-tour documentary Katy Perry: Part of Me (2012). From 2018 to 2024 Perry was one of the judges on the new incarnation of the singing competition TV show American Idol. In April 2025 Perry was one of six passengers on an all-female commercial spaceflight on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos’s Blue Origin rocket. During the 11-minute flight, Perry sang Louis Armstrong’s classic “What a Wonderful World” to her fellow space tourists, which included journalist Gayle King and former National Aeronautics and Space Administration rocket scientist Aisha Bowe. Following her marriage (2010–12) to Russell Brand, Perry became engaged to actor Orlando Bloom in 2018. Two years later, they had a daughter. John M. Cunningham The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

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