

= Show Your Hand =

" Show Your Hand " is a song by Welsh rock band Super Furry Animals and was the first single from their 2007 album , Hey Venus ! . The single was made available for download on 16 July 2007 as an iTunes exclusive and was later released in physical formats on 13 August in the UK . The track failed to penetrate the UK singles chart 's Top 40 , peaking at # 46 .

According to lead singer Gruff Rhys the track is " a song about gambling " and was originally going to be left off Hey Venus ! for being " too generic " before Rough Trade boss Geoff Travis persuaded the band to reconsider their decision . Critical reaction to the track was mixed with some reviewers claiming " Show Your Hand " was " ponderously mature " and " more like the generic pop songs one would find on the radio " while others hailed the track as " classic Furies " .

Unlike the two other singles taken from Hey Venus ! , " Run @-@ Away " and " The Gift That Keeps Giving " , no music video was produced for " Show Your Hand " .

= = Origins and recording = =

In an interview with Pitchfork Media given before the release of Hey Venus ! , singer Gruff Rhys claimed " Show Your Hand " was " a song about gambling . There 's lots of card @-@ playing going on in the Super Furry Animals [tour bus] , which may have [had] a slight influence on the subject matter " . Rhys went on to state that the song was initially left off Hey Venus ! for being " too generic " :

A combination of pressure from Rough Trade 's Geoff Travis and Jeannette Lee (" Where 's that song gone ? That 's our favorite song ! ") and the addition of a French horn part , written by Cian Ciaran , resulted in the song finally taking its place on the record . Although the majority of the track was recorded at Miraval Studios , France along with the rest of Hey Venus ! , additional recording also took place with Chris Shaw who mixed the album . According to Cian Ciaran both b @-@ sides to " Show Your Hand " , namely " Aluminium Illuminati " and " Never More " , were originally recorded during sessions for 2003 's Phantom Power although " Aluminium Illuminati " was mentioned as a working title as early as May 2000 in connection with 2001 's Rings Around the World album .

= = Musical structure = =

" Show Your Hand " is 2 minutes 51 seconds long and is in the key of E minor . The song begins with a " Kevin Ayers @-@ style psych @-@ pop intro " ; " a Beatlesque harpsichord line " accompanied by intermittent bass and occasional strummed guitar chords with Rhys singing the lines " You 're perched so neatly on the fence , you 're keeping your cards all to yourself ... " as the song builds to its first chorus on 30 seconds .

" Emphatic power chords " takes the song into the " rarefied soft @-@ rock territory " of the chorus with Rhys singing the title phrase four times before being joined by " sugar @-@ sweet harmonies from the Brian Wilson School of Spine @-@ Tingling Pop " on the last lines : " I 'm jumping off the fence , into your corner " . Another verse and chorus follow before the song 's middle 8 at 1 minute 31 seconds , a multi @-@ layered vocal take on a regular verse featuring just ' bah , bah , bahs ' in place of lyrics .

The song ends with a triple chorus (the third of which features a key change to A major) as " French horn counterpoints usher the song towards its climax " , the line " jumping off the fence " repeating three times before a staccato finish with Rhys singing " into your corner " , drawing out the last word .

= = Critical response = =

Although some critics hailed the track as a ' return to form ' for the band , with the Manchester Evening News describing the song as a " the best that the Furies have sounded in ages ... a return

to the mellow @-@ but @-@ bouncy pop fare of their early albums Fuzzy Logic and Guerilla " , others pointed out that " Show Your Hand " is " ponderously mature " , rather " straightforward " and " more like the generic pop songs one would find on the radio than [that] of a historically experimental band " . However , The Guardian stated that " Show Your Hand " " is the sort of music [the Super Furry Animals] do best - hazy , lazy sunshine pop " . And while Cokemachineglow believed the track " may not have the staying power or the immediate pull of the Super Furry Animals ' best singles " their reviewer conceded that " it 's not too far behind " .

The ' retro ' nature of the track was commented on by several critics with The Independent describing the track as being performed in a " sophisticated soft @-@ rock style " which recalls " the arrangements of The Association and Surf 's Up @-@ era Beach Boys " , Pitchfork Media calling the song " Zombies @-@ esque orchestral pop " , and Drowned in Sound describing " Show Your Hand " as " an almost Bacharachian gem " :

BBC Wales described " Show Your Hand " as " classic Furrries " in a favourable review on their website to coincide with the release of the track as a single going on to state that it is :

= = Track listing = =

All songs by Super Furry Animals .

CD (RTRADSCD402)

" Show Your Hand " ? 2 : 51

" Aluminium Illuminati " ? 2 : 37

" Never More " ? 2 : 25

7 " (RTRADS402)

" Show Your Hand " ? 2 : 51

" Never More " ? 2 : 25

= = Personnel = =

= = Singles chart positions = =