

= Blood on the Dance Floor (song) =

" Blood on the Dance Floor " is a song by Michael Jackson . The song was released as the first single from the remix album , Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix . Jackson and Teddy Riley created the track in time for the 1991 release of Dangerous . However , it did not appear on that record and was minimally altered before commercial release in 1997 . The song is about a predatory woman by the name of Susie , who seduces Jackson before plotting to stab him with a knife . The composition explores a variety of genres ranging from rock to funk and Hi @-@ NRG .

Commentators compared " Blood on the Dance Floor " to music from Dangerous . Others commented on the song 's perceived aggressive tone and the vocal style , the broad genres heard and possible lyrical interpretations of the song . Reviews at the time of release were largely mixed , but contemporary reviews have been favorable . The song was promoted with a music video that premiered on Top of the Pops . It centered on Susie seducing Jackson in a courtship dance , before opening a switchblade . " Blood on the Dance Floor " was the only track from the remix album performed on the HIStory World Tour . The lead single peaked at number one in several countries , including the UK .

= = Production and music = =

Teddy Riley came up with the song 's title while Michael recorded the piece for his Dangerous album in 1991 ? it failed to make the final track listing . Teddy was reportedly upset that Jackson did not call him to " vacuum clean this old master " upon realizing it would be included on Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix . Riley wanted to update the musical composition before it appeared on the remix album .

Instruments played in the song include a guitar and piano , the latter of which has an F2 @-@ Eb5 range in scientific pitch notation . Jackson 's vocal range on the track is C3 @-@ Bb5 and aspects of the song are performed in the key A @-@ flat major . Genres that have been attributed to the song are rock , pop , house , dance , R & B , funk and new jack swing . Jackson incorporates many of the vocal traits associated with his work , such as hiccups and gasps . Neil Strauss of The New York Times suggests that the predatory woman in the title track , " Susie " , is a metaphor for AIDS . However , in an interview with Adrian Grant , Jackson denied that the song was about AIDS .

= = Commentary = =

The Dallas Morning News described " Blood on the Dance Floor " as an angry tale of a back @-@ stabbing woman and Michael Saunders of The Boston Globe described it as " a middling dance @-@ funk cut " . Anthony Violenti of The Buffalo News said of the single , " [it is] laced with Teddy Riley 's new jack swing sound and a pounding techno beat " , whereas The Cincinnati Post characterized the song as a " lackluster first release ... dated , played @-@ out dance track " , but gave the album an overall favorable review . Jim Farber of New York Daily News , noted of the vocals and musical style , " [Jackson] coughs up a series of strangulated mutters and munchkin hiccups in lieu of a vocal , while its chilly , faux @-@ industrial music proves as appealing as a migraine " .

William Ruhlman of Allmusic observed , " ' Blood on the Dance Floor ' is an uptempo Jackson song in the increasingly hysterical tradition of ' Billie Jean ' and ' Smooth Criminal ' with Jackson huffing , puffing , and yelping through some nonsense about a stabbing ... over a fairly generic electronic dance track " . He was not complimentary of the B @-@ sides that accompanied it . Stephen Thomas Erlewine , also of Allmusic , had a negative reaction to the record . He described " Blood on the Dance Floor " as a " bleak reworking of ' Jam ' and ' Scream ' " .

Music commentator Nelson George , compared the song to material from Dangerous , notably the critically acclaimed tracks " Jam " and " Dangerous " . He described it as a " pile driving " song that " explodes from radio speakers " . A longtime commentator on Jackson 's public life , J. Randy Taraborrelli , gave a retrospective analysis of the album in the biography , The Magic & the Madness

. Taraborrelli thought that " Blood on the Dance Floor " was one of Jackson 's best songs , a song that US fans " don 't even know exists " . In 2005 , J T Griffith , of Allmusic , believed that in hindsight , " Blood on the Dance Floor " was actually a good song . He explained , " [it is] a second @-@ rate mixture of ' Beat It ' and ' Thriller ' but Jackson 's missteps are better than most pop music out there . This track showcases all the artist 's trademarks : the ooohing , the grunts , and funky basslines . It is hard to hear ' Blood on the Dance Floor ' and not want to moonwalk or dance like a ghoul " .

= = Promotion = =

" Blood on the Dance Floor " was the only track from Blood on the Dance Floor : History in the Mix to appear on the set list of the HIStory World Tour . The music video for " Blood on the Dance Floor " was directed by Jackson and Vincent Paterson . It premiered on Top of the Pops in the UK on March 28 , 1997 , several weeks ahead of its release as a single . The video opens with a thrown switchblade impaling a spray painted image . The impaled image is that of a blood dripping love heart with " SUSIE + ME " scrawled across it . Jackson and a group of dancers then enter a salsa dance hall and he begins to dance with a woman , " Susie " , while shaking a piece of percussion . The singer then appears seated while the woman dances seductively above him on a table top .

After the 1st verse and chorus , there is an a cappella moment , in which Jackson breathes to the drums and the bass , then the strings , then spins , drops down and claps , then the main song starts with the 2nd verse .

Throughout the video , Jackson shows a sexual attraction towards the dancing woman ? played by Sybil Azur . Jackson caresses her ankle , calf , knee and thigh , and at one stage looks up her dress . The woman is then seen opening a flick knife as the pair engage in a final courtship dance . The video closes in the same manner it began , with the switchblade impaling the spray painted image . The music video won the Brazilian TVZ Video Award : Best International Music Video of the Year . Interviewed on her experience during the video one of the dancers , Carmit Bachar (of [The Pussycat Dolls]) noted , " I was called in by Vincent Paterson for ' Blood on the Dance Floor ' . It was to have a Latin feel , some sort of mambo . I arrived wearing a little salsa dress , fish nets , heels , and my hair was up in a kind of bun with a flower . I was ' camera ready ' . I showed up with the whole outfit . It 's not that producers can 't see what they like , or the potential in somebody , but what I do helps them to see their vision more " .

A " Refugee Camp Mix " of " Blood on the Dance Floor " appeared on Jackson 's video collection , HIStory on Film , Volume II and Michael Jackson 's Vision . The original song would later appear on the Number Ones DVD , which contained previously unreleased scenes . Furthermore , Paterson recorded an unreleased , alternate version of the music video , shot with an 8 mm camera . Writer David Noh , described it as , " grainy , overexposed , and sexy as shit " . According to Paterson , " Michael loved it , but Sony hated it and refused to release it " . The New York Times described the United States promotional effort for the Blood on the Dance Floor : HIStory in the Mix campaign as " subdued " , creating " hardly a sound " and " perplexing to many people in the industry " . Jackson 's label Epic Records , refuted allegations they were not promoting the album sufficiently , saying , " We are completely behind the album ... Michael is certainly one of our superstars and is treated as such ... We just went into this one with our global hats on " . The New York Times acknowledged that promotion was stronger internationally , where Jackson had more commercial force and popularity .

= = Chart performance = =

The song became a top ten hit in almost every European Union state . " Blood on the Dance Floor " peaked at number one in the UK , Spain and New Zealand , charting for 11 weeks in the latter two nations . In the UK it sold 85 @, @ 000 copies in its first week , enough to take the number one spot from " I Believe I Can Fly " by friend and collaborator R. Kelly . The song was Jackson 's seventh UK chart topper as a solo artist , although it fell to number eight in its second week of release . The

European country where " Blood on the Dance Floor " had the most longevity was Switzerland , where it spent 18 weeks in the chart . By contrast , the song appeared in the Italian chart for only one week .

The single peaked at number 42 on the US Billboard Hot 100 . This relatively lower peak position has been attributed to the lack of US promotion and ? according to J. Randy Taraborrelli and Allmusic writer William Ruhlman ? the ongoing US public interest in the singer 's private life over his music . " Blood on the Dance Floor " was the 20th and last of Jackson 's reissued singles from the Visionary campaign . Issued in June 2006 , it charted at number 19 in the UK .

= = Track listing = =

Visionary single

CD side

" Blood on the Dance Floor " ? 4 : 14

" Blood on the Dance Floor " (Fire Island Vocal Mix) ? 8 : 55

DVD side

" Blood on the Dance Floor " (video) ? 4 : 15

= = Personnel = =

Written , composed and produced by Michael Jackson and Teddy Riley

Solo and background vocals , vocal arrangement by Michael Jackson

Teddy Riley and Brad Buxer : Keyboards and synthesizers , drum programming

Guitar by Nile Rodgers

Matt Carpenter : Digital Systems programming

Engineered by Teddy Riley , Dave Way and Mick Guzauski

Mixed by Mick Guzauski

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart procession and succession = = =