

= Dress You Up =

" Dress You Up " is a song by American singer Madonna from her second studio album *Like a Virgin* (1984) . It was released on July 24 , 1985 as the album 's final single , by Sire Records . The song was the last track to be added to the album as it was submitted late by songwriters Andrea LaRusso and Peggy Stanziale . Madonna pushed for the song 's inclusion on *Like a Virgin* as she particularly liked its lyrics . Musically , the song is a drum beat driven dance track featuring instrumentation from guitars and vocals from a choir and a guitar solo played by Nile Rodgers , who also produced the song . The lyrics are an extended metaphor for fashion and sex , comparing dressing up with passion . A live performance from Madonna 's first tour was used as the music video .

Critics reacted positively to the dance @-@ pop nature of the track . " Dress You Up " became Madonna 's sixth consecutive top @-@ five single in the United States . It also reached the top @-@ ten in Australia , Belgium , Canada , Ireland , New Zealand and the United Kingdom . The song was performed on four of Madonna 's concert tours , most recently on the Rebel Heart Tour (2015 ? 16) . " Dress You Up " was added to the " Filthy Fifteen " list of the Parents Music Resource Center , due to the sexual nature of its lyrics . The song has been covered in different forms by a number of artists .

= = Background and release = =

" Dress You Up " was the last song to be included on the *Like a Virgin* album . Producer Nile Rodgers had initially asked songwriters Andrea LaRusso and Peggy Stanziale to write a song for Madonna in the style of Rodgers ' band Chic . However , the writing took time , since both LaRusso and Stanziale were busy with other projects . When the lyrics of the song was submitted , Rodgers rejected it as there was no time to compose a melody and record it for the album . But Madonna liked the lyrics of the song , and persuaded Rodgers to include it on *Like a Virgin* . In Britain , the song was released as a limited @-@ edition shaped picture disc . In this case , it was star @-@ shaped to tie in with the Christmas release date for the single . The song is one of several of Madonna 's hit singles not included on *The Immaculate Collection* compilation , released in 1990 . " Dress You Up " was , however , later included on Madonna 's 2009 compilation album *Celebration* . Although no music video was separately made for the song , a live performance of " Dress You Up " from *The Virgin Tour* , filmed in Detroit was used as the video .

= = Composition = =

" Dress You Up " is a characteristic drum machine driven dance track and consists of a two @-@ chord verse . The chorus is supported by vocals from a choir , a four @-@ chord progression and a single guitar note , played by Rodgers . A rock guitar solo plays during the bridge . Towards the end of the song , the sound of the drums are decreased , while the treble is increased . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C minor , with Madonna 's vocals ranging from a low @-@ note of B ? 3 to a high @-@ note of F ? 5 . The song has a basic sequence of Cm ? B ? ? G7 in the verses and A ? ? B ? ? Cm ? Cm / G in the chorus , as its chord progression .

The lyrics of the song are a metaphor for fashion and sex . Madonna sings about clothes she would like to drape over her man , so that she can caress his body with her hands , and cover him with " Velvet Kisses " . According to Rikky Rooksby , author of *Madonna : The Complete Guide To Her Music* , the line " I 'll create a look that 's made for you " , later became synonymous with Madonna 's re @-@ invention of her image throughout her career .

= = Critical reception = =

Nancy Erlick from Billboard said that the song felt like " [Madonna] The pin @-@ up girl in character ; part saucy , eager to please . " Alex Henderson from Allmusic , commented that " Rodger 's [producer] gift for sleek , seductive dance music [Chic 's specialty] is evident on such gems as ' Dress You Up ' . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic , called " Dress You Up " an excellent , standard @-@ issue dance @-@ pop . Santiago Fouz @-@ Hernández and Freya Jarman @-@ Ivens , authors of Madonna 's Drowned Worlds : New Approaches To Her Cultural Transformations , commented that Madonna sounded like a " sex @-@ kitten " in the song . Sla Cinquemani from Slant Magazine called the song irresistible . William McKeen , author of Rock and roll is here to stay , said that the melody of " Dress You Up " was insistently chugging . Debby Miller from Rolling Stone said that " Despite her little @-@ girl voice , there 's an undercurrent of ambition that makes her more than the latest Betty Boop . " While reviewing the album in 1995 , Dave Karger from Entertainment Weekly commented that the song came off as a bit repetitious and immature . Jim Farber from the same publication commented that " the song was built to transcend the Dynasty era . "

While reviewing The Immaculate Collection , Alfred Soto from Stylus Magazine commented : " Like A Virgin 's Top Five absentees ' Dress You Up ' and ' Angel ' do a better job than the two big singles of delineating the boundaries of Madonna 's determined shallowness , an act that confounds Philistines today and made the appreciation of her musical skills a lot harder than it took these critics to dismiss Cyndi Lauper as the real charlatan . " In 2003 , when fans were asked to vote for the top twenty Madonna singles of all time , by Q magazine , " Dress You Up " was allocated the eighth spot . The video was nominated at the 1986 MTV Video Music Awards , in the category for Best Choreography , but lost to " Raspberry Beret " by Prince and The New Power Generation .

= = Chart performance = =

" Dress You Up " debuted at number 36 on the Billboard Hot 100 on August 17 , 1985 . After seven weeks , the song reached number five on the Hot 100 , becoming Madonna 's sixth consecutive top @-@ five hit . It also peaked at number 34 on Adult Contemporary , number three on Hot Dance Club Songs and number 64 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . It placed at number 94 on the year @-@ end chart for 1985 , with Madonna becoming the top pop artist for the year . In Canada , the song debuted at number 90 on the RPM singles chart on August 24 , 1985 . The song was present for a total of 20 weeks on the chart , peaking at number ten after six weeks .

In the United Kingdom , " Dress You Up " was released on December 12 , 1985 . It entered the UK Singles Chart at number 12 , and reached a peak of five , being present on the chart for a total of 13 weeks . The song was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , for shipments of 200 @,@ 000 copies . According to Official Charts Company , the song has sold 210 @,@ 000 copies there . In Australia , the song peaked at five in October 1985 , becoming Madonna 's sixth top @-@ ten single there . The song also reached the top 20 in Belgium , France , Ireland , Netherlands , New Zealand , Spain , Switzerland and the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles , while peaking just outside the top 20 in Italy .

= = Live performances = =

Madonna has performed " Dress You Up " on four of her world tours , namely The Virgin Tour in 1985 , the Who 's That Girl World Tour in 1987 , the 2009 leg of the Sticky & Sweet Tour , and Rebel Heart Tour in 2015 ? 16 . On The Virgin Tour , " Dress You Up " was the opening song of the set . Madonna wore a blue see @-@ through crop @-@ top , revealing her characteristic black bra . She also had lacy leggings and crucifixes around her ear and her neck . As the beat of the song started , Madonna entered the stage and posed on the stairs before reaching the microphone to sing the track . A performance of the song from the Virgin Tour was included on the VHS release Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour .

During the Who 's That Girl World Tour of 1987 , Madonna performed it in a medley with " Material Girl " and " Like a Virgin " . She wore an elaborate costume , inspired by Dame Edna Everage . It

consisted of a hat strewn with fake fruits , flowers and feathers , jeweled batwing spectacles with heavy , black frames , a ruffled skirt and a bodice covered with objects such as watches and dolls and fishnets . Author Carol Clerk stated that the dress was more " ludicrous for Madonna , than humorous . " Two different performances of the song on this tour can be found on the videos : Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan , filmed in Tokyo , Japan , on June 22 , 1987 , and Ciao Italia : Live from Italy , filmed in Turin , Italy , on September 4 , 1987 .

A backing track was created to accompany the performance of " Dress You Up " on her 2004 Re @-@ Invention World Tour , however Madonna found it difficult to learn the guitar chords for the song , choosing to perform " Material Girl " instead . In 2008 , Madonna performed the first verse and chorus of the song during the request section of the Sticky & Sweet Tour . The song was performed at Chicago , Los Angeles , Philadelphia , Rio de Janeiro , Toronto , Valencia and Vienna . Madonna finally added " Dress You Up " to the 2009 leg of the Sticky & Sweet Tour , replacing the rock version of " Borderline " . It was performed as part of the ' old school ' segment and featured the groove from The Knack 's song " My Sharona " and " God Save The Queen " by the Sex Pistols .

In 2015 , while appearing on The Ellen DeGeneres Show as part of promotion for her thirteenth studio album , Rebel Heart , Madonna and host Ellen DeGeneres sang the song during a revival of DeGeneres ' bathroom concert series . They were dressed in matching robes and sang the song while sitting on a chair , adding commentary in between . At one point , Madonna removed the robe to reveal another dress with prints of hearts on it , and danced around DeGeneres , who also used props like oversized sunglasses and a leopard print cowboy hat for Madonna . The song was later included in the setlist of the Rebel Heart Tour , performed in a flamenco @-@ style medley with " Into the Groove " , " Everybody " and " Lucky Star " . During the sequence the singer dressed in a Latin and gypsy inspired dress , created by Alessandro Michele for Gucci , consisting off a shawl , flamenco hat , lace , skirts and jacquard bodysuit .

= = Legacy = =

In 1985 , the song was included on the Parents Music Resource Center 's (PMRC) " Filthy Fifteen " list , for the perceived sexual content of its lyrics . The Center 's founder Tipper Gore had heard her daughter listening to the song , and considered the line " Gonna dress you up in my love " as exemplifying ' vulgar music ' . The PMRC called upon the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) to give parents a consumer @-@ friendly means of identifying rock records unsuitable for minors ? a rating system based on lyrical content . " Dress You Up " received a rating of ' S ' , for " sex and obscenity " , from the RIAA . Gore commented on the song : " Popular culture is morally bankrupt , flagrantly licentious and utterly materialistic ? and Madonna is the worst of all . " According to Bruce David Forbes and H. Mahan in their book Religion and Popular Culture in America , Madonna 's fans took the attitude " Can 't you cultural conservatives see what she is trying to do ? to annoy people like you ! If you don 't like it , don 't listen to it . Stop trying to police my morality ! " The campaign was successful and led to the creation of the Parental Advisory sticker .

In 1999 " Dress You Up " was sung by a group that included Alex Greenwald , Rashida Jones and Jason Thompson , for Gap 's " Everybody in Vests " TV commercial . Music for the song was created by the Dust Brothers . A cover of the song by Apollo Heights was included on the 2007 Madonna tribute compilation Through the Wilderness . The band Zolof the Rock & Roll Destroyer , and Reel Big Fish , covered the song on their 2007 EP Duet All Night Long . United Kingdom dance artist Kelly Llorenna recorded a new version of the song in 2008 . The cover was released as a single in 2009 . In 2013 , the song was covered in the Glee episode " Feud " , mashed @-@ up with Elton John 's " The Bitch Is Back " .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals
Nile Rodgers ? producer , guitarist
Andrea LaRusso ? writer
Peggy Stanziale ? writer
Jimmy Bralower ? drum programming
Rob Sabino ? bass synthesizer , acoustic piano
Curtis King ? background vocals
Frank Simms ? background vocals
George Simms ? background vocals
Credits adapted from the Like a Virgin album liner notes .

= = Charts = =