

= Pretty Girl Rock =

" Pretty Girl Rock " is a song by American R & B recording artist Keri Hilson , taken from her second studio album , No Boys Allowed (2010) . It was released as the lead single internationally and was the second single from that album released in the United States . The song was written by Bill Withers , Ralph MacDonald , William Salter , Ne @-@ Yo and Chuck Harmony , who also handled its production . " Pretty Girl Rock " is a mid @-@ tempo R & B and pop song that features a slinky piano and bouncy R & B beats . The lyrics deliver messages of self @-@ love and female empowerment .

Critical reception towards the song was mixed to positive . Music critics noted it as the standout track on the album , and praised its catchy production . However , critics were of disparate opinions on the song 's lyrics . In the United States , " Pretty Girl Rock " peaked at number 24 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and at number four on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The song was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , for selling over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 digital copies . Internationally , the song reached the top 20 in Germany and New Zealand , and the top 30 in Austria and Slovakia .

An accompanying music video for the song was directed by Joseph Kahn and features Hilson portraying an array of American female icons of the past , including Josephine Baker , Dorothy Dandridge , Dream Girls , Diana Ross , Donna Summer , Janet Jackson and T @-@ Boz of the R & B girl group TLC . The video received positive response from critics and was nominated for Video of the Year at the 2011 BET Awards , and Best Dance Performance at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards . Hilson promoted the song through live performances on various televised shows , including The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Germany 's Next Topmodel , as well as in live concerts such as , the VH1 Divas Salute the Troops and the 84th Annual Macy 's Thanksgiving Day Parade . R & B girl group RichGirl and American rapper Lil ' Kim have released their own remixes to " Pretty Girl Rock " , and American rock band Parachute have covered the song .

= = Background and release = =

" Pretty Girl Rock " (titled " Pretty Girls " during production) was written by Bill Withers , Ralph MacDonald , William Salter , Ne @-@ Yo and Chuck Harmony , who also produced the track . It was recorded in 2010 at Westlake Recording Studios and Vanilla Sky Studios in Los Angeles , California . According to Hilson , the song was Ne @-@ Yo 's idea . She said , " I remember Ne @-@ Yo playing it for me in the studio . I loved it as soon as I heard it ! " Hilson debuted the song at the Beats By Dr. Dre concert in New York City on September 29 , 2010 . Later that same day , Rap @-@ Up magazine unveiled the single cover and confirmed that it would serve as the second single from Hilson 's second studio album , No Boys Allowed , following its lead single , " Breaking Point " . In an interview with 4Music , Hilson explained the concept of the song :

I 'm giving you an example of how I think every woman should feel about herself . No matter what anyone tells you ? you 're too tall , you 're too short , you 're too big , you 're too skinny ... there 's so many ' rules ' to society 's view of beauty . I wanted to dispel that and get rid of that . We 're all beautiful in our own unique ways , you just have to find that happy place within yourself . And that 's what the record 's all about .

" Pretty Girl Rock " premiered online on October 4 , 2010 and was then released for digital download on October 12 . The song was sent for rhythmic contemporary airplay in the United States on October 19 , and contemporary hit radio airplay on October 26 . The official remix , featuring Kanye West , premiered online on November 23 , 2010 , and was later included on No Boys Allowed as the thirteenth track . An extended play , featuring three additional remixes produced by dance group Cahill , were released for digital download in the United Kingdom on January 9 , 2011 . On June 10 , 2011 , " Pretty Girl Rock " was released as a Compact Disc single containing two additional remixes , in Germany .

= = Composition = =

" Pretty Girl Rock " is a mid @-@ tempo R & B and pop song , that incorporates an interpolation of " Just the Two of Us " by Grover Washington , Jr .. The song makes use of heavy drums and slinky piano and is built on bouncy R & B beats . Sara Anderson from AOL Radio noted that it " weaves in piano trills , prominent backbeats , ska slang ' eh 's and self @-@ awareness . " According to Georgette Cline from The Boombox , the song is a " self @-@ love anthem " that showcases Hilson 's " attempt at uniting women over their shared beauty rather than the jealousy that drives them apart . " Luke Gibson from Hip Hop DX noted that lyrics such as : " ' Girls think I 'm conceited ' cause I know I 'm attractive / Don 't worry about what I think , why don 't you ask him ? ' , capture the attitude of a Fabolous or Jadakiss track . " Chad Grischow from IGN Music referred to " Pretty Girl Rock " as a " girl @-@ power jam " and noted that Hilson " exudes confidence " with the lines : " Pretty as a picture / Sweet as a Swisher / Mad cuz I 'm cuter than the girl that 's with ya . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Pretty Girl Rock " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Andy Kellman of Allmusic , Mikael Wood of Entertainment Weekly and editors of USA Today , all considered it to be the stand out track from No Boys Allowed . Eric Henderson of Slant Magazine wrote that the song , " comes on like a cat fight , but it eventually reveals itself to be a tough @-@ loving ' love yourself ' anthem , a stately but danceable approximation of Dove 's campaign for ' real beauty ' " . Matthew Horton of BBC Music called it a " lovely single " , while Ken Capobianco of The Boston Globe called it " swaggering " . Glenn Gamboa of Newsday wrote that , " Though Ne @-@ Yo gives ' Pretty Girl Rock ' an addictive sheen , it 's the remix featuring some memorable verses from Kanye West that gets the point across best . " Kyle Anderson of MTV Newsroom praised Hilson 's " confidence and sweetness " on the song , and described the beat as " funky and sick . " Editors of DesiHits described " Pretty Girl Rock " as an " upbeat and catchy track ... and we have to say the beat really rocks ! . "

Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone called " Pretty Girl Rock " one of the " high points " on No Boys Allowed , describing the track as " a lighter @-@ than @-@ air jump @-@ rope rhyme about how hot [Keri] is . " Ben Ratliff of The New York Times wrote that " Pretty Girl Rock " was one of the tracks on the album that was " good enough to stop the overthinking comparisons " with Rihanna . He described it as " four minutes of schoolyard singsong about [Keri 's] fabulousness . " Becky Bain of Idolator called it a " saucy R & B number " and wrote that " the song 's not too bad " . Chad Grischow of IGN Music wrote that , " there are plenty of reasons to despise ' Pretty Girl Rock ' , but the twinkling girl @-@ power jam is too charming and catchy to stay mad . " Karen Tye of Adelaide Now described it as " catchy , sparkly pop " , but also added that the song is " complete with mindless lyrics . " Katie Hasty of HitFix criticized the song 's lyrics for being " tacky " . Hasty also mentioned that the track was intended " to empower women but fails in anti @-@ feminist . " Melinda Newman , also writing for HitFix , agreed writing that the song is " absolutely paper thin and not even remotely girl @-@ empowering . "

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " Pretty Girl Rock " entered the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart at number 76 on the chart issue dated November 20 , 2010 , and peaked at number four on the chart issue dated February 12 , 2011 . The song also peaked at number 24 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart . On June 7 , 2011 , " Pretty Girl Rock " was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 digital copies . In Canada , " Pretty Girl Rock " debuted and peaked at number 81 on the Canadian Hot 100 . On the New Zealand Singles Chart , the song debuted at number 12 on December 27 , 2010 , and peaked at number 11 on January 10 , 2011 . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , for selling over 7 @,@ 500 digital copies .

In Ireland , " Pretty Girl Rock " debuted at number 50 on the Irish Singles Chart on January 13 ,

2011 , and left the chart the following week . In the United Kingdom , it debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 53 on January 22 , 2011 , before dropping 38 places to number 91 the following week . " Pretty Girl Rock " also charted on the UK R & B Singles Chart , where it peaked at number 17 . On the Austrian Singles Chart , the song debuted at number 50 on June 10 , 2011 , and peaked at number 21 in its third week , spending a total of eight consecutive weeks on the chart . In Germany , " Pretty Girl Rock " debuted and peaked at number 14 on the German Singles Chart on June 27 , 2011 , and spent a total of ten consecutive weeks on the chart . " Pretty Girl Rock " entered the Slovak Airplay Chart at number 39 , and peaked at number 25 the following week .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Pretty Girl Rock " was directed by Joseph Kahn . Hilson told Kahn that she did not want the video to be about her , since she felt that the song was already very much about herself . During an interview with MTV News while on the set of the video , Hilson explained that in the video she does nine outfit changes because it will show " 10 different eras " , starting from 1920 and up until 2010 , in which she portrays herself . She also said , " [The video is my] way of paying homage to groundbreaking women , strong women who were fearless and so bold and so confident that they made women feel that way ... And I hope to do the same . " Kahn wanted Hilson to pay homage to some female singers in the video . He discussed about it with Hilson , who chose the singers she loved and was inspired by as a youth to appear in the video . The completed video premiered on 106 & Park on November 11 , 2010 .

The video opens in black @-@ and @-@ white and shows Hilson portraying Josephine Baker , before transforming into Dorothy Dandridge . The video then switches to color and Hilson is shown portraying lead singer Patty from the singing group The Andrews Sisters . She is then seen channeling Diana Ross as lead singer of The Supremes , before switching to Donna Summer while wearing a blue sequined mini @-@ dress . Hilson then portrays Janet Jackson from the military @-@ inspired " Rhythm Nation " music video . Lastly , she is shown as singer T @-@ Boz of the R & B girl group TLC , wearing light blue silk pajamas from their " Creep " music video . Two background dancers appear as Left Eye wearing red pajamas , and Chilli wearing white pajamas . At the end of the video , Hilson is shown dressed as herself in a simple T @-@ shirt and jeans , singing in front of a black backdrop .

Ed Easton Jr. from radio station WNOW @-@ FM wrote that the video was " different , creative and fun " and awarded it eight out of ten stars . Billy Johnson , Jr. from Yahoo ! Music called the video " very nice " and wrote that Hilson 's portrayal of Janet Jackson was her " best remake " in the video . Mariel Concepcion from Billboard magazine commented that the " video made her like the song [even more] . " Nicole James from MTV Buzzworthy gave Hilson 100 bonus points for the authenticity of the wig she wore portraying T @-@ Boz . Becky Bain from Idolator was unsure if the video " was [a] nice homage to the women in music who have come before her , " or if Hilson was " just playing a hilarious game of dress up . " The video was nominated for Video of the Year at the 2011 BET Awards , and Best Dance Performance at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards .

= = Live performances = =

On November 22 , 2010 , Hilson performed " Pretty Girl Rock " on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . She later performed the song at the 84th Annual Macy 's Thanksgiving Day Parade on November 25 . Hilson was dressed in pink and performed the song on My Princess Academy 's " Castle of Dreams " float high above a pink castle . On December 3 , Hilson performed " Pretty Girl Rock " at the VH1 Divas Salute the Troops concert . She took to the stage dressed in a gold bustier with high @-@ waisted pants and a fringe @-@ laden jacket to perform the song in front of an audience that included members of the US Armed Forces . Hilson was backed by four female dancers , who wore stylized military jackets . Mawuse Ziegbe from MTV News wrote that , " Hilson brought her saucy , sexpot swagger to the stage . " The promotion of the song continued on December 7 , when she performed a remixed version of " Pretty Girl Rock " on Lopez Tonight , dressed in a silver and black

leotard . Hilson later performed " Pretty Girl Rock " on December 14 on the Today Show , mixing the track with James Blunt 's single " You 're Beautiful " . For the performance , she wore a glittery multi @-@ colored jacket over a black blouse , skin @-@ tight jeans and stilettos .

A day before the release of No Boys Allowed , Hilson performed the song at Billboard 's first live Tastemakers event in New York City on December 20 . On January 4 , 2011 , Hilson gave a Motown @-@ themed performance of " Pretty Girl Rock " on the Late Show with David Letterman , by paying tribute to Diana Ross and The Supremes with her two female back @-@ up singers . On January 25 , she performed " Pretty Girl Rock " on The Ellen DeGeneres Show , also mixing Blunt 's " You 're Beautiful " into the song . Backed by four female dancers , Hilson wore a white button @-@ down shirt , knee @-@ length pants and black heels . Robbie Daw from Idolator wrote that , " Keri Hilson amped up the sex factor . " In April 2011 , Hilson performed " Pretty Girl Rock " during her set at the Supafest Festival in Australia , dressed in a denim jacket , black bra and cutoff shorts . On June 9 , Hilson performed a remix of the song on the finale of Germany 's Next Topmodel , as models strutted down the runway . The song was added to Hilson 's set list on Lil Wayne 's I Am Still Music Tour in North America in July 2011 , in which she served as an opening act . It was also included to the set list of Hilson 's first headlining European tour in October 2011 .

= = Remixes and cover version = =

R & B girl group RichGirl recorded their own remix to the song renamed " RichGirl Rock " , which was included on their mixtape Fall in Love with RichGirl in February 2011 . American rapper Lil ' Kim also remixed " Pretty Girl Rock " and renamed it " Kimmy Girl " for her mixtape Black Friday in March 2011 . American rock band Parachute covered the song during their Mashup Mondays session for Billboard magazine in September 2011 . Jessica Letkemann of Billboard magazine wrote that the band transformed " the super self @-@ assured R & B strut of Keri Hilson 's ' Pretty Girl Rock ' into a sweet , poppy acoustic rock bounce . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Source :

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Radio and release history = =