

= Slow Dance (song) =

" Slow Dance " is a song by American recording artist Keri Hilson . Written with American singer Justin Timberlake , the song was penned while she was a guest on the British leg of Timberlake 's FutureSex / LoveShow tour . The writing team also included Johnkenum D. Spivery , as well as Timbaland protégés The Royal Court and Jim Beanz , who produced the track . The song serves as the sixth single from her debut studio album , In a Perfect World Giving off a psychedelic vibe and compared to 1980 's Prince ballads and Ciara slow burners , the song received generally positive reviews , complimenting its musical backdrop and vulnerable lyrical appeal .

Hilson originally premiered the song at her producer / mentor Polow da Don 's launch party for his record label , Zone 4 , in Atlanta in July 2007 , and later performed it several times as promoting it as In A Perfect World 's sixth single . The song was not adequately receptive in the United States , reaching forty @-@ nine on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . Two music videos for the song were shot , the Chris Robinson @-@ directed second version being used as the official video . The video features Hilson at getting ready and enjoying herself at a party , featuring appearances by Monica , Chris Brown , former Pussycat Dolls member Melody Thornton and Omarion , among others . She performed the song as a part of a medley at the 2009 Soul Train Music Awards .

= = Background = =

" Slow Dance " was written with Hilson alongside American recording artist Justin Timberlake , as well as Johnkenum D. Spivery and Timbaland protégés The Royal Court and Jim Beanz . According to Hilson , the songs were first in the works with fellow Timbaland collaborator Justin Timberlake in 2006 , during FutureSex / LoveSounds era , but she commented , " it was still unofficial then . The budgets hadn 't been opened up for me at that stage . " Hilson premiered the song at her producer and mentor Jamal " Polow da Don " Jones 's launch party his newly created , Interscope @-@ distributed record label , Zone 4 , in Atlanta in July 2007 . On choosing singles for In A Perfect World ... , in an interview with Digital Spy , Hilson stated , " [Timbaland] liked it a lot at first and said it should be a single , but just as that was about to happen he called it ' bubble bath music ' . But now he loves it again and thinks it should be a single ! He 'll really change it up on you . " The song went for adds on urban airplay formats on July 21 , 2009 .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

The down @-@ tempo R & B piece features a guitar @-@ laden background with synthesizers , and features lyrics about the physical attraction of a relationship . " Slow Dance " has been said to sound like a Ciara 's " Promise " and 1980 's Prince ballad , and described as " sparkly " and " psychedelic . " A writer for Spike called the song a " digital lullaby . " Calling the lyrical content " the ecstasy of desire with all the warmth of an alien observing life on Planet Earth " , Mikael Wood of The Los Angeles Times said the song was impeccably arranged . Quentin B. Huff of PopMatters stated , that on In A Perfect World ... , songs like " Slow Dance " , " tend to provide better matches between the vocals and the music , since the backdrop keeps things simple and the lyrics don 't always fall into slang and unintentional irony . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times called the song " excellent " , commenting that the song was the album 's high point . Sophie Bruce of BBC Music said the song " is laden with potential in its first Prince @-@ channelling two minutes , but loses its way completely when it breaks down into beatboxing . " Calling the album 's slow numbers a problem , and the song itself " smooth " , Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said " Slow Dance " was " nothing more than a copy of Ciara 's " Promise . "

= = Music video = =

The original music video was directed by Paul Hunter , known for his work on previous Michael Jackson and TLC clips . However , for unknown reasons , the video was scrapped , and Hilson re

@-@ shot a clip for the video with " Knock You Down " and " Number One " director Chris Robinson . Robinson told Rap @-@ Up , " Keri Hilson has a great personality and is a real girl . That ? s what we want to get across . " He also talked about the premise and plot of the video , stating that the video portrays Hilson as a woman who doesn 't take herself seriously , commenting ,

" It ? s a really sexy song , but we don ? t want to fall into the typical love , love , love R & B vibe with that ... it starts where you think , ? Oh , it ? s about her and being sexy . ' She ? s in her house and by herself , and you kind of think it could be serious , but the song drops out in the middle and her friends catch her being all sexy , basically like , ? What the f * * k [sic] are you doing ? You are not singing by yourself . ? "

In an interview with That Grape Juice , when asked about the video and on the sensuality of the live performances compared to video , Hilson responded ,

" Yeah . It is a bit of that , but it ? s a bit toned down for the video , because you got so much censoring , I can ? t do everything I do on stage (laughs) . So when people come out they ? re probably still gonna be a bit surprised to see it live , after seeing the video . But I ? m very pleased with the video . I love the colours and it ? s reminiscent of the whole late 70s early 80s era in music . "

Chris Brown , Omarion , Monica , Melody Thornton , and Polow Da Don all appear in the video . The video begins with Hilson , dressed lavishly , arriving late to a Jeep full of the previous stated people . The clip flips back to what happened earlier that night , showing Hilson getting ready in a seductive fashion , as she chooses perfume and picks out clothes . Scenes of Hilson performing in front of a leather @-@ like wall are interspersed in between her and her friends riding down a boulevard to the club . Once she arrives to the club , she is attracted to a particular man , and subsequently performs elaborate , sensual choreography with him and other dancers , before slow dancing . VIBE said , " Keri Hilson is fine as wine . You know it . We know it . And she knows it . But for the doubters , she proves it once again with this seductive new video from In A Perfect World . " A writer for Rap @-@ Up said that Hilson , " takes it nice and slow in the video for ' Slow Dance . ' " The video ranked at number 80 on BET : Notarized Top 100 Videos of 2009 countdown .

= = Live performances = =

Aside from performing it at the 2007 Zone 4 launch , Hilson performed the song on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon on September 17 , 2009 , alongside The Roots . She also performed it as a part of a medley at the 2009 Soul Train Music Awards .

= = Personnel = =

Songwriting - Keri Hilson , Justin Timberlake , James Washington Johnkenum D. Spivery , Jerome Harmon , Solomon Logan

Production - The Royal Court

Recording and mixing - Marcella Araica

Vocal arrangement and production - Keri Hilson , Jim Beanz

Source

= = Charts = =