

## = Causing a Commotion =

" Causing a Commotion " is a song by American singer Madonna from the soundtrack album to the 1987 film Who 's That Girl . It was released as the album 's second single on August 25 , 1987 by Sire Records . Its Silver Screen Single Mix later appeared on the 1991 UK compilation EP The Holiday Collection . Written and produced by Madonna and Stephen Bray , the song was inspired by Madonna 's relationship with then husband Sean Penn , and his abusive and violent nature . Containing a dance @-@ oriented , up @-@ tempo groove , the song begins with the chorus and is accompanied by a four @-@ note descending bassline and staccato chords in the verse .

Since its release , the song has received mixed reviews by critics . It became a top @-@ ten hit in the United States , Australia , Canada , Ireland , Italy , New Zealand , Sweden and the United Kingdom , and topped the Billboard U.S. dance chart . Madonna performed the song on the Who 's That Girl World Tour ? which was transmitted via satellite to the 1987 MTV Video Music Awards ? and the Blond Ambition World Tour in 1990 . The performances were included in the home video release of the tours .

## = Background and release =

In 1986 , Madonna was shooting for her third motion picture Who 's That Girl , known at the time as Slammer . Needing songs for the soundtrack of the movie , she contacted Patrick Leonard and Stephen Bray , with whom she had written and produced her third studio album True Blue in 1986 . The song was written and produced by Madonna and Bray for the film 's soundtrack . It was inspired by her then husband Sean Penn and their often tumultuous relationship . Madonna felt that her marriage to Penn was on the verge of breaking up , due to Penn 's abusive and violent nature . That translated as the inspiration behind the song . In a Rolling Stone article dated September 10 , 1987 , Madonna spoke about Penn 's impact on her life ,

" I don 't like violence . I never condone hitting anyone , and I never thought that any violence should have taken place . But on the other hand , I understood Sean 's anger and believe me , I have wanted to hit them [ the paparazzi ] many times . I never would , you know , because I realize that it would just make things worse . "

In the United States , " Causing a Commotion " was released in August 1987 . In the United Kingdom , the song was released just before the commencement of Madonna 's 1987 Who 's That Girl World Tour in October . In 1991 , the Silver Screen Single Mix of the song was included on Madonna 's The Holiday Collection EP .

## = Recording and composition =

" Causing a Commotion " was recorded and mixed by Bray along with Shep Pettibone who also did additional production on the track . Junior Vasquez was the mixing engineer along with Steve Peck ; the former also did the audio editing . Background vocals were provided by Donna De Lory and Niki Haris . " Causing a Commotion " has a dancey , up @-@ tempo groove in it . The musical arrangement consists of a number of hooks interpolating with each other . It begins with the chorus , where Madonna sings the line " I 've got the moves baby , You 've got the motion , If we got together we be causing a commotion . " The verses are accompanied by a four @-@ note descending bassline and interjecting staccato chords .

The lyrics make reference to Madonna 's 1985 single " Into the Groove " and have three parts to the vocal harmony . Andrzej Ciuk , one of the editors of the book Exploring Space noted that the proverbial status of the phrase " opposites attract " as a defining key ingredient of cultural concept of " love " and this was evident also in the song with the lyrics : " You met your match when you met me , I know that you 'll disagree its crazy , But opposites attract you 'll see , And I won 't let you get away so easy " .

## = Reception =

= = = Critical response = = =

The song received generally mixed reviews . Rikky Rooksby , author of *The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna* , said that the song was " Perfectly acceptable , though not in the same class as ' Who 's That Girl ' " . Christian Wright from *Spin* called the song celebratory . Camille Paglia , one of the authors of *The Madonna Companion : Two Decades of Commentary* , said that Madonna 's command of massive , resonant basslines impressed them . " I recall my stunned admiration as I sat in the theater in 1987 and first experienced the crashing , descending chords of Madonna 's ' Causing a Commotion ' , which opened her dreadful movie *Who 's That Girl* . If you want to hear the essence of modernity , listen to those chords , infernal , apocalyptic , and grossly sensual . This is the authentic voice of fin de siècle . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine of *AllMusic* commented that " *Causing a Commotion* " , along with " *Who 's That Girl* " were not among Madonna 's best singles .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" *Causing a Commotion* " debuted on the *Billboard* Hot 100 singles chart at number 41 the week of September 12 , 1987 , as " *Who 's That Girl* " was descending from the top ten . The single quickly climbed up the chart , ultimately peaking at number two the week of October 24 , 1987 , the same week Michael Jackson 's " *Bad* " advanced to the pole position . It remained in the runner @-@ up position for three weeks , before descending from the chart . " *Causing a Commotion* " reached the top 40 of the *Adult Contemporary* chart of *Billboard* and reached the top of the *Hot Dance Club Play* chart . In Canada , the song debuted at number 90 , on the *RPM* singles chart on September 19 , 1987 . After six weeks , the song reached a peak of number two on the chart . It was present for a total of 31 weeks and ranked at number 47 on the *RPM* Year @-@ end chart for 1987 .

In the United Kingdom , " *Causing a Commotion* " was released on September 19 , 1987 . It entered the *UK Singles Chart* at number seven , and peaked at number four . The song was present for a total of nine weeks . According to the *Official Charts Company* , the song has sold 230 @,@ 000 copies there . In Germany , the song debuted on the *Media Control Charts* at number 66 on September 29 , 1987 , reaching a peak of number 14 in its third week , and spending 12 weeks on the chart . The song reached the top ten in Australia and the *European Hot 100 Singles* , peaking at number seven and three respectively . Elsewhere , the song reached the top ten in Belgium , Ireland , Italy , the Netherlands , New Zealand and Switzerland and the top 20 in Austria , Norway and Sweden .

= = Live performances = =

Madonna performed " *Causing a Commotion* " on the *Who 's That Girl World Tour* of 1987 and the *Blond Ambition World Tour* in 1990 . In the *Who 's That Girl World Tour* , " *Causing a Commotion* " was the sixth song of the setlist . Collaborating with Marlene Stewart on the clothes for the tour , Madonna expanded on the idea of bringing her video characters to life and to display a gangster theme for the song . She wore a golden lamé jacket and performed the song while accompanied by two dancers , each holding a gun . Performances of the song on this tour can be found on the *Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan* video , filmed in Tokyo , Japan , on June 22 , 1987 , and on the *Ciao Italia : Live from Italy* video , filmed in Turin , Italy , on September 4 , 1987 . The latter performance was transmitted via satellite on the 1987 *MTV Video Music Awards* .

On the *Blond Ambition World Tour* , the song was performed as the third song of the set list . The outfit she wore for the performance was described by Carol Clerk , author of *Madonnastyle* , as the " perfect visual combination of masculine and feminine " . It consisted of a double @-@ breasted suit with a tight jacket , which was cut in slits , allowing her conical bra to point through . She also wore her characteristic monocle chain . Madonna wore heavy makeup with thick , blackened eyebrows and heavy application of dark liner . As she finished the performance of " *Open Your Heart* " ,

Madonna opened the jacket and started to simulate sexual intercourse with one of her dancers while playing the dominant role . It was followed by an exhibitionist dance routine with a chair as a prop and Madonna singing the song . The performance ended with Madonna wrestling with her female backup singers . Two different performances were released on video : the Blond Ambition Japan Tour 90 , taped in Yokohama , Japan , on April 27 , 1990 , and the Blond Ambition World Tour Live , taped in Nice , France , on August 5 , 1990 .

= = Track listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? writer , vocals , producer  
Stephen Bray ? writer , producer , audio mixing  
Shep Pettibone ? audio mixing , additional production  
Junior Vasquez ? mixing engineer , audio editing  
Steve Peck ? mixing engineer  
Donna De Lory ? background vocals  
Niki Haris ? background vocals  
Credits adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =