

= Tunnel Vision (song) =

" Tunnel Vision " is a song recorded by American singer Justin Timberlake for his third studio album , The 20 / 20 Experience (2013) . It was written and produced by Timberlake , Timothy " Timbaland " Mosley and Jerome " J @-@ Roc " Harmon , with additional writing by James Fauntleroy . " Tunnel Vision " was digitally released on June 14 , 2013 by RCA Records as the third single from the album . It is a mid @-@ tempo R & B song with EDM influence and instrumentation featuring Timbaland 's signature ad @-@ libs , record @-@ scratching , heavy drums , melodic bass , orchestration and synthesizer . Its lyrics proclaim Timberlake 's tunnel vision for his love interest , with several voyeuristic references .

" Tunnel Vision " received generally positive reviews from music critics , most of whom praised Timbaland 's production , and it was cited as The 20 / 20 Experience 's highlight . After the album 's release , the song charted in South Korea and the United States because of high digital sales . It debuted on the singles chart in South Korea at number 27 , selling 6 @,@ 670 digital copies in its first week . " Tunnel Vision " peaked at number 40 on the US Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , and number eight on the UK R & B Singles Chart .

The music video for " Tunnel Vision " was directed by Jonathan Craven , Simon McLoughlin and Jeff Nicholas , and premiered on July 3 on Timberlake 's Vevo channel . In the seven @-@ minute video , Timberlake and Timbaland watch nude women and dance . Critics labeled the video NSFW and compared it to the video for Robin Thicke 's 2013 single , " Blurred Lines " . Originally banned on YouTube , it was later posted with the condition that viewers disclose their age . The song was part of the set list for Timberlake 's 2013 Legends of the Summer concert tour with rapper Jay @-@ Z and his fifth solo tour , the 2013 ? 15 20 / 20 Experience World Tour .

= = Production and release = =

" Tunnel Vision " was written by Justin Timberlake , Timothy " Timbaland " Mosley , Jerome " J @-@ Roc " Harmon and James Fauntleroy , and produced by Timbaland , Timberlake and Harmon . Timberlake arranged and produced his vocals , which were recorded at Larabee Studios in North Hollywood , California . Other instrumentalists were Harmon on keyboards and Elliot Ives on guitar . The song was engineered by Chris Godbey (assisted by Alejandro Baima) and mixed by Jimmy Douglass , Godbey and Timberlake at Larabee Studios .

On June 10 , 2013 Timberlake introduced the artwork for the " Tunnel Vision " single , a black @-@ and @-@ white close @-@ up of the singer 's face in the silhouette of a nude woman . Kia Macarechi of The Huffington Post found the artwork unpleasant and unusual ; according to Justin Myers of the Official Charts Company , Timberlake " seems to be playing up to his naughty nickname of Trousersnake with the cover " . Zach Dionne of New York 's Vulture website called the cover " awful boobnose single art " , committing to " the smoky naked woman vibe " . " Tunnel Vision " and its radio edit were digitally released in France and Italy on June 14 on Amazon . That day , the single was also released in Australia , Belgium , Luxembourg , The Netherlands , New Zealand and Sweden on 7 Digital and the iTunes Store . It was released on June 17 in Norway , the following day in Spain and on June 21 in Switzerland .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Tunnel Vision " is a mid @-@ tempo R & B song with an EDM influence . Billboard 's Jason Lipshutz noted that it has an instrumentation that features " fizzing beats abetted by the producer 's [Timbaland] signature ad @-@ libs and vocal record @-@ scratches " , while according to Sobhi Youssef of Sputnikmusic the song is build on " still @-@ existing chops with a drum heavy , syncopated backbone amidst frenetically shifting bass melodies , sweeping orchestrations , and vacuous synths that all coalesce into a fuzzed out boom @-@ bap . " Ryan Dombal of Pitchfork Media called the synthesizer " sinister " and , according to Slant Magazine 's Eric Henderson , it has Middle Eastern tones . Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle called the beats and vocal loops on "

Tunnel Vision " reminiscent of Timbaland 's past work with the late American singer Aaliyah . According to Sarah Dean of The Huffington Post , its beat resembles that on 50 Cent 's 2007 single " Ayo Technology " (also featuring Timberlake) .

" Tunnel Vision " features " thrilling " evolutions in production and arrangement complementing Timberlake 's vocals , and the song 's unusual , abrupt changes unite it throughout . It borrows the " dark alley " rhythm of The 20 / 20 Experience 's third track , " Don 't Hold the Wall " ; Timberlake sings in his lower register , with an " exciting " upward arpeggio . Timbaland uses the singer 's voice as a " flexible instrument to enhance his tech savvy soundscape " , constructing " layers of production elements into towers of sonic force " . Lauren Martin of Fact called the song the start of Timbaland 's " Bollywood influenced ' Indian Flute ' era " and a tease ; Timberlake 's voice is redistributed , with wider range and suspense .

The song 's lyrics describe Timberlake 's tunnel vision of his love interest , with several voyeuristic references . The singer professes his love : " I look around and everything I see is beautiful , because all I see is you . " According to The Huffington Post 's Dean , Timberlake is in happier state of mind than on his 2002 song " Cry Me a River " or his 2007 single " What Goes Around ... Comes Around " . However , his lyrics have an obsessive quality : " A million people in a crowded room , but my camera lens is only set to zoom and it all becomes so clear . " Mellisa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly wrote that on " Tunnel Vision " , Timberlake is lyrically " playing the rom @-@ com director " : " Just like a movie shoot , I ? m zoomin ? in on you as we ride off into the sun . " According to Mikael Wood of the Los Angeles Times , Timberlake uses references to " cameras and reflective surfaces " to reflect on the " changing nature of celebrity " .

= = Critical response = =

In a review of The 20 / 20 Experience , Jean Bentley of The Hollywood Reporter called " Tunnel Vision " and " Strawberry Bubblegum " " electro @-@ tinged jams " . Consequence of Sound 's Sarah H. Grant wrote that " Tunnel Vision " and " Don 't Hold the Wall " were the album 's highlights , similar to Timberlake 's best work with ' NSYNC . Clyde Erwin Barretto of Prefix Magazine praised its production , which he felt excited listeners . The Huffington Post 's Sarah Dean called " Tunnel Vision " her favorite track on the album . Jordan Sargent of Spin wrote that with the song , Timbaland proved that he could still produce otherworldly beats . In The Guardian , Kitty Empire wrote that Timbaland rejuvenated his production talents and " Kanye @-@ calibre ambition " .

In a less @-@ enthusiastic review , Brad Stern of MTV Buzzworthy dismissed " Tunnel Vision " as " the album 's most tediously grating moment " . Allan Raible of ABC News praised the track 's beat , but thought it would fit better on a song with fewer " tired ' loverman ' clichés . " Fact magazine 's Lauren Martin described " Tunnel Vision " and " Don 't Hold the Wall " as " two rousing , if mildly deja vu inducing , efforts . " Jed Gottlieb of the Boston Herald said that the song 's " electro bump " would have been innovative if it had been released a year earlier .

= = Commercial performance = =

" Tunnel Vision " sold well digitally after the release of The 20 / 20 Experience , charting in several countries . The week of March 17 , 2013 , it debuted on the South Korean Gaon International Chart at number 27 with 6 @,@ 670 digital copies sold . Although it did not reach the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States , " Tunnel Vision " peaked at number 11 on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 singles chart and peaked at number 40 on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . After its release as a single , the song debuted and peaked at number 75 on the Irish Singles Chart . The week of July 20 , " Tunnel Vision " debuted at number 64 on the UK Singles Chart . Its chart position fluctuated for three weeks , peaking at number 61 on August 10 . The song was most successful on the UK R & B Singles Chart , where it debuted at number 15 and peaked at number eight by the week of August 10 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Conception and fashion = = =

" Tunnel Vision " ' s music video premiered on July 3 , 2013 on Timberlake ' s Vevo YouTube channel . The singer tweeted , " Check out the new video for Tunnel Vision and be ready ... it ' s explicit . -teamJT " . The video was directed by Jonathan Craven , Simon McLoughlin and Jeff Nicholas , with a cameo appearance by Timbaland . Craven and Nathan Scherrer produced the video for the Uprising Creative . Its director of photography was Sing Howe Yam , and Jacquelyn London edited the video for Sunset Edit .

The seven @-@ minute video features Timberlake and Timbaland gazing at three nude women ; according to Jason Lipshutz of Billboard , the women are wearing flesh @-@ colored G @-@ strings . In some shots , Timberlake ' s face is projected onto the women ' s bodies . Jordan Sargent of Spin called the set pieces where projections of Timberlake interact with the nude dancers " a fractured dynamic that mirrors ' Tunnel Vision ' itself " .

Cinya Burton of E ! wrote about Timberlake ' s video wardrobe , " Apparently when Justin Timberlake isn ' t in his now @-@ signature suit and tie getup , he ' s donning AllSaints . " The singer wore two head @-@ to @-@ toe ensembles by the brand . The first was a gray Baxley V @-@ neck T @-@ shirt layered under a white Redono half @-@ sleeved shirt , with casual Charge Chino pants . The second , a darker combination worn while he dances against a lighter background , was a black Resident Crew T @-@ shirt , dark gray Pipe Chino pants , a Duncan denim shirt and black Trap boots . According to Burton , " While his ensembles are both dapper " , the nude models in the video attracted more attention .

= = = Critical response and ban = = =

Critics have called the video NSFW , comparing it to the 2013 video for " Blurred Lines " by Robin Thicke with Pharrell Williams and T.I . In an interview with Capital FM , Thicke responded to a question about the videos ' similarity : " No comment . I ' ll let you do all the talking . It ' s a subject that has no good ending . " Fact magazine called the video ' s concept simple , and said its production team was unconcerned . According to Spin ' s Jordan Sargent , " Like his new album The 20 / 20 Experience , in which half the songs run longer than seven minutes , the ' Tunnel Vision ' video is self @-@ consciously artistic and mature . But the video is also at times effective , particularly when the editing gets choppy during the bridge . "

About the nude women in the video , an MTV UK reviewer said that Timberlake drew on Thicke ' s video . The Huffington Post ' s Sarah Dean wrote that Timberlake used a tip from Thicke to accompany a " great " song with a video objectifying women who enjoy dancing nude , criticizing the use of three women for a song with lyrics about a single love interest . According to Tamar Anitai of MTV Buzzworthy , Timberlake wanted to live his life and celebrate his album ' s success : " Oh , come on ! Don ' t complain . You bitched and moaned endlessly when Justin Timberlake stopped making music for six years , so don ' t get all Veruca Salty when he comes back with boobs to spare and boobs to share . "

In her review , Rachel Maresca of the New York Daily News wrote that Timberlake slurred some of the song ' s explicit lyrics in the video . According to Kathy McCabe of News Corp Australia , Timberlake escalated the pop @-@ porn movement with the video : " With mummy blogger outrage over Robin Thicke ' s exploitation of topless women for his Blurred Lines video ? and its questionable lyrics ? still raging , Timberlake has gone even further in his clip " . McCabe wrote that male pop singers have been influenced by Rihanna and Katy Perry , who have " stripped down in the name of a hit . Or art . Or freedom of expression , depending on the press release spin " . Clash ' s Robin Murray wrote that pop music has lacked raunchiness and sex appeal for some time , and Timberlake ' s return was needed : " Lavish , lush and 21st century in a direct , shocking fashion , the video finds Justin Timberlake on perfect preening form . "

After the video ' s release it was banned from YouTube with a message saying , " This video has

been removed as a violation of YouTube 's policy on nudity or sexual content " . The website quickly restored the video with a content warning and the requirement that viewers sign in (to verify their age) . Although a YouTube representative declined to comment on individual videos , he issued a statement : " While our guidelines generally prohibit nudity , we make exceptions when it is presented in an educational , documentary or artistic context , and take care to add appropriate warnings and age restrictions " .

= = Live performances = =

Timberlake first performed " Tunnel Vision " at the Phoenix Park concert in Dublin , Ireland , as part of a set list which included " Cry Me a River " , " SexyBack " and " My Love " . In a review of the concert , John Balfe of entertainment.ie wrote : " Even the album 's more well @-@ known songs like ' Tunnel Vision ' , ' Mirrors ' and ' Suit & Tie ' don 't yet have the same weight in the setlist as some of JT 's more established hits and it was songs like ' SexyBack ' that really got the 40 @,@ 000 strong crowd to move " . On July 12 Timberlake appeared on the main stage at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford , London as part of the Wireless Festival , performing " Tunnel Vision " and other songs dressed in black and wearing a black fedora . The song was on the set lists of Timberlake 's 2013 Legends of the Summer Stadium Tour with rapper Jay @-@ Z and his fifth worldwide tour , the 2013 ? 15 20 / 20 Experience World Tour .

= = Track listing = =

" Tunnel Vision " (radio edit) ? 4 : 45

" Tunnel Vision " ? 6 : 46

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =