

= Who 's That Girl (soundtrack) =

Who 's That Girl : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is a soundtrack album by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna , from the film of the same name , and was released on July 21 , 1987 by Sire Records . It also contains songs by her label mates Scritti Politti , Duncan Faure , Club Nouveau , Coati Mundi and Michael Davidson . The soundtrack is credited as a Madonna album , despite her only performing four of the nine tracks on the album . After the commercial success of her film *Desperately Seeking Susan* (1985) , Madonna wanted to act in another comedy film titled *Slammer* , about a woman named Nikki Finn who was falsely accused of homicide . However , due to the critical and commercial failure of her adventure film *Shanghai Surprise* (1986) , Warner Bros. were initially reluctant to green light the project , but later agreed , after Madonna convinced them and also because they wanted to cash in on Madonna 's success with soundtracks .

Madonna began working on the soundtrack in December 1986 , and contacted Patrick Leonard and Stephen Bray , who had worked as producers on her third studio album *True Blue* (1986) . She felt that an uptempo song and a downtempo song were needed for the album . Leonard composed the music for the uptempo song , with Madonna providing the melody and lyrics . The singer named the track " Who 's That Girl " and , believing this to be a better title than *Slammer* , changed the name of the film to the same . Together , Madonna and Leonard also developed the downtempo ballad " The Look of Love " . Two more songs were composed for the film with Bray , the first being the dance @-@ y tune " Causing a Commotion " , and the other being " Can 't Stop " , a track inspired by Sixties Motown and the group Martha and the Vandellas .

After its release , the Who 's That Girl soundtrack received a mostly negative response from critics . Some reviews described the album as plain and incomplete , although the title track and " The Look of Love " were praised as its highlights . The soundtrack was a commercial success , reaching the top ten of the album charts of the United States , Austria , Canada , France , Italy , New Zealand , Sweden and the United Kingdom , while topping the charts of Germany , and European Album chart . The album went on to sell six million copies worldwide .

Three of the Madonna tracks were released as singles . The title track became her sixth number one single on the Billboard Hot 100 , making her the first artist to accumulate six number @-@ one singles in the 1980s , and the first female performer to get that many number @-@ ones as a solo act . " Causing a Commotion " was released as the second single , and reached number two on the Hot 100 . " The Look of Love " was a European market @-@ only release , reaching the top ten in United Kingdom . Another track , " Turn It Up " was a promotional release in United States , reaching number 15 on the dance charts . Who 's That Girl received further promotion from the successful Who 's That Girl World Tour .

= = Background = =

Madonna 's 1985 comedy film *Desperately Seeking Susan* was a commercial success , prompting her to take further interest in acting . For her next screen project , she picked another comedy , initially titled *Slammer* , but later named *Who 's That Girl* . Madonna played the character of Nikki Finn , a young woman accused of homicide who insisted that she was innocent . Released on parole , she was determined to clear her name . Along with a character named Loudon Trott (played by Griffin Dunne) , she gets caught up in 36 hours of high adventure , culminating in a scene where Nikki interrupts a wedding to reveal the identity of the real murderer . Regarding the character Nikki , Madonna commented ,

" I had a lot in common with Nikki . She 's courageous and sweet and funny and misjudged . But she clears her name in the end , and that 's always good to do . I 'm continuously doing that with the public . I liked Nikki 's tough side and her sweet side . The toughness is only a mask for the vulnerability she feels inside . "

However , in the light of the bad publicity surrounding Madonna and her then husband Sean Penn , coupled with the fact that their drama film *Shanghai Surprise* had failed commercially , she had to fight hard to persuade Warner Bros. to green light the project . She also wanted her close friend

James Foley to direct the film , proclaiming him to be a " genius " . Foley had previously directed the music videos of her songs " Live to Tell " , " Papa Don 't Preach " and " True Blue " . Warner Bros. were looking for another way to cash in upon Madonna 's success with soundtracks , and felt that her name alone might be enough to guarantee the success of the film as well as its soundtrack . So they felt that they had no choice , but to green light the project . Filming began in October 1986 , in New York , but it was not until January that Madonna started working on the soundtrack .

= = Development = =

Having some specific ideas in her mind about the music of the film , Madonna contacted Patrick Leonard and Stephen Bray , who had helped to write and produce her third studio album True Blue in 1986 . Madonna explained to them that she needed an uptempo song and a downtempo song . As per her demands , Leonard developed the uptempo song . Madonna came to the recording studio one Thursday , and Leonard handed her a cassette of a recording of the chorus , which he had just finished working on . Madonna went to the backroom and completed the melody and the lyrics of the song , while Leonard worked on the other parts of it . After finishing the lyrics , Madonna decided to name the song " Who 's That Girl " , and changed the title of Slammer to the same , considering it to be a better name . In Fred Bronson 's book The Billboard Book of Number 1 Hits , Leonard explained that the song was recorded in one day with Madonna recording her vocals only once . Additional guitar and percussion tracks were added later by Leonard and Bray .

The downtempo song was developed on the following day , with Madonna writing the lyrics and Leonard composing the melody . Named " The Look of Love " , the song contains the line " No where to run , no place to hide . From the look of love , from the eyes of pride " . After " The Look of Love " , Madonna went on to develop two further songs with Bray as the producer . The first was called " Causing a Commotion " , and was inspired by Penn and the couple 's 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 . In a Rolling Stone article dated September 10 , 1987 , Madonna spoke about Penn 's impact on her life and the song : " 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 him many times . I never would you know , because I realize that it would just make things worse . [...] I felt like he was ' Causing a Commotion ' to purposefully distract me . I wrote this song and vented my frustration in it . " The last song developed was " Can 't Stop " , a track inspired by Sixties Motown and the group Martha and the Vandellas . In addition to this , the album also included tracks by some acts on Warner Bros. Records , namely Club Nouveau , Scritti Politti and Michael Davidson . Commercially unsuccessful and unknown in the US , these groups needed a platform to project their songs , and including them in a Madonna album seemed like the right thing to do for Warner . Two tracks by Duncan Faure and Coati Mundi were included on the soundtrack at the request of Madonna since they were her friends . Despite her only performing four of the nine tracks on the album , Who 's That Girl was marketed as a Madonna album , with only her face and name appearing on the cover art .

= = Composition = =

The title track is composed in Madonna 's typical style ? mixing a drum machine , bubbling bass synth line , and the sound of stringed instruments . According to Rikky Rooksby , author of The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , the three parts of the song , namely the bridge , where Madonna sings " what can help me now " , the chorus and the verse flow together in a coherent manner , with the chorus incorporating a haunting effect . The song epitomized Madonna 's interest with Hispanic culture that continued after the release of her 1987 single " La Isla Bonita " . Leonard and Madonna had added Spanish phrases in the chorus , over the trumpets of the second verse , and also in the added instrumental break in the middle . " Who 's That Girl " also makes use of the sonic effect brought about by the combination of multiple vocal lines , which had been previously used by groups like The Beach Boys in their singles " God Only Knows " (1966) and " I Get Around

" (1964) as well as R.E.M. ' s singles " Fall on Me " (1986) and " Near Wild Heaven " (1991) . " Who 's That Girl " employs this effect on the last chorus where three or four different vocal hooks are intertwined .

The second track " Causing a Commotion " has a danceable , up @-@ tempo groove . 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 motions , 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 . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Walt Disney Music Company , the song is set in the time signature of common time with a tempo of 192 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of B ? major with Madonna 's voice spanning from the high @-@ note of C3 to B5 . The song has a basic sequence of B ? ? Fm7 ? B ? ? F9 ? B ? 6 as its chord progression .

" The Look of Love " starts off with a low bass synth line and a slow backing track . It is followed by the sound of percussion and a high register note , contrasting with the bassline . The song continues in this way until the last verse , which is backed by the sound of an acoustic guitar . A two @-@ part vocal is found in the line " No where to run , no place to hide " . Rooksby felt that Madonna 's voice sounded " expressive " when she sings the line " From the look of love " and utters the word " look " over the D minor chord present underneath . The word is sung in a higher note of the musical scale , thus giving an impression of the suspension like quality of the minor ninth chord , dissociating it from the harmony of the other notes . The song is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 80 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of D minor , with Madonna 's voice spanning the notes C5 to B ? 3 . " The Look of Love " has a basic sequence of C ? Dm ? Fm ? B as its chord progression .

" Can 't Stop " has a high pitched keyboard sound embedded in between the sound of a drum machine and clarinet . The lyrics essentially refer to the idea that " I want my man and I am going to get him whatever " . Rooksby noticed that the instrumental break in the song repeats the chorus , with a synth line added on the top . He felt that " Can 't Stop " , at 4 : 45 length , was a good example of the division of Madonna 's songs between dance music ? where the length is important ? and the requirement of classic pop songs , which can vary from two minutes to four minutes . J. Randy Taraborrelli , in his book Madonna : An Intimate Biography , described Faure 's song " 24 Hours " as a slow track which fails to build up momentum . Joe Brown from The Washington Post described Davidson 's " Turn it Up " as consisting of a slow background synth , that transforms into a rapidly progressing beat , with Davidson 's singing reminiscent of the Beastie Boys .

= = Promotion = =

= = = Tour = = =

Madonna performed " Who 's That Girl " , " Causing a Commotion , " and " The Look of Love " on her 1987 Who 's That Girl World Tour . It was her second concert tour and supported her third studio album , True Blue (1986) , as well as the soundtrack . It was Madonna 's first world tour , reaching Asia , North America and Europe . Musically and technically superior to her previous Virgin Tour , the Who 's That Girl tour incorporated multimedia components to make the show more appealing . Madonna trained herself physically with aerobics , jogging and weight @-@ lifting , to cope with the choreography and the dance routines . For the costumes , she collaborated with designer Marlene Stewart , expanding on the idea of bringing her popular video characters to life onstage , reworking scenes from " True Blue " , " Open Your Heart " , " Papa Don 't Preach " and " La Isla Bonita " . The stage was huge , with four video screens , multimedia projectors and a flight of stairs in the middle . Leonard became the music director and encouraged Madonna to go with the idea of rearranging her older songs and presenting them in a new format . Madonna named the tour ' Who 's That Girl ' , after looking up at a gigantic image of herself projected on a screen on the stage during rehearsals .

The show consisted of seven costume changes , with song @-@ and @-@ dance routines and theatrics with an encore consisting of the title song " Who 's That Girl " and " Holiday " . The tour also addressed social causes like AIDS , during " Papa Don 't Preach " . Who 's That Girl was critically appreciated , with reviewers commenting on the extravagant nature of the concert and complimenting Madonna for her dancing , costume changes and dynamic pacing . Who 's That Girl was a commercial success , grossing a total of US \$ 25 million , with Madonna playing in front of 1 @.@ 5 million people over the course of the tour . According to Pollstar , it was the second top female concert tour of 1987 , behind Tina Turner 's Break Every Rule Tour . Two concerts from the Who 's That Girl tour were later released on the VHS , including Ciao Italia : Live from Italy . Taraborrelli commented that " Many female artists behave like a diva for a period when they reach superstar status , and the ' Who 's That Girl ? ' tour marked the beginning of Madonna 's . " The tour is also noted for giving rise to the term " new Madonna " , a stronger and more intelligent sexual image of her former self which had given rise to the term Madonna wannabe . A statue of Madonna , wearing a conical bra was erected in her name , at the center of the town of Pacentro in Italy , where her ancestors used to live .

= = = Singles = = =

" Who 's That Girl " was released as the lead single from the soundtrack , on June 30 , 1987 . A latin pop influenced song , it became Madonna 's sixth single to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart , making her the first artist to accumulate six number @-@ one singles in the 1980s , and the first female performer to get that many number @-@ ones as a solo act . It also reached the top the charts in United Kingdom , Canada , Netherlands , Ireland and Belgium . In the music video Madonna did not portray her film character Nikki Finn , instead she continued with her Hispanic look from the " La Isla Bonita " music video . This time she appeared dressed boyishly in a wide @-@ brimmed Spanish hat and bolero jacket ? a combination which would later become a fashion trend . " Who 's That Girl " was nominated for " Best Song From A Motion Picture " at the 1988 Grammy Awards and " Best Original Song " at the 1988 Golden Globe Awards .

The album 's second single , " Causing a Commotion " , was released on August 25 , 1987 . It was criticized by music reviewers for being a sub @-@ standard Madonna single , but enjoyed commercial success , reaching the top ten in New Zealand , Switzerland and the United Kingdom . In the United States , the single quickly climbed up the chart , ultimately peaking at number two in the week of October 24 , 1987 , the same week Michael Jackson 's " Bad " advanced to the pole position . It remained in second position for three weeks , before descending from the chart . " Causing a Commotion " reached the top of the Hot Dance Club Play chart .

The third song released from the album was the European single , " The Look of Love " . In the United Kingdom , " The Look of Love " was released on December 12 , 1987 , and entered the UK Singles Chart at number 15 . The next week , it reached a peak of nine on the chart , her first single to miss the top five since " Lucky Star " (1984) . The song was present for a total of seven weeks on the chart . In Germany , the song peaked on the Media Control Charts at number 34 , and was present for a total of seven weeks on the chart . In Ireland , the song reached the top ten and peaked at six . Across Europe , the song charted peaked at nine in Belgium , 23 in France , eight in Netherlands and 20 in Switzerland . On the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles of Billboard , the song reached 17 . " Turn It Up " was released as a promotional single from the album in early 1988 . Described by Joe Brown of The Washington Post as " gratingly banal " and its singer as " one of Madonna 's photogenic protégés " , the song was a success on the Dance Club charts of Billboard , peaking at number 15 .

= = Critical reception = =

The soundtrack album was not well received by music critics , some of whom went on comment that the title track is the record 's highlight . Jim Farber from Entertainment Weekly gave a negative

review , though Noah Robischon from the same magazine complimented the title track , saying that Madonna had " pushed synergy over the borderline . " Bill Lamb from About.com said that the songs were not among Madonna 's best music . Taraborrelli commented that " the soundtrack was once again the reminder of Madonna 's power and status as one of the most important singers of the 80s , because it was only her songs which gained prominence , albeit not being her best , though ' The Look of Love ' is an exotic ballad . " Author Mary Cross , in her biography Madonna : A Biography said that " the soundtrack slips up because of the film . " Allen Metz and Carol Benson , authors of The Madonna Companion : Two Decades of Commentary , said that " Who 's That Girl has done what it was released for , put money in Warner 's pockets , but [adds] nothing in Madonna 's catalogue " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine noted in his review for Allmusic that " In the strictest sense [the record] isn 't a Madonna album ? it 's a soundtrack album " , adding that it features " competent but uninspiring dance @-@ pop by [various artists] " . David Denby from New York magazine commented that " there 's nothing absolutely wrong with the soundtrack . But it 's just that it has the misfortune of being associated with such an unfortunate movie , that the album actually does not hold up to you well . " He added that " The Look of Love " was a hidden gem in Madonna 's catalogue . Don Shewey from Rolling Stone commented that " although essentially a Madonna album , the soundtrack does not boast a truly memorable song , rather there is the inclusion of the failed Warner artist songs , like the Coati Mundi song ' El Coco Loco ' and Duncan Faure 's uncannily Beatles @-@ esque " 24 Hours " . For most buyers though this album is the new Madonna album . "

Robert Christgau gave the album a (C ?) and said " From Scritti Politti and Coati Mundi you expect trickier spin , but they 're outsiders , and outsiders times soundtrack equals contract work . For her own movie , though , the decade 's purest pop icon should do better than sloppy seconds . Or neat seconds ? worse still . " Ed Blank from Pittsburgh Press commented : " It feels like the sole purpose to create the soundtrack was to show it in the film . " Jay Boyar from Orlando Sentinel praised the songs on the soundtrack , claiming that " Madonna brings forth a heart @-@ breaking warmth in ' The Look of Love ' and a club stomping feel with ' Causing a Commotion ' . With the movie 's fate being sealed , luckily for her Madonna can sing . " Gyan Singh from The Miami Herald , while reviewing the film , said that the " Only solace of the movie is the soundtrack , the songs ? especially those by Madonna ? are actually good . " Don McLeese from Chicago Sun @-@ Times , while reviewing Madonna 's Who 's That Girl World Tour , said that " the soundtrack 's songs sound good live " . Larry Geller from The Advocate gave a positive review , saying that " Who 's That Girl will be the soundtrack album of the summer . " Stephen Holden from The New York Times gave an equally positive review , saying that the " soundtrack album is full of engaging pop fluff . One of the hottest singles of the year , Madonna 's bilingual title song has the buoyant bounce of an acrobat doing somersaults on a trampoline . ' The Look of Love ' is as memorable a ballad as [Madonna 's 1986 single] ' Live to Tell ' , and ' 24 Hours ' , sung by Duncan Faure , skillfully fuses Beatles @-@ styled vocals with 80 's synthesizer @-@ pop underpinnings . " Daniel Brogan from Chicago Tribune said that " since this soundtrack isn 't really a Madonna album , this is no surprise that it appears as incomplete . "

= = Commercial response = =

After its release , the album debuted on the Billboard 200 at number forty @-@ six on August 15 , 1987 , the same week that the title song " Who 's That Girl " reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 . In the week ending September 12 , 1987 , the record reached its peak position at number seven . It remained on the chart for twenty @-@ eight weeks , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipments of one million copies across the United States . Who 's That Girl sold 1 @.@ 5 million copies across the nation . In Canada , the album debuted at eighty @-@ five on the RPM Albums Chart , on August 1 , 1987 . After seven weeks , the soundtrack climbed to its peak of four on the chart . The soundtrack was placed at position thirty @-@ seven , on the RPM Top 100 Albums for 1987 chart and was present on the chart for thirty weeks .

In the United Kingdom , the album debuted and peaked at number four on the UK Albums Chart on August 1 , 1987 , becoming the highest debut of the week . It fell out one place the next week , where it stayed for other three weeks . Who 's That Girl was present on the chart for twenty @-@ five weeks and was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments of 300 @,@ 000 copies across the United Kingdom and eventually sold 320 @,@ 000 in the country . The album was less successful in Australia , where it debuted and peaked at number twenty @-@ four , and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , for shipments of 35 @,@ 000 copies . It entered the New Zealand Album chart at twelve on September 6 , 1987 . After two weeks , the album reached its peak at number six . In Austria , Who 's That Girl became the best selling debut of the week , charting at number seven , on August 15 , 1987 , ultimately reaching number five . In Germany , Who 's That Girl debuted at the top of the charts , remaining there for two weeks and earning a gold certification from BVMI . The album also reached the top of the charts on the European Top 100 Albums chart . The album also reached the top @-@ ten of the charts in France , Italy , Japan , Netherlands , Norway , Spain , Sweden and Switzerland . The album went on to sell six million copies worldwide .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =