

= My Prerogative =

" My Prerogative " is a song by American singer Bobby Brown from his second solo studio album , Don 't Be Cruel . It was released on October 11 , 1988 as the second single from the album . After recording sessions for the album were completed , Brown and producer Gene Griffin travelled to New York City , since he felt something was " missing " from the record . " My Prerogative " was written by Brown as a response to the criticism he received for his departure from New Edition . He explained the song was about making decisions in one 's life and not caring about other people 's judgment . " My Prerogative " is often considered a new jack swing anthem , and contains many elements from Teddy Riley productions due to his involvement as one of the song 's session musicians .

The song was positively received by critics and was nominated for a Grammy Award in the category of Best R & B Urban Contemporary Single . It was also commercially successful , reaching number one in Billboard 's Hot 100 and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs charts . " My Prerogative " also reached top ten positions in many countries , such as Ireland , New Zealand , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . The music video for the song features Brown performing the song on stage with his band and dancers . The song was also performed at most of his concerts , usually as the last song of the set list . On the February 4 , 1989 performance at Madison Square Garden , he was joined on stage by many popular rap artists and producers of the time .

" My Prerogative " has been covered and sampled by a number of artists from different genres , including Britney Spears . She released her cover in her first compilation , Greatest Hits : My Prerogative (2004) . The cover was produced by Bloodshy & Avant and was noted for aptly referring to Spears 's relationship with the media at the time . Although the song only appeared in component charts in the United States , Spears 's cover surpassed Brown 's version worldwide , peaking at the top of the charts in Finland , Ireland , Italy and Norway and reaching the top ten in another fourteen countries .

= = Background = =

Brown had already completed recording sessions for Don 't Be Cruel in Los Angeles , California , but felt something was missing in the record . He said , " I felt my album was lacking a strong , aggressive song and I thought , ' Where better than New York to come up with it ' " . He travelled to the city with producer Gene Griffin . " My Prerogative " was written and co @-@ produced by Brown and Griffin . It was recorded at Axis Studios and mixed at Soundworks , in New York . The track was mastered at Future Disc Systems in Hollywood , California . During an interview with The Hour on March 17 , 1989 , Brown explained the theme behind the song , saying , " A lot of things had been said about Bobby Brown , why was he doing this [a solo career] . It 's my way of expressing to people it 's your prerogative to do as you want , but make sure what you do is the right thing " . A CD single of remixes by Joe T. Vannelli was released on October 13 , 1995 .

= = Composition = =

" My Prerogative " is considered a new jack swing anthem , that merges hip hop beats with elements of synthpop and soul . It features a triplet swing in the sixteenth note , as included in many of Riley 's productions . Jake Brown said in his book Your body 's calling me : music , love , sex & money (2003) , that like most new jack swing songs from the late 1980s , it was composed by " punchy , street @-@ savvy beats , with sexually energetic melodies and poppy choruses " . The bassline of the track was described by Cam 'Ron Davis of CMJ New Music Monthly as " truly sinister " . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by EMI Music Publishing , the song is composed in the key of A minor , with a tempo of 120 beats per minute . Brown 's vocal range spans from the high @-@ note of C4 to A5 .

= = Reception = =

Barry Michael Cooper of Spin said " My Prerogative " " sounds like gin @-@ drowned , Roaring Twenties swing " . Arion Berger of Rolling Stone called it " a grumpy and undeniably adult dance hit " . " My Prerogative " was nominated for at the 30th Grammy Awards in the category of Best R & B Urban Contemporary Single by a Male , but lost to Michael Jackson 's " Man in the Mirror " . The following year , Spin listed the song at number 72 on the " 100 Greatest Singles of All Time " list . It ranked at number 98 on VH1 's " 100 Greatest Songs of the 80 's " . The track is often referred to as Brown 's signature song .

" My Prerogative " debuted on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 during the week of October 29 , 1988 at number 61 . The following week , it climbed 16 positions to number 45 . On January 14 , 1989 , it peaked at the top position of the chart . The song also peaked at number one in Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs and at number seven in Hot Dance Club Songs . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for sales over 500 @,@ 000 copies . In Canada , the song debuted on the RPM Singles Chart at position 98 , on the issue dated December 23 , 1989 . In the United Kingdom , " My Prerogative " debuted at number 87 on December 10 , 1988 . On February 18 , 1989 , the song peaked at number six and stayed in the position for two weeks . Following the release of the remixes single on October 14 , 1995 , " My Prerogative " re @-@ entered the UK charts at number 17 , and stayed on the chart for two weeks . By 17 October 2015 , it had sold 275 @,@ 000 units in the country . Across Europe , the song reached the top ten in Ireland and the Netherlands , and the top 20 in Germany and Sweden . In Australia and New Zealand , the track peaked at number 40 and number three , respectively .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " My Prerogative " was directed by Alek Keshishian . It begins with Brown driving a car while his musicians start to perform the song on a stage . Shortly after , he descends to the stage in an elevator , wearing a black jumpsuit and a headset . He dances flanked by two women , one of them playing a keytar .

J. D. Considine of Rolling Stone wrote in the review of Bobby (1992) , " As anyone who saw him swagger through the videos for ' My Prerogative ' and ' Every Little Step ' can attest , Brown had a phenomenal ability to convey a sense of street toughness that was utterly without malice or menace , making him credible and likable " . The music video was nominated at the 1989 MTV Video Music Awards for Best Stage Performance in a Video , but lost to the music video of Living Colour 's " Cult of Personality " . It also charted at number nine on RPM video chart on July 21 , 1990 .

= = Live performances = =

" My Prerogative " was performed during his tour in promotion for Don 't Be Cruel as the last song of the night . Brown usually performed it wearing a black outfit , flanked with two male dancers wearing white clothes . On the February 4 , 1989 , show at Madison Square Garden in New York City , Brown wore a red boxing robe with the words " King of the Stage " printed on the back . During the performance , Joseph Simmons of Run @-@ DMC , LL Cool J and Heavy D joined him onstage and freestyle rapped . Eric B. , KRS @-@ One , L. A. Reid , Babyface and Teddy Riley also joined him onstage , with the latter performing a keyboard solo . Peter Watrous of The New York Times commented that , " The communal scene on stage mirrored the feeling in the audience ; everybody seemed aware that this was a generation that had rewritten the rules of pop entertainment , and was justifiably proud of its achievement " . Brown also performed the song at the 1997 Home Again Tour with New Edition , during the second portion of the show in which he performed hits from his solo career . On November 10 , 2005 , he performed the song for the first time in eight years at a concert at House of Blues in Atlantic City . He wore a white suit and matching hat , and sang it as the last song of the evening . On January 17 , 2006 , he performed it at a New Edition show in Atlantic City 's Trump Taj Mahal . During the performance , he tore open his orange dress shirt , singing bare @-@ chested with a tie and a fur coat on . Brown performed the song during his 2007 July shows in

Australia .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Bobby Brown ? lead vocals , songwriting , co @-@ production

Gene Griffin ? songwriting , mixing , co @-@ production

Teddy Riley ? background vocals , keyboards , mixing

Dennis Mitchell ? engineering , mixing , recording

Jim Hanneman ? engineering , mixing , recording

Markell Riley ? drum programming

Aaron Hall ? background vocals

Bernard Belle ? background vocals

Lee Drakeford ? background vocals

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Britney Spears version = =

= = = Background and composition = = =

In 2004 , Britney Spears recorded a cover of " My Prerogative " with Swedish production team Bloodshy & Avant , who produced her single " Toxic " from her fourth studio album , In the Zone (2003) . Bloodshy & Avant recorded the song at Murlyn Studios in Stockholm , Sweden . Spears recorded the vocals at Teldex Studios in Berlin , Germany . On August 13 , 2004 , Spears 's label Jive Records announced through a press release that she had covered the song and was planning to release it on her first greatest hits compilation , titled Greatest Hits : My Prerogative . The song was set to premiere on radio stations on September 14 , 2004 , however , it leaked in the Real Tapemasters Inc . ' s mixtape The Future of R & B on September 10 , 2004 .

Spears ' cover of " My Prerogative " is musically different from its original version , with the bass and new jack swing sound replaced with a synthpop sound , synthesizers and elements typical of Bloodshy & Avant productions . It was noted by Christy Lemire of msnbc.com that the cover also contains elements of Bollywood music . At the beginning of the song , Spears says in a breathy voice the lines " People can take everything away from you / But they can never take away your truth / But the question is , can you handle mine ? " . The rest of the lyrics do not deviate much from the original version , instead they are changed to fit a woman 's perspective . Jennifer Vineyard of MTV commented the cover could be interpreted as a statement on Spears 's life and the media reaction to some of her decisions at the time , including her engagement to American dancer Kevin Federline .

= = = Reception = = =

The cover received mixed to negative reviews from contemporary critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic called the cover " a useless remake , which seems to exist solely for its video " . Spence D. of IGN said that the lyrics fit perfectly with Spears 's relationship with the media at the time . He also added , " As for her interpretation , it 's an interesting chameleonic diversion that comes off like a mash @-@ up between vintage Prince @-@ styled production , Cameo swagger , and Madonna sultriness , but never seems to capture the gloss and glory of any of the aforementioned influences " . Christy Lemire of msnbc.com called it " utterly unnecessary " . Louis

Pattison of the New Musical Express commented that "judging by the fuck @-@ you sentiments " of the cover , Spears liked to play the role of " [the] pop brat careering off the rails " . Sarah Hepola of Salon.com wrote in an article about contemporary teen idols that the cover " became an anthem for teen @-@ idol rebellion " . American director Quentin Tarantino included the song in a playlist that inspired him during production of his 2009 film *Inglourious Basterds* .

In the United States , " My Prerogative " failed to chart on the Billboard Hot 100 but charted in Billboard 's Top 40 Tracks and Mainstream Top 40 at number 22 and 34 , respectively . " My Prerogative " has sold 374 @, @ 000 paid digital downloads in the United States . On November 15 , 2004 , the song debuted at the Australian Singles Chart at number seven . It received a gold certification by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipments over 35 @, @ 000 units . The same week , it debuted at number seventeen in New Zealand . On November 7 , 2004 , the song debuted at number three in the United Kingdom , during a competitive week of new releases , only surpassed by Eminem 's " Just Lose It " and Destiny 's Child 's " Lose My Breath " . According to Official Charts Company , the song has sold 130 @, @ 000 copies there . The song also reached success throughout Europe , peaking at number one in Finland , Ireland , Italy and Norway , number two in Spain and number three in Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia) , Denmark and Germany . It also reached top ten positions in Austria , Czech Republic , Sweden , Switzerland and the Netherlands .

= = = Music video = = =

The music video for " My Prerogative " was filmed in August 2004 at The Paramour Mansion in Silver Lake , Los Angeles and was directed by Jake Nava . It premiered on MTV 's TRL on September 16 , 2004 , and on BET 's 106 & Park on January 18 , 2005 . According to Spears 's mother Lynne , the video was " about capturing gorgeous close @-@ ups and very subtle movement " since Spears could not do any choreography due to her knee injury at the " Outrageous " music video shoot . She also described the video as " [having] an element of old Hollywood glamour and mystery " .

The music video begins with Spears driving a Porsche 928 at high speed in the Hollywood Hills . She crashes through a fence and lands into a pool inside a manor where a party is taking place . She emerges from the water and crawls in top of the car to sing the first verse . Spears 's brother Bryan makes a cameo in these scenes . After she leaves the pool , she enters the manor and passes couples making out around her . She appears in a stainless steel kitchen , where a maid cuts the straps of her black wet dress . In the next scene , she walks into a study in which her husband at the time , Kevin Federline , is smoking and watching a black @-@ and @-@ white video of Spears on a projection screen . According to Jennifer Vineyard from MTV , the clip had the style of pornographic films from the 1940s and 1950s . Rolling Stone in their article " Britney Spears : The Complete Video Guide " , compared it to Madonna 's performances of her 1984 single " Like a Virgin " . She then entered a dressing room with mirrors , wearing lingerie , high heels , stockings and a short fur jacket . She proceeds to a bedroom , in which a black dress is laid out on the comforter . She puts on the new dress and the camera cuts to the party outside where people gathered waiting . During the song 's bridge , it is revealed that the party is actually Spears 's wedding , as she starts walking towards the aisle and Federline waits next to a priest . The video ends with a shot of the black @-@ and @-@ white video and Spears looking into the camera . The black @-@ and @-@ white footage was released as an alternate version of the music video in the 2004 DVD *Greatest Hits : My Prerogative* .

= = Track listings = =