

= Better than Today =

" Better than Today " is a song recorded by Australian singer Kylie Minogue for her eleventh studio album , Aphrodite (2010) . The track was originally written and produced by Nerina Pallot and Andy Chatterley for Pallot 's 2009 extended play , Buckminster Fuller EP . It was re @-@ recorded by Minogue in 2009 , and received additional production by Stuart Price . Musically , " Better than Today " is a pop song that emulates other styles using guitars , synthesizers and drum programming .

" Better than Today " was released on 3 December 2010 as the album 's third single . It was not as successful as Minogue 's preceding releases . After debuting on the chart early with album downloads , it peaked on the UK Singles Chart at number 32 , making it her lowest placing since " The One " in 2008 . The single was released in Australia on 28 February 2011 . It debuted on the ARIA Singles Chart at number 55 , making it her third single to miss the top @-@ fifty , after " Finer Feelings " in 1992 (number 60) and " Get Outta My Way " in 2010 (number 69) . Despite under @-@ performing in the United Kingdom and Australia , it became Minogue 's sixth number @-@ one on the US Hot Dance Club Songs chart and her third consecutive number @-@ one single from the album Aphrodite on that chart .

" Better than Today " received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics . They applauded the dance @-@ oriented lyrics , comparing the track 's composition to Minogue 's works in the early 1990s on Rhythm of Love and the songs of the Scissor Sisters . Many critics praised the song as a part of the album , but did not believe it was strong as an independent single . An accompanying music video , directed by Minogue and her tour staff , was released on 19 November 2010 . The video reflected the fashion and choreography of the performances done during her 2009 For You , For Me Tour , where she debuted the song . Reception for the video was mainly positive , with most publications noting its similarities to Minogue 's previous music videos .

= = Background = =

" Better than Today " was written and produced by married couple Nerina Pallot and Andy Chatterley . The song was originally included on Pallot 's project Buckminster Fuller EP in February 2009 . After hearing Pallot 's work , Minogue 's A & R contacted her manager . Pallot stated when Minogue called her later , she " really didn 't believe it was her " , continuing , " when [Minogue] came to the studio in a nasty part of London I thought : ' OK , she really does want to do this ' . " Pallot and Chatterley were the first two writers and producers to work with Minogue when recording sessions for Aphrodite began in April 2009 . " Better than Today " was one of the prominent results of the collaboration . Pallot commented on working with Minogue , calling her " accommodating and lovely and approachable and normal [sic] " . Subsequent sessions Minogue had with the duo were not as successful . After Parlophone president Miles Leonard made Stuart Price the executive producer over the album in December 2009 , Price and Jake Shears (a friend and former collaboration partner of Price and Minogue) began to re @-@ produce the album . After being retooled by Price , " Better than Today " was left as one of only two remaining collaborations Minogue had with Pallot and Chatterly , along with the album 's title track .

= = Composition = =

" Better than Today " is a pop song with many additional styles , including rock , funk , soul and country . It also incorporates the use of the electric and acoustic guitar , synthesizers and drum programming by both Pallot and Chatterley . According to the sheet music published by Hal Leonard Corporation , it is set in common time with a tempo of 110 beats per minute . Minogue 's version is composed in the key of F major with her vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of A4 to the high @-@ note of F6 . The chord progression F @-@ E ? -Dm @-@ Dm @-@ E ? -F follows throughout her edition while the middle eight remains in F (Pallot 's version did not contain a middle eight) .

Many comparisons have been made on the song's style . Popjustice compared " Better than Today " to the style used in Minogue 's 1990 album *Rhythm of Love* . Hannah Kim of the Korea JoongAng Daily stated the track adds on to a " classic 70s disco sound " . When reviewing the album , Ian Wade of BBC Music called the song a " tech @-@ country strut " . Fraser McAlpine of BBC said that without research , it " bears the musical fingerprint " of Shears . " It 's got that ' Laura ' bounce ... And the bit where Kylie goes way up high ? Well you 've heard the verses to ' I Don 't Feel Like Dancin ' ' right ? Sonically similar ... " Christel Loar of PopMatters and Nick Levine of Digital Spy praised the lyric in the song , " What 's the point in living if you don 't wanna dance ? " Levine specifically applauded Pallot and Chatterly for " coming up with probably the Kyliest Kylie lyric ever " .

= = Reception = =

= = Critical response = =

The song has received positive and mixed reception from critics . Reviews in context of the album were usually positive . In a review of *Aphrodite* , Mikael Wood of Entertainment Weekly called " Better than Today " a standout track on the album . Wade of BBC Music also gave a favorable review , saying the track " throws up imagery of line @-@ dancing cyborgs " . Loar of PopMatters labeled it a " sugary bounce " . However in contrast to the positive album reviews , Nick Ward of The Nelson Mail was not impressed . He said that there is no " oomph " that " would have made [' Better than Today '] complete " .

When " Better than Today " became a single , reviews for the song itself were mixed . McAlpine of BBC said " the relentless swaggering momentum " of the track " gets a little wearing " . He continued , " At some point , something ELSE needs to happen , y 'see [sic] . No matter how many times Kylie 's voice swoops up high and skips back down again , no matter how firmly she pushes herself into those demanding choruses ; it begins like Tigger and ends like a route march around an aerobics class . " He gave the single three out of five stars . Popjustice , while stating the song is " rather enjoyable " , added that it is a " no @-@ harm @-@ intended album track " instead of " the big balls @-@ out I 'm @-@ bloody @-@ Kylie comeback single " . They remarked at a later date , saying that they were " slightly alarmed " when the song became a single . Nima Baniamer of Contact Music described the song as " a fun electro number " , but it " sadly doesn 't seem to pack a punch enough to stand firm as a lead @-@ out track " . Originally in an album review , Levine of Digital Spy called the tune " as uplifting a dance @-@ pop ditty as we 're likely to hear all year " . In a single review , Levine re @-@ evaluated the song , stating that it is not " the freshest confection you 'll sample this party season " but he continued , calling it " sweet , seductive and pretty much impossible not to succumb to over and over again " . He gave the single four out of five stars .

= = Chart performance = =

During the week of 20 November 2010 , " Better than Today " made its UK Singles Chart debut at number 67 . This was based purely on digital sales from the album as the single was not released until 3 December 2010 . The day before its release , it reached a new peak of number 40 , before dropping to number 63 , only to go on to peak at number 32 on 18 December 2010 . As a result , " Better than Today " is one of Minogue 's lowest charting singles in the United Kingdom . It proved to be her least successful UK charting since 2008 's " The One " which peaked at number 36 . The single had similar results in other European countries , peaking at number 27 in Scotland and number 63 in France .

In the United States , " Better than Today " debuted at number 44 on the Hot Dance Club Songs chart . It rose to number @-@ one on the issue date entitled 5 March 2011 , not only becoming Minogue 's sixth number @-@ one single on the chart , but also her third consecutive number @-@ one from the *Aphrodite* album on that chart . At the time , Minogue also held the third spot on the

chart with " Higher " , her collaboration with British recording artist Taio Cruz , becoming the first artist to claim two of the top three spots at the same time in the American dance chart 's history .

" Better than Today " was released digitally in Minogue 's native Australia on 28 February 2011 and physically on 18 March 2011 . It made its debut on the ARIA Singles Chart at number 55 . This proved to be her third single to miss the top @-@ fifty along with " Finer Feelings " (1992) , which peaked at number 60 , and " Get Outta My Way " (2010) , which peaked at number 69 .

In a March 2011 interview with Perth Now , Minogue expressed disappointment with the commercial performance of her singles from Aphrodite . Minogue said ,

" It 's confusing . I felt a little let down with my releases from Aphrodite , ... I was caught out like a lot of artists were , with record companies figuring out how to do single releases these days . I remember doing a promo for one of the last singles and it just felt really old @-@ fashioned . I 'm pretty computer @-@ savvy , something didn 't feel right , but no one said anything to me . "

Consequently , after acknowledging that both " Better than Today " and " Get Outta My Way " charted poorly across the world , she announced there would be no more singles released from the album . However , " Put Your Hands Up " was released in late May 2011 following a press release from Astralwerks , Minogue 's North American record label .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and synopsis = = =

Minogue premiered the video for " Better than Today " at her official website on 19 November 2010 . The video was directed by Minogue herself with help from her tour staff , including her long @-@ time stylist and friend William Baker . The video resembles performances of the song done during her 2009 For You , For Me Tour , featuring the same dances by choreographer Tony Testa .

The video begins with Minogue dancing on a stage surrounded by laser beams . As the first verse starts , she is surrounded by female dancers wearing pink wigs as shoulder pads and a band wearing Pac @-@ Man helmets . She is wearing a blue bodysuit with fringed material on top and silver , spiked Louboutin stilettos similar to the golden ones featured in the video for " Get Outta My Way " . Screens in the background show several colourful projections inspired by Space Invaders and other arcade games . When the chorus starts , Minogue sits on two Marshall amps while animated flowers , 3D bears and bold letters echoing lyrics move through the screens . During the bridge , Minogue is surrounded once again with laser beams , some projected from her microphone stand . The screens display colourful lips inspired by the musical The Rocky Horror Picture Show . After the final chorus cuts through all scenes the video ends with Minogue surrounded by the laser beams again , lowering her beamed microphone stand .

= = = Reception = = =

Feedback to the music video was mostly positive . Pink is the New Blog applauded the video , labelling it a " very colorful , 80 ? s video game inspired video " . Gary Pini of Paper described the set of the music video as being " designed by Murakami and Pac Man " with " a cool microphone stand the shoots out laser beams " . Bradley Stern of MuuMuse described it as a mixture of the music videos for " 2 Hearts " and " The One " . He continued , " ... the video for " Better Than Today " kicks Kylie 's X Factor performance up ten notches with laser lights , bright neon animations , extra furry pink shoulders ? and of course , killer spiked heels . " HardCandy was reminded of the music video for " Can 't Get You Out of My Head " . " I love that she 's brought back her ' Can 't Get You Out of My Head ' robots with an updated Tron feel to them . " They added that the video was " nothing special or ground breaking " .

= = Live performances = =

Minogue premiered " Better than Today " by adding it to the set list of her 2009 For You , For Me Tour . Prior to performing the song on the first tour date in Oakland , she said , " I know it 's taken me a little long to get [to the United States] , so I thought I 'd give you guys a first ... " Rolling Stone commented on Minogue 's background singers during the song , saying they had " the evening 's most striking fashion innovation " : neon pink wigs worn as shoulder pads . After the tour stop in Chicago , John Dugan of Time Out said that the performance was his " favorite song of the night " .

To promote the single , Minogue took on a number of television performances . Most of these performances resembled ones from the tour and the music video as well . On 7 November 2010 , she sung the song live on The X Factor 's results show . She wore a red , fringed cocktail dress with small cut @-@ outs in the waist and the silver heels featured in the music video . She received a standing ovation from all four judges ; Dannii Minogue , who is a judge on the show and Minogue 's sister , gave her praise . She called the performance a " ten out of ten " . Minogue reprised this performance for BBC One 's Children in Need 2010 television special on 19 November 2010 . She donned a bodysuit similar to the one featured in the video , but in white . Minogue opened Capital FM 's Jingle Bell Ball on 6 December 2010 , adding " Better than Today " to her set list . She wore a sheer , white floor @-@ length gown with the same silver heels . She then went on to perform the song at the annual Royal Variety Performance on 10 December 2010 . Minogue and Gary Barlow got the chance to greet Prince Charles and Camilla at the London Palladium , where the event was held . At the end of 2010 , she performed a big band version of the song at Jools Holland 's annual Hootenanny .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recorded and engineered at Electric Love Studios , London (England) in 2009 .

Additional production and mixing took place at Tracques , London (England) in 2009 .

Nerina Pallot ? producer , writer , background vocals , acoustic guitar , electric guitar , piano , keyboards , synthesizer , engineer

Andy Chatterley ? producer , writer , piano , keyboards , synthesizer , drum programming , engineer

Stuart Price ? producer (additional) , mixing

Ben Vella ? electric guitar

Kylie Minogue ? background vocals , lead vocals

Jason Tarver ? engineer (assistant)

Dave Emery ? mixing (assistant)

Source :

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart procession and succession = = =

= = Release history = =