

= Birthday (Katy Perry song) =

" Birthday " is a disco song recorded by American singer Katy Perry for her fourth studio album , Prism (2013) . It was written by Perry , Bonnie McKee and producers Dr. Luke , Max Martin , and Cirkut . Critics , as well as Perry herself , have compared the track to works by Prince and Mariah Carey . Through double entendres in the lyrics of " Birthday " , Perry makes sexual references while celebrating a partner 's birthday . The song was sent by Capitol to mainstream and rhythmic radio on April 21 , 2014 as the fourth single from Prism .

Following the release of Prism , " Birthday " entered the single charts of South Korea and France . After being released as an official single , it reached the top 30 in Australia , UK , and Netherlands , number 17 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 7 on the Canadian Hot 100 . A music video for the track was released on April 24 , 2014 . Primarily recorded with hidden cameras , it features Perry disguised as five different characters in birthday parties and other celebrations . The makeup effects disguises for Perry were designed and created by Tony Gardner .

Jess Glynne covered the song on BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge .

= = Production and release = =

" Birthday " was written by Perry , Bonnie McKee , Cirkut , Dr. Luke , and Max Martin . The latter three produced the song and contributed to the instrumentation and programmed their respective instruments . The drums were played by Steven Wolf , while the horns were played by the Saturday Night Live Band , arranged by Lenny Pickett and engineered by Dave O 'Donnell . Its audio engineering was done by Peter Carlsson , Clint Gibbs , Sam Holland , and Michael Illbert . The track was finally mixed by Serban Ghenea at the MixStar Studios in Virginia Beach , Virginia , accompanied by the mixing engineer , John Hanes . The song itself was recorded at various studios , including Luke 's in the Boo in Malibu , California , Conway Recording Studios in Hollywood , California , Playback Recording Studio in Santa Barbara , California , MXM Studios in Stockholm , Sweden and Secret Garden Studios in Montecito , California .

The song surfaced online on October 16 , 2013 ? two days prior to the official release of Prism . On April 3 , 2014 , the singer announced on her Twitter account that " Birthday " would be released as the album 's fourth single , posting its cover art as well . The art is based on a photograph , taken during a birthday party circa 1990 , in which a blonde Perry and her sister Angela Hudson smile toward the camera ; " puffy " letter balloons were " photoshopped " onto the cover to spell out Perry 's name . The song title appears in candles over a floral cake . To promote the single , a lyric video for " Birthday " was uploaded onto Perry 's Vevo account on April 10 , 2014 . It depicts a variety of cakes and sweets ? among other confections ? decorated with the song 's lyrics and concludes with Perry lighting the last candle of a cake .

= = Composition = =

At the length of three minutes and thirty @-@ five seconds (3 : 35) , " Birthday " is primarily styled in the genre of disco . " Birthday " is composed in the key of B major and follows a progression of Emaj9 ? C ? m7 ? Emaj9 ? C ? m7 ? B with a tempo of 126 beats per minute . Perry 's vocals range from B3 to F ? 5 . During a preview event for Prism , held in New York City , Perry described " Birthday " as her " attempt at writing " a song that American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey would have included in her eponymous debut album . Since its release , its musical composition has been strongly compared to that of other works of Prince and duo Wendy and Lisa .

" Birthday " contains elements of funk @-@ pop , synthpop , and disco house . The song is backed by a " busy but buoyant " instrumentation featuring a " deeply rhythmic impulse " . Randall Roberts of the Los Angeles Times felt " Birthday " was a musically updated version of disco , achieved by replacing " cheesy strings " with " jerky breaks and synth washes " . Its " joyful " lyrics present the commemoration of her partner 's birthday as a metaphor for sexual intercourse . The bridge section of " Birthday " , which sees Perry singing " Let me get you in your birthday suit / It 's time to bring out

the big balloons " , was found by Ben Rattliff to resemble French duo Daft Punk 's works .

= = Critical reception = =

AllMusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine and Kitty Empire from The Guardian called " Birthday " one of the best tracks from Prism : Erlewine described it as a " glorious retro @-@ disco explosion " and Empire found a " girly simpatico " in the song that sustains it . Marah Eakin from The A.V. Club felt the track was " pure fun " . Jason Lipshutz of Billboard called it a " stone @-@ cold stunner " , going on to say the song " serves as pop music 's (superior) answer to Swizz Beatz 's " Everyday Birthday " . He also felt it was the song with the " most smash potential " included in Prism . Chris Bosman of Consequence of Sound wrote that the song was a " irrepressible disco jam " and found it superior to Carly Rae Jepsen 's album Kiss (2012) .

Jon Dolan from Rolling Stone noted that the " sunny effervescence " from Teenage Dream was present on the song . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine said that the " sexy and playful " song was " offset by brackish fare " . Alexis Petridis from The Guardian considered that the song resembled a four to the floor remix of a Mariah Carey song , but complimented its melodies for being " significantly stronger " than those of Jessie J 's album , Alive (2013) . Rob Harvilla from Spin criticized the song 's " sensuality " , which he described as being of " an off @-@ kilter , grade @-@ school goofy , beanie @-@ propeller sort of sensuality " . Evan Sawdey of PopMatters deemed " Birthday " the " catchiest thing " on Prism , but he also thought it was a " rewrite " of Jessie J 's hit " Domino " and Perry 's former song " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " . Lewis Corner from Digital Spy classified it as a " flirty pop @-@ gem " , while HitFix 's Melinda Newman awarded it a B + grade , calling it a " delectable pop confection " . James Reed from The Boston Globe called the song 's double entendre lyrics " hilarious " .

= = Commercial performance = =

Upon the release of Prism , due to strong digital download sales , " Birthday " charted on the singles charts in France and South Korea . It debuted on the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique singles chart at number 160 where it stayed for one week . In South Korea , it peaked at number 51 on the Gaon International Chart with digital downloads of 3 @, @ 089 copies . Before being released as a single , the song debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 chart of April 16 , 2014 , at number 91 . One week later , the song jumped to number 83 . The following week , it went from 83 to 37 . It peaked at 17 on the Hot 100 , becoming Perry 's third single to miss the top ten after " Thinking of You " and " Unconditionally " . The song has peaked at the top of Hot Dance Club Songs chart extending her record for most consecutive dance club no.1 songs to 14 . In Germany , " Birthday " became the lowest charting single , peaking at number 69 .

= = Music video = =

= = Development and filming = =

The official music video for " Birthday " was directed by Marc Klasfeld and Danny Lockwood ; Dawn Rose served as a producer , while Nicole Acacio served as executive producer , Richard Alarcon served as the editor , Tony Gardner as the make @-@ up artist , and Joseph Robbins was the director of photography . For the video , which was filmed in April 2014 , Perry played the characters of five party entertainers , appearing in five parties . They consisted of a burlesque @-@ like elderly woman named Goldie , a Jewish master of ceremonies named Yosef Shulem , a clown named Kriss , an animal trainer named Ace , and a face @-@ painter named Princess Mande . In order to transform Perry physically to each character , she spent up to seven hours getting prosthetic makeup applied by Tony Gardner .

The parties that Perry attended were real , and its participants were unaware of Perry 's presence ;

the organizers believed they had signed up to star in a reality show called " Birthday Blowouts " . Similarly , the majority of events that took place during the visual were staged without the knowledge of the celebrations ' organizers and guests . For example , the car crash that occurs in the video left several children who observed it frightened and crying . Perry deemed the video " very intricate to make and shoot " and her " most insane " to date . A teaser for the video which introduced the characters was released on April 22 , 2014 whereas the complete video was revealed two days later .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The music video begins with short introductions to the characters Goldie , Yosef , Kriss , Ace , and Mande . Perry is then shown entering all of the parties as " five of the world ' s worst birthday entertainers " in disguise . At a man 's 90th birthday , Goldie emerges from a large birthday cake and begins to give the man a lap dance . At a child 's birthday party , Kriss the Clown attempts to create balloon animals , while Ace the Animal Trainer introduces a group of children to a box of mice before appearing to eat one , which makes a child cry . At another child 's party , Princess Mande paints a girl 's face incompetently ; Goldie begins to suffer from respiratory problems , and Yosef does the worm at a boy 's Bar Mitzvah . Goldie pulls a man 's prosthetic leg off and proceeds to play air guitar with it , and Kriss crashes into a table before drinking alcohol behind a tree .

At the elderly man 's party , Goldie collapses and a woman tries to use a defibrillator on her . While attempting to hit a piñata , Kriss walks onto the road to cause a car crash which shocks the party attendees . At the petting cage , Ace lets a goat run wild which defecates and urinates on the ground ; meanwhile Goldie drops a birthday cake on the 90 @-@ year @-@ old man , Yosef is then shown beatboxing at the Bar Mitzvah to the disapproval of the guests . Princess Mande takes off her hat , wig and mask and reveals herself to be Perry , to which the children scream in pleasure . Goldie eats cake with the elderly man , before straddling him on his wheelchair . At the end of the song , Princess Mande and the children say " happy birthday " to the camera . During the credits , the characters dance and lip sync to a remixed version of the song .

= = = Reception = = =

Christina Garibaldi of MTV News wrote that Perry " continues to top herself " with the video and billed the video 's " approach " as " creative , fun and pretty hysterical " . Salon 's Daniel D 'Addario was critical of character Yosef Shulem , denouncing it as a " Jewish stereotype " . He noted that Perry had already been the center of controversy due to being dressed as a geisha for a 2013 performance of " Unconditionally " , and questioned her decision to portray Yosef . Writing for Time , Nolan Feeman quipped , " Jewish people aren 't costumes " and found the video distracting from the song . Ariana Bacle from Entertainment Weekly dubbed the character " anti @-@ Semitic " and suggested that Perry should stop impersonating members of other cultures . For Consequence of Sound , Chris Coplan called the visual " incredible " and described it as a " less grating and tiresome " version of The Master of Disguise . Complex writer Zach Frydenlund positively remarked that the video " deliver [ed] " and regarded the Goldie character look as " quite nice " .

= = Live performance = =

At the 2014 Billboard Music Awards via a pre @-@ recorded performance , the single was promoted for the first time .

= = Track listings = =

Digital download (remix)

" Birthday " (Cash Cash Remix) ? 4 : 25

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = = Song = = =

Song credits adapted from the liner notes of Prism , Capitol Records .

= = = Music video = = =

Credits of the video production adapted from the visual .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =