

= Be Our Guest =

" Be Our Guest " is a song written by lyricist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken for Walt Disney Pictures ' 30th animated feature film Beauty and the Beast (1991) . Recorded by American actor Jerry Orbach and English actress Angela Lansbury as Lumiere and Mrs. Potts , respectively , " Be Our Guest " is a large @-@ scale Broadway @-@ inspired musical number that takes place during the first half of Beauty and the Beast , performed by the castle 's staff of enchanted objects in an elaborate attempt to welcome Belle . Menken initially intended for the melody of " Be Our Guest " to be temporary but was ultimately unable to compose a satisfying one with which to replace it . The song had originally been intended for Belle 's father Maurice . However , " Be Our Guest " had to be entirely re @-@ written as the story evolved in order to return its focus to Belle .

" Be Our Guest " has garnered universal acclaim from both film and music critics who , in addition to dubbing the song a show @-@ stopper , praised its catchiness and Orbach 's vocal performance while applauding the scene 's unprecedented use of computer @-@ generated imagery . " Be Our Guest " has since been extolled as one of Disney 's most celebrated and popular songs , establishing itself as one of the studio 's greatest and most iconic . " Be Our Guest " received nominations for both the Golden Globe and Academy Awards for Best Original Song , ultimately losing both to the film 's title song . " Be Our Guest " has been ranked highly on several " best Disney song " countdown lists , garnering recognition from IGN , M and the American Film Institute . In addition to appearing in the Broadway musical adaptation of Beauty and the Beast , " Be Our Guest " was performed by Orbach live at the 64th Academy Awards , has been parodied in an episode of The Simpsons and covered by Alvin and the Chipmunks and The Chipettes .

= = Background = =

Originally , Beauty and the Beast , under the direction of Richard Purdum , was not intended to be a musical . Then @-@ studio chief Jeffrey Katzenberg made the decision to turn the film into a Broadway @-@ style musical similar to The Little Mermaid (1989) , Disney 's previous animated film , after he , displeased with the film 's initial story reel , ordered the film scrapped and restarted from scratch . As a result , Purdum resigned , and first @-@ time feature film directors Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale replaced him .

Following the Academy Award @-@ winning success of The Little Mermaid , Katzenberg asked the The Little Mermaid songwriting duo of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken to write the songs for and score Beauty and the Beast . At first Ashman , who was at the time writing songs with Menken for a recently pitched idea for another Disney film called Aladdin (1992) , was reluctant to join the struggling film project , but eventually agreed .

Musically , " Be Our Guest " is based on a simple melody that was composed by Menken , who initially had little intention of using it as anything more than just a " dummy . " Upon singing the tune and presenting it to co @-@ writer Ashman , Menken discovered that he was unable to come up with a melody capable of surpassing " that dumb piece of music that I wrote initially because it was just right . " Subsequently , Ashman wrote the song 's lyrics .

Originally , the filmmakers had initially intended for " Be Our Guest " to be performed by Lumiere to Belle 's disoriented father Maurice when the character first discovers the Beast 's castle . According to co @-@ director Gary Trousdale , " The song had already been recorded and the sequence partially animated when we decided that it would be more meaningful if it was directed towards Belle " because " she is one of the two main characters and the story revolves around her coming to the castle . " Consequently , the song had to be re @-@ written and the entire scene re @-@ animated . Trousdale explained , " We had to bring Jerry Orbach and all the other vocal talents back into the studio to change all references to gender that appeared in the original recording . "

= = Context , scene and analysis = =

Beauty and the Beast 's fourth musical number , " Be Our Guest " is set within the first half of the

film , occurring shortly after Belle sacrifices her own freedom in return for her father 's , becoming the Beast 's prisoner . Confined to her bedroom when she , upset , stubbornly refuses to join the Beast for dinner , Belle eventually ventures into the kitchen after feeling hungry , where she is greeted by the castle 's staff of enchanted inanimate objects ? Mrs. Potts , Cogsworth and Lumiere . Upon insisting that they treat her more like a guest than a prisoner , Lumiere decides to go against the Beast 's orders and invites Belle to dinner . A " food chorus line , " " Be Our Guest " is " a rollicking invitation to Belle from the castle staff . " As one of the film 's most poignant , large @-@ scale , " all @-@ stops @-@ pulled production number [s] , " the scene features " dancing plates and other fanciful dinner guests " as they " perform for Belle , hoping to make her stay a little more comfortable . " As the film 's heroine , Belle is served a meal in the form of " a Broadway @-@ quality stage show . " Commonly regarded as the " show @-@ stopper " of Beauty and the Beast , the sequence both visually and musically " derive [s its] insatiable energy and excitement from the gradual accumulation of participation . " The Washington Post observed that " ' Be Our Guest ' " involves " the household gadgets enjoin [ing] Belle to live with them , " comparing it heavily to the song " Under the Sea " from Disney 's The Little Mermaid (1989) , which was also written by Menken and Ashman . Longing to be human , servant and maître d ' Lumiere is also of the impression that he is worth nothing unless he serves , singing , " Life is so unnerving / For a servant who 's not serving . "

Significantly , Beauty and the Beast was one of Disney 's earliest feature @-@ length animated films to fully employ computer @-@ generated imagery and technology , utilizing it to a significant extent , as depicted throughout its signature musical numbers " Be Our Guest " and " Beauty and the Beast . " Significantly , " Be Our Guest " " marks the debut of the [Pixar Image Computer] system that is featured in the ballroom dance sequence and ' Be Our Guest ' . " Due to its elaborateness , the sequence has been noted for " tak [ing] full advantage of the advantages of animation . " In terms of character development , " Be Our Guest introduces both Belle and audiences to Lumiere 's " musical expertise . " Additionally , the energetic and flamboyant way in which Lumiere , a suave , French @-@ accented candelabra , is personified and portrayed throughout " Be Our Guest " has often been likened to French entertainer Maurice Chevalier . The Washington Post commented , " The model for Lumiere seems to have been Maurice Chevalier , and the idea is so choice , and so deftly executed , that it places him immediately among the top rank of Disney characters . " American actor and singer Jerry Orbach , who provided the voice of Lumiere , himself admitted to People that the character was very much him doing a deliberate impersonation of Chevalier .

Described as both a " musical montage " and the " magical set piece " of Beauty and the Beast , " Be Our Guest " is " a big production number featuring dancing cutlery . " Analyzing the scene 's complex , elaborate choreography , film critics have observed the profound influence that American filmmaker and choreographer Busby Berkeley has had on " Be Our Guest " , deeming its lively " Busby Berkeley @-@ style choreography " both " joyous and charming " while commenting , " Without the confines of camera range , there are virtually no limits to how spectacular an animated Berkeley scene can be ... most notably ... ' Be Our Guest ' . " David Kronke of Amazon.com hailed the song itself as " an inspired Busby Berkeley homage . " Similarly , the Dance Films Association wrote , " the ' Be Our Guest ' number features practically all of the techniques employed by Berkeley in his musical comedies , " while The New York Times called " Be Our Guest " a " Busby Berkeley @-@ style number in which Belle is serenaded by furniture and dishes . " Film critic Roger Ebert joked that the " Be Our Guest " choreography resembles " Busby Berkeley running amok . " Additionally , Jerry Griswold , author of The Meanings of " Beauty and the Beast " : A Handbook , observed several similarities between " Be Our Guest " and a scene from Maurice Sendak and Carole King 's musical Really Rosie .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Written in the key of B ? major , " Be Our Guest " is , according to the song 's official sheet music which , published by Walt Disney Music Publishing , is available at Musicnotes.com , a Broadway

musical @-@ inspired song . An energetic , " turbo @-@ charged Broadway chorus number , " " Be Our Guest " was written in common time at a " free " tempo of 50 beats per minute , spanning a length of three minutes and forty @-@ four seconds . In " Be Our Guest , " Orbach 's " low " tenor or baritone vocal range spans roughly three octaves , from the low note of F3 to the high note of D ? 6 . Described as a " scintillating , " " jolly , " " lavish and bouncy " song , " Be Our Guest " is , according to TV Guide , a " boisterous " number , comparing it to songs from the Broadway musicals Hello , Dolly ! and Mame . With the film 's " roots in Broadway , " Beliefnet described " Be Our Guest " as a " rousing " and " tuneful ballad . " Musically , the song , according to Film.com , has a total of four key changes and modulations , beginning slowly and " gradually build [ing] ... to a thunderous , bring @-@ the @-@ house @-@ down climax . "

Additionally described as " a spark of Gallic vaudeville that lights a flame to both [entertainers] Maurice Chevalier and Yves Montand , " " Be Our Guest " depicts both " fun " and " humour . " Extending a warm , energetic invitation towards Belle , the first verse of the song is preceded by a spoken introduction . It reads , at first in French , " Ma chere Mademoiselle , it is with deepest pride and greatest pleasure that we welcome you tonight . And now we invite you to relax , let us pull up a chair as the dining room proudly presents : your dinner , " immediately succeeded by the sung lyrics " Be our guest , be our guest , put our service to the test , " continuing with " Go on , unfold your menu / take a glance and then you 'll / be our guest / oui , our guest / be our guest . " A nostalgic Lumiere muses about being human , pining for the " good old days when we were useful . " Furthermore , Lumiere voices his need to serve , singing , " Life is so unnerving / For a servant who 's not serving . "

= = Reception = =

= = Critical response = =

" Be Our Guest " has been universally lauded , receiving widespread critical acclaim and garnering nearly unanimously positive reviews from both film and music critics . Hailing it as a " crowd @-@ pleasing production number , " TV Guide drew similarities between " Be Our Guest " and songs from the Broadway musicals Hello , Dolly ! and Mame . The Globe and Mail 's Jennie Punter called the song " show @-@ stopping . " Similarly , Drew Taylor of Indiewire echoed Punter 's statement , writing , " when the enchanted wait staff dazzle the captive Belle , assuring her that she 's not a prisoner she 's a guest of the castle , " the result is ultimately " show @-@ stopping . " Writing for the Austin Chronicle , Kathleen Maher , who generally panned the film 's songs and musical numbers , liked " Be Our Guest " , describing it as Beauty and the Beast 's " only ... magical set piece . " Ranking Beauty and the Beast : Original Motion Picture Soundtrack as Disney 's greatest soundtrack , Moviefone 's Sandie Angulo Chen highlighted " Be Our Guest " , noting its " infectious quality " while hailing it as an " amazing food chorus line . " JoBlo.com wrote that " Be Our Guest " is both " eye @-@ popping " and " impossibly catchy . " Orbach 's performance as Lumiere has also garnered significant praise . Filmtracks.com commented , " the ever popular ' Be Our Guest ' ... flourish [es] due to a spirited lead performance by Jerry Orbach . " Similarly , Hollywood.com cited in the website 's biography of the actor , " Among the highlights of [Beauty and the Beast] was Orbach 's delivery of the showstopping number ' Be Our Guest ' . "

Several critics have awarded specific praise to " Be Our Guest " ' s choreography , comparing it extensively to the work of director and choreographer Busby Berkeley . In addition to hailing " Be Our Guest " as " delightful , " Candice Russel of the Sun @-@ Sentinel wrote , " In setting the table for Belle , Lumiere and friends concoct a Busby Berkeley song @-@ and @-@ dance extravaganza . " The Deseret News ' Chris Hicks described " the Busby Berkeley @-@ style ' Be Our Guest ' " as " first @-@ rate . " Lisa Schwarzbaum of Entertainment Weekly highlighted the scene , writing , " The set pieces are narcotically pleasing , especially the Busby Berkeley @-@ style dancing @-@ kitchenware spectacular , ' Be Our Guest ' . " James Berardinelli of ReelViews coined " ' Be Our Guest ' ... the animated equivalent of Broadway show @-@ stoppers , with all the energy and

audacity of something choreographed by Busby Berkeley . " Calling it a " wonderful musical number , " Roger Ebert enthused , " ' Be Our Guest ' is a rollicking invitation to Belle from the castle staff , choreographed like Busby Berkeley running amok . " In review of the 2011 3D re @-@ release of Beauty and the Beast , Stephen Whitty of The Star @-@ Ledger commented , " The illusion of depth does add more life to the enchanted housewares ? particularly the ' Be Our Guest ' number , with its Busby Berkeley geometrics . "

While Beauty and the Beast 's several theatrical re @-@ releases and reissues have been met with generally mixed reviews , critical response towards the " Be Our Guest " musical sequence has remained predominantly positive . Reviewing the 2001 IMAX re @-@ release of the film , the Los Angeles Times ' Charles Solomon felt that the inclusion of the deleted song " Human Again " was unnecessary , preferring " Be Our Guest " and writing , " a second major production number simply isn 't needed ; ' Be Our Guest ' is sufficient . " Similarly , the Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer 's William Arnold wrote , " On the other hand , it 's understandable why [" Human Again "] was cut from the original . It 's almost too similar to the film 's show @-@ stopper , ' Be Our Guest ' . " Reviewing the film 's 2012 3D conversion , Todd Gilchrist of Boxoffice wrote that " Be Our Guest " is " effective , immersive and maybe even memorable . " Meanwhile , Annlee Ellingson of Paste wrote , " It 's thrilling to experience this film 's major set pieces on the big screen again , especially the Broadway @-@ infused ' Be Our Guest ' number . " The Times @-@ Picayune 's Mike Scott wrote , " But then the 3 @-@ D all but disappears until the ' Be Our Guest ' number -- with its artfully surreal dance of the dishes . " Andrew Pulver of The Guardian , who otherwise criticized the film 's songs , praised " Be Our Guest " , writing , " Apart from the spectacular Busby Berkeleysque ['] Be Our Guest ['] , the film pretty much grinds to a halt whenever one of the songs ... starts up . " Likewise , Neil Smith of Total Film concluded that " only ? Be Our Guest ? and the ballroom swoop really benefit from a stereoscopic make @-@ over that doesn 't do the hand @-@ drawn remainder many favours . "

Although vastly critically acclaimed , the song was not entirely void of some minor criticism . Lukewarmly , Irving Tan of Sputnikmusic commented , " numbers like ' Be Our Guest ' provides evidence that Lumiere and co. are infinitely preferable as entertaining flatware . " On Lansbury 's performance , Tan joked , " The singer 's delightfully personable contribution is almost reason enough to forgive Disney for thinking her English accent ... would not look out of place in a film set in 18th century France . " A more negative review was written by Pete Vonder Haar of The Houston Press . Observing that Beauty and the Beast " was Disney 's first stab at incorporating computer animation , " he felt that " the results are , now , pretty primitive , " concluding , " I recall thinking the dancing forks during ' Be Our Guest ' ... looked pretty bad and time has not been kind . " The song has also been compared to " Under the Sea " from The Little Mermaid , most of which have been mixed . Jay Boyar the Orlando Sentinel opined , " ' Be Our Guest ' ... is the closest thing in Beauty and the Beast to the bubbly ' Under the Sea ' extravaganza in The Little Mermaid , " while Entertainment Weekly 's Owen Gleiberman 's review was much more negative , describing the song as " merely serviceable " and concluding , ' Be Our Guest , ' ... sorry to say , is no ' Under the Sea ' . " Likewise , Desson Howe of The Washington Post panned both the song and Lumiere , writing , " the Candelabrum 's Maurice Chevalier accent is clearly intended to substitute for the Caribbean @-@ lilted lobster in Mermaid . And the ensemble song , ' Be Our Guest , ' in which the household gadgets enjoin Belle to live with them , is an obvious attempt to reprise a similar Mermaid number , ' Under the Sea . ' But it 's just under par . "

= = = Awards , accolades and legacy = = =

Alongside the songs " Beauty and the Beast " and " Belle , " " Be Our Guest " was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song at the 64th Academy Awards in 1992 . Having garnered three separate Academy Award nominations for Best Original Song , Beauty and the Beast became the first film in the history of the Academy Awards to achieve this rare feat ; this would not be repeated until Dreamgirls was nominated for the award in 2007 . Ultimately , " Be Our Guest " lost to the film 's title song . In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Beauty and the Beast producer

Don Hahn revealed that Disney feared that having three songs nominated for Best Original Song would result in a draw or three @-@ way tie . Therefore , while " Beauty and the Beast " received heavy promotion from the studio , significantly less was given to " Be Our Guest " and " Belle . " " Be Our Guest " was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song at the 49th Golden Globe Awards in 1992 , losing again to " Beauty and the Beast . " In 2004 , the American Film Institute nominated " Be Our Guest " for its " 100 Years ? 100 Songs " ranking .

Allwomenstalk believes that " Be Our Guest " represents " what Disney is all about . " Dubbed one of the most memorable songs from Beauty and the Beast , while lauded as a " favorite , " a " classic " and " one of the greatest showstoppers " in film history , " Be Our Guest " is commonly cited as one of Disney 's greatest songs . As Beauty and the Beast 's " most frequently heard song , " BuzzFeed ranked " Be Our Guest " third on the website 's list of the " 25 Disney Songs We Will Never Stop Singing " . Calling the song a " gem , " author Maggie Pehanick wrote that " Be Our Guest " was " one of the first [Disney] songs to get permanently lodged in your brain . " Oh No They Didn 't ranked " Be Our Guest " eighth on its list of " The Top 25 Disney Songs of All Time " , while IGN ranked the song third , with author Lucy O 'Brien writing , " Of all the brilliant numbers peppered throughout Beauty and the Beast , it 's the turbo @-@ charged Broadway chorus number ['] Be Our Guest ['] that 's the stand @-@ out , " describing it as " one of the best songs ever devised by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman . " " Be Our Guest " was ranked seventh on M 's " Top 20 Disney Songs of All Time " list , with author Stephanie Osmanski citing " Be our guest , be our guest , put our service to the test " as her favorite lyrics . Meanwhile , HitFix ranked " Be Our Guest " sixth on their own list o " The 20 Best Disney Songs of All Time . " Additionally , while ranking Lumiere the thirty @-@ ninth " Best Animated Movie Character " of all @-@ time , Empire hailed " Be Our Guest " as the character 's best moment and " Stroke of genius , " writing , " The song ... sees Lumiere introduce perhaps the greatest dining experience in animation history . " While ranking the " 50 Greatest Fairy Tale Movies , " on which Beauty and the Beast ranked second , Total Film highlighted " Be Our Guest " as the film 's " Most Magical Moment . " Film.com ranked " Be Our Guest " the thirteenth " Greatest Musical Number ... in Movie History , " describing the song as " a masterpiece of showtune construction " while lauding its Busby Berkeley @-@ inspired choreography . " Be Our Guest " was the only animated musical number included on the website 's list of 50 .

= = Live performances = =

In 1992 , Jerry Orbach performed " Be Our Guest " at the 64th Academy Awards .

= = Cultural impact = =

= = = Covers and parodies = = =

In 1995 , Alvin and the Chipmunks and The Chipettes recorded a cover of " Be Our Guest " for their Disney @-@ themed concept album When You Wish Upon a Chipmunk .

In the Animaniacs parody episode " Cutie and the Beast " , Yakko and Wakko Warner sing a version entitled " She 's a Pest . "

In The Simpsons sixth season episode " Two Dozen and One Greyhounds " (1995) , " Be Our Guest " is parodied by the character Mr. Burns when he performs the song " See My Vest " . New York magazine @-@ run website Vulture.com ranked the song eighth on its list of " The Ten Best Simpsons Songs " .

In South Park : Bigger , Longer and Uncut , the song is parodied by Big Gay Al when he performs the song " I 'm Super " .

An Oscar @-@ themed rendition of the song was performed by Seth MacFarlane at the 85th Academy Awards .

In 2013 , English television personalities Ant & Dec appeared in a Christmas television

advertisement for the supermarket Morrisons . In the minute @-@ long commercial , a computer @-@ animated gingerbread man named Ginger serenades Ant & Dec to the tune of " Be Our Guest " , " inviting them to enjoy the store 's products .

In the Disney Channel Original Movie Descendants , Prince Ben (the son of Belle and the Beast) and the Auradon Prep Glee Club perform an a cappella hip @-@ hop version of the song before Ben 's coronation .

= = = Broadway musical = = =

" Be Our Guest " was also featured as an elaborate production number in the Broadway musical adaptation of Beauty and the Beast , which ran from 1994 to 2007 . Originally performed by American actors Gary Beach and Beth Fowler , who originated the roles of Lumiere and Mrs. Potts , respectively , " Be Our Guest " was " a spectacular dance of illuminated saucers , showgirls bedecked with spinning plates , and giant @-@ size bottles spewing streams of brilliant sparkles . " In addition to " performance [s] by eye @-@ catching cutlery , plates , a tablecloth and napkins , " the musical number featured " a show @-@ stopping routine [from] a dancing doormat . "

Reception towards the Broadway treatment of " Be Our Guest " has been generally mixed . While some theatre critics , such as Alex Bentley of CultureMap , felt that " Be Our Guest " " remain [s] as timeless as ever , " The Christian Science Monitor 's Karen Campbell criticized the number 's lavishness , feeling that it compromised the story Campbell wrote , " Only in the fantastical ' Be Our Guest ' number ... does the show 's extraordinary technological magic threaten to derail the story line . " However , some critics did positively comment on the fact that the Broadway adaptation of " Be Our Guest " was more than simply a " cookie @-@ cutter " carbon copy rendition of the original version featured in the animated film .