

= In the Middle ( Sugababes song ) =

" In the Middle " is a song by English girl group Sugababes , released on 22 March 2004 as the third single from their third studio album , Three ( 2003 ) . The Sugababes were inspired to compose the song based upon the different situations experienced on a night out ; they wrote it in collaboration with Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Niara Scarlett , Shawn Lee , Lisa Cowling , Andre Tegler , Phil Fuldner and Michael Bellina . Higgins , Xenomania and Jeremy Wheatley produced the song . " In the Middle " is a dance @-@ pop , R & B and funk @-@ influenced record that contains a sample of German DJ Moguai 's song " U Know Y " .

The song received rave reviews from critics , who commended its production and appeal , and was nominated for Best British Single at the 2005 BRIT Awards . The single reached the top ten on the charts in Hungary , Netherlands and the United Kingdom . It also peaked within the top forty on the charts in Australia , Austria , Germany , Ireland and Switzerland . Matthew Rolston directed the song 's music video , which was filmed at Pinewood Studios , London . It features the green screen effect and magical settings for the video 's environments . The Sugababes performed the song on their tours in support of Three , Overloaded : The Singles Collection ( 2006 ) and Change ( 2007 ) .

= = Development and release = =

The Sugababes wrote " In the Middle " in collaboration with Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Niara Scarlett , Shawn Lee , Lisa Cowling , Andre Tegler , Phil Fuldner and Michael Bellina , for their third studio album , Three ( 2003 ) . Group member Heidi Range revealed that the band wanted to write a song with which they could have fun ; it was inspired by different situations experienced during a night out . Keisha Buchanan , another member of the Sugababes , told Digital Spy that she wrote 90 % of the song but could not comprehend the meaning of the lyrics : " I think it 's because as I 've got older I don 't really relate to the lyrics . It was more of a fun song but I just don 't really feel that attached to it any more . " Higgins , Xenomania and Jeremy Wheatley produced the song ; the latter mixed it at the Town House Studios , London . " In the Middle " was programmed by Matt Duguid , Nick Coler , Tim Powell and Tim Larcombe .

The Sugababes confirmed through their official website in February 2004 that " In the Middle " would be the released as the album 's third single . Island Records released it on 22 March 2004 as a CD single and digital download . The song 's release coincided with the commencement of the group 's UK tour in March 2004 . The CD single and digital download releases contain a B @-@ side titled " Disturbed " . A maxi single was released ; it includes the B @-@ side " Colder in the Rain " , and two remixes of the track , including one by DJ Hyper , which appears on his remix album , Wired ( 2004 ) . " In the Middle " is featured on the Sugababes ' greatest hits album Overloaded : The Singles Collection .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" In the Middle " is a dance @-@ pop song with elements of R & B and funk . The Jerusalem Post 's Harry Rubenstein described it as a " club @-@ style experimental " . According to the digital sheet music published by Hal Leonard Publishing , " In the Middle " was composed in the key of B minor using common time , with a tempo of 128 beats per minute . It is reminiscent of the group 's singles " Round Round " and " Hole in the Head " , both of which were also produced by Xenomania . " In the Middle " contains a sample of " U Know Y " by German DJ Moguai , and features guitar and keyboard instrumentation . The song contains a low bassline that derives from a synthesised trombone . The lyrical content of " In the Middle " is about finding a man after a night out , in which the chorus is opened with the lines , " I 'm caught up in the middle , jumping through the riddle , I 'm falling just a little tonight " .

= = Reception = =

== Critical response ==

" In the Middle " received rave reviews from critics . Natasha Perry of Contactmusic.com named the song one of Three 's " instant winners " ; Harry Rubenstein from the Jerusalem Post similarly considered it one of the album 's best tracks . The Guardian writer Andrew Mueller regarded " In the Middle " as " vastly superior " , while Alan Braidwood of BBC described it as quality pop . Ben Hogwood of musicOMH questioned the number of songwriters it took to write the track , although cited this as reasons for the " polished production and slicker than slick chorus " . Writing for the Daily Mirror , Gavin Martin commended the Sugababes ' attitude in the song , which he described as " colourful and explosive " . Dan Gennoe of Yahoo ! Music characterised " In the Middle " as a " retro hip @-@ shake " . A critic from the Daily Record regarded the song as " addictive and dancey " and wrote that it highlights the group 's " considerable charms " . The writer noted that it echoes the appeal of their number @-@ one singles , " Freak Like Me " and " Round Round " . Daily Mail writer Adrian Thrills commented that the song replicates " the swaggering grandeur " of the group 's older material .

James Mortlock of the Eastern Daily Press described " In the Middle " as a pop classic from the Sugababes , while Hot Press magazine 's Phil Udell considered it one of the finest pop songs of the 2000s . " In the Middle " earned the Sugababes a 2005 BRIT Award nomination for Best British Single . However , the song was added to the category after the BRIT Awards organisers had made an error with the original list , as it was drawn up with the incorrect timescale .

== Chart performance ==

" In the Middle " made its first chart appearance on the Irish Singles Chart on 25 March 2004 in which it peaked at number thirteen . It spent seven weeks on the chart , and was their second consecutive single to peak at this position . The song debuted and peaked at number eight on the UK Singles Chart for the issue dated 3 April 2004 and became the group 's third consecutive top @-@ ten hit in the UK . It spent eight weeks on the chart . The single 's highest chart peak was on the Netherlands ' Dutch Top 40 chart , where it debuted at number thirty @-@ one and reached number seven three weeks later . It became the chart 's 70th best @-@ performing single of 2004 . " In the Middle " peaked at number twenty @-@ three on the Swiss Singles Chart , number twenty @-@ nine on the German Singles Chart , number thirty @-@ three on the Austrian Singles Chart , and number forty on the Belgian ( Flanders ) Ultratop chart . The single reached number nine on the Hungarian Dance Chart and number thirty @-@ three on the Hungarian Radio Chart . " In the Middle " charted at number thirty @-@ three on Australian Singles Chart , becoming the Sugababes ' third consecutive top @-@ forty hit in Australia .

== Promotion ==

== Music video ==

The music video for " In the Middle " was directed by Matthew Rolston , who directed the video for the group 's previous single " Hole in the Head " . It was filmed at Pinewood Studios , London in February 2004 . The photography was completed by Martin Ahlgren . Buchanan refrained from revealing details about the video before its release , saying : " The shoot went very well but what actually happens in the video is being kept a secret until it 's shown . We ? re all really excited and can 't wait to hear what our fans think about it ! " It aired on the Sugababes ' official website , and on television , on 20 February 2004 and was included on the single 's CD release .

Rolston used the green screen effect to produce the video , while the designs and effects for its environments were created by Jerry Steele . Rolston conceptualised a " prism @-@ like " glass room with six sides and large glass walls , in which Steele was inspired to enhance it with effects

including reflections and lights . The video was developed in magical settings , as STEELE VFX created " glamorous virtual environments " such as a sparkling glass room . Buchanan wore a bikini , covered in chains and spikes , for the video . She is featured in a blue room and has rainbow @-@ coloured sparkles on her face . Buena , who is seen pole dancing in a green @-@ coloured room , is shown controlling " smoke elements " with her hands . Range is shown in a pink room , and dances around a chair and against a wall . Throughout the video , each group members ' name appears on screen , Mutya 's formed by smoke , Keisha 's formed by diamonds and Heidi 's formed by metallic cubes .

= = = Live performances = = =

The Sugababes performed an extended version of " In the Middle " during their UK tour in March and April 2004 to promote Three , in which they were supported by a four @-@ piece band . The group performed the single , along with " Hole in the Head " and " Too Lost in You " , at Birmingham 's Party in the Park festival on 10 July 2004 . " In the Middle " was included in the set list for the band 's 2007 tour in support of Overloaded : The Singles Collection . In addition , it was performed as part of the group 's 2008 Change Tour , in which the performances featured the group in large , mirrored skirts , while rays of light were reflecting around the venue . Kat Keogh of The Journal praised their performance at the Newcastle City Hall as one of the show 's highlights , while a critic from The Scotsman described their performance at the Edinburgh Playhouse as " ridiculously camp " , although admitted that the light effect was " simple yet fantastically effective " . The Sugababes performed " In the Middle " on 10 July 2009 at the Riverside Ground in County Durham , England , as part of a set list .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting ? Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Niara Scarlett , Shawn Lee , Lisa Cowling , Keisha Buchanan , Mutya Buena , Heidi Range , Andre Tegler , Phil Fuldner , Michael Bellina

Production ? Brian Higgins , Xenomania , Jeremy Wheatley

Additional production ? MOGUAI , Phil Fuldner , Michael Bellina

Mixed by Jeremy Wheatley at the Townhouse Studios , London

Programming ? Matt Duguid , Nick Coler , Tim Powell , Tim Larcombe

Keyboards ? Brian Higgins , Tim Powell , Tim Larcombe

Guitar ? Nick Coler , Shawn Lee

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Overloaded : The Singles Collection .

= = Charts = =