

= Spotlight (Madonna song) =

" Spotlight " is a song by American singer Madonna from her first remix album You Can Dance (1987) . It was released as a single in Japan on April 25 , 1988 by Sire Records and Warner @-@ Pioneer Japan . Initially rejected during her True Blue album recording sessions , it was written by Madonna , Stephen Bray and Curtis Hudson . It was inspired by the song " Everybody Is a Star " (1970) , by American rock band Sly and the Family Stone . The song was remixed by Shep Pettibone , with additional mixing done by John " Jellybean " Benitez .

" Spotlight " features instrumentation from drums , bass synths and handclaps , accompanied by vocal echos , a piano segment and violin phrases in the musical interlude . The lyrics talk about how one can be famous if one sings about it . The song received mixed reviews from critics . After its release , it reached number 68 on the Japanese Oricon weekly singles chart , as well as number three on its international singles chart . Although not released in the United States , the song managed to chart on Billboard 's Airplay chart in early 1988 . The song was used in a Mitsubishi VCR commercial , in which she appeared .

= = Background = =

By the mid @-@ eighties , post @-@ disco dance music was extremely popular and the concept of remix was widely regarded as a new direction of music . Several artists were remixing their tracks and compiling them to create new albums . Hence Madonna , who was the most popular dance artist of that era , decided to create a similar remix compilation album , later titled You Can Dance , which included seven of her up @-@ tempo songs . Along with the pre @-@ released tracks in remixed form , " Spotlight " was included as an added bonus . Madonna said that she was inspired by the song " Everybody Is a Star " (1970) , by American rock band Sly and the Family Stone .

In 1983 , Curtis Hudson and Lisa Stevens of the group Pure Energy had written the song " Holiday " , which Madonna recorded and released as the third single from her self @-@ titled debut album . After the single 's commercial success , Hudson wrote a song sounding like " Holiday " , in case Warner , Madonna 's record company , wanted to release a similar song to it . He named it " Spotlight " and offered it to Madonna , who recorded the song for her 1986 album True Blue . However , Madonna didn 't include it in the album because she felt that it was similar in composition and structure to " Holiday " .

= = Composition = =

When Madonna decided to create You Can Dance , she and Stephen Bray reworked the demo composed by Hudson and Madonna asked Shep Pettibone , who had remixed her songs from True Blue , to remix " Spotlight " and included it on the album . John " Jellybean " Benitez , who had recorded the original demo during the True Blue sessions , assisted Pettibone in remixing the song .

" Spotlight " begins with the sound of drums , bass synths and handclaps , followed by Madonna uttering the words " Spotlight , shine bright " . After the first verse , the sound of keyboard is heard during the effect . It continues like this through the second verse , which is followed by an interlude featuring vocal echos , a piano segment and violin phrases . Madonna follows the music played by the piano and utters the words " Pa @-@ da @-@ pa @-@ da @-@ pappa pappa pa pa " in the same melody . The lyrics deal with Madonna making the listener remember that " Everybody is a Star " and that if one wants to be famous and be under the " Spotlight " , the person should sing about it and reality may catch up with him or her .

= = Reception = =

Mark Bego , author of Madonna : Blonde Ambition wrote that " Spotlight " was a " typical Madonna ' look @-@ at @-@ me ' dance routine , that sounds flat besides the heavy remixes in You Can

Dance . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic said that the song " sounds dated ? this is quite clearly extended mixes from the mid 80 's ? but that 's part of the charm . " Dave Barry from The Miami Herald commented that although You Can Dance sounds like " old Madonna " , " Spotlight " sounds surprisingly fresh to his ears . Joe Brown from The Washington Post commented that the song should have been a " flat reject " . Don McLeese from Chicago Sun @-@ Times called the song " exuberant " . Dennis Hunt from Los Angeles Times commented that " [You Can Dance] is an attractive package for dance fans ? particularly with the inclusion of a new cut , ' Spotlight ' " . He went on to add that the " lyrics of ' Spotlight ' aren 't great , but they 're still more interesting than the others . Still , the words , like those of most dance songs , are just window dressing that 's secondary to the beat . The big attraction of ' Spotlight ' is a long , hard @-@ driving , closing passage that 's guaranteed to turn dancers on . " Jan DeKnock , while writing for Orlando Sentinel , noted that the song was already receiving airplay from radio stations .

" Spotlight " was not officially released as a single in the United States ; therefore it was not eligible at the time to appear on Billboard 's Hot 100 . Even so , it managed to garner enough airplay to appear on the publication 's Hot 100 Airplay survey in early 1988 . It debuted on the Airplay chart at 37 on the issue dated January 16 , 1988 . After three weeks , " Spotlight " reached a peak of 32 , but fell to 40 the next week before exiting the chart . It had also reached the Hot Crossover 30 chart beginning on the issue dated December 12 , 1987 , peaking at 15 for two consecutive weeks beginning January 9 , 1988 and spending eight total weeks on the chart . The song was released commercially in Japan on April 25 , 1988 . " Spotlight " peaked at number 68 on the Oricon weekly singles chart , remaining on the chart for five weeks . It also charted on the Oricon international singles chart , reaching a peak of three on May 19 , 1988 , staying on the chart for ten weeks .

= = Media appearance = =

" Spotlight " was featured in the last of a series of Japanese TV commercials Madonna filmed for electronics company Mitsubishi . The commercial promoted their VCR model F @-@ 5 @. @ 3 . In the commercial , Madonna was featured as coming out of a car and sitting down on a sofa , while watching a film on the VCR , as " Spotlight " is played in the background . The song was also used as cross @-@ promotion for the Japanese leg of her 1987 Who 's That Girl World Tour under the campaign name of " Dreams Come True " .

= = Track listings and formats = =

Japanese 7 " single , 3 " Mini CD single
" Spotlight " (Single Edit) ? 4 : 32
" Where 's The Party " (Remix Single Edit) ? 4 : 13
US 12 " Vinyl Promo
" Where 's The Party " (Extended Remix) ? 7 : 11
" Where 's The Party " (Dub) ? 6 : 22
" Spotlight " (Extended Remix) ? 6 : 34
" Spotlight " (Dub) ? 4 : 49

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? vocals , writer
Stephen Bray ? producer , writer
Curtis Hudson ? writer
Shep Pettibone ? remixing
John " Jellybean " Benitez ? additional mixing
Source :

= = Charts = =

