

= Dirty Diana =

" Dirty Diana " is a song by American singer Michael Jackson . It is the ninth track on Jackson 's seventh studio album , Bad . The song was released by Epic Records on April 18 , 1988 as the fifth single from the album . It presents a harder rock sound similar to " Beat It " from Thriller and a solo guitar played by Steve Stevens . " Dirty Diana " was written and co @-@ produced by Jackson , and produced by Quincy Jones . The songs lyrics pertain to groupies . " Dirty Diana " has a moderate tempo and is played in the key of Bb major .

" Dirty Diana " received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics , with some criticizing the lyrics , while others found the song better than " Thriller 's forgettables . " The song was a commercial success worldwide in 1988 , charting at number one on the United States Billboard Hot 100 . The song also charted within the top ten in multiple countries , including the United Kingdom , France , Italy , and New Zealand . " Dirty Diana " was the fifth and final Hot 100 number one single from Bad . In 2009 , after Jackson 's death in June , the song re @-@ entered charts , mainly due to digital download sales . A music video for " Dirty Diana " was filmed in front of a live audience and released in 1988 .

= = Background = =

" Dirty Diana " was written by Michael Jackson . It was produced by Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson . It appeared on Jackson 's seventh studio album , Bad . The song was released by Epic Records on April 18 , 1988 as the fifth single from Bad . After " Beat It " , " Dirty Diana " was the second hard rock song of his solo career , with lyrics about a persistent groupie . Jackson hired Billy Idol 's guitarist Steve Stevens to back him on the track . Initial reports at the time suggested the song was a poke at his close friend Diana Ross , however it was later denied . In fact , Ross started using the song as an overture at her concerts shortly before appearing on stage . In an interview from the special edition of Bad , Jones later confirmed that the song 's lyrics were about groupies . Jackson also confirmed same during an interview with Barbara Walters , adding that it was not about Diana , Princess of Wales , though he was told personally by the Princess that it was her favorite among his songs .

= = Composition = =

Musically , " Dirty Diana " is a pop rock , hard rock and heavy metal song similar to " Beat It " . TriniTrent of The Lava Lizard , when talking about Michael and Janet Jackson 's " Scream " , evokes " Dirty Diana " along with Jackson 's " pop / rock musical direction " he has previously experimented with . John Tatlock of The Quietus regards the song as an attempt to recreate " the pop @-@ rock alchemy of ' Beat It ' " In his Bad review , Los Angeles Times ' Richard Cromelin describes " Dirty Diana " as a hard rock song , writing , " ' Dirty Diana ' is trying to be this year 's ' Beat It ' ? a hard @-@ rock song about a tenacious groupie that 's sent into orbit by a Steve Stevens guitar solo . " AllMusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine also considers " Dirty Diana " a hard rock song , observing on the album that it " meant that he moved deeper into hard rock , deeper into schmaltzy adult contemporary , deeper into hard dance ? essentially taking each portion of Thriller to an extreme " and qualifying the track as the " misogynistic ' Dirty Diana ' . "

Jon Pareles , a writer for The New York Times , viewed " Dirty Diana " as a song about a " groupie who latches onto the narrator , mixes the sexual fears of ' Billie Jean ' with the hard @-@ rock lead guitar of ' Beat It ' . " In his Bad review , Thom Duffy , music critic for the Orlando Sentinel , describes " Dirty Diana " as a heavy metal ballad , saying that " Dirty Diana , a tale of a maliciously seductive fan , finds Jackson doing credible heavy @-@ metal rock wailing , " which , the critic said , was " accompanied by a solo from Steve Stevens , the guitarist from Billy Idol 's band . " The Philadelphia Inquirer also described " Dirty Diana " as a heavy metal ballad . The newspaper said , " Plus , to tap the rock crowd ( in the style of the ' Thriller ' crossover smash ' Beat It ' with Eddie Van Halen ) , Michael cut a heavy metal @-@ tinged ' Dirty Diana ' featuring Billy Idol 's guitar sizzler

Stevie Stevens . " " Dirty Diana " is written in common time and moves at a moderate tempo of 104 beats per minute . Jackson 's vocals are sung on a range of Bb3 to G5 . The instrumentation consists of guitar and piano and is played in the key of Bb major .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Dirty Diana " received mixed reviews by contemporary music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine felt that " Dirty Diana " and " Man in the Mirror " were " showcasing Jackson at his worst " on Bad . Music critic Robert Christgau viewed " Dirty Diana " as " misogynistic as any piece of metal suck @-@ my @-@ cock . " Jon Pareles described " Dirty Diana " as ' reducing ' Jackson to a " terrified whimper " while John Tatlock considered " Dirty Diana " as a " confused lumbering slog of a song , " thinking that " Jackson was never convincing in this kind of role , a boy @-@ child trying to write a song about the kind of woman he never meets in the kind of places he 's certainly never been to . " Davitt Sigerson of Rolling Stone gave the song a more positive review , though calling it a " filler , " she still commented that the song , along with " Speed Demon " is what makes Bad " richer , sexier , better than Thriller 's forgettables . " Sigerson noted that " Dirty Diana " was a " substantial recording " because of its " insubstantial melody . " Jennifer Clay of Yahoo ! Music commented that while Jackson 's edgier image was a " little hard to swallow , " the image , musically , worked on the songs " Bad " , " Man in the Mirror " , and " Dirty Diana " , but was not " to the degree of Thriller . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Dirty Diana " , similar to Bad 's previous singles , charted within the top twenty and top ten worldwide . It peaked at number one on the United States Billboard Hot 100 on July 2 , 1988 , after nine weeks on the chart . " Dirty Diana " was the album 's fifth consecutive single to peak at number one on the Hot 100 . Internationally , " Dirty Diana " charted within the top thirty positions on several music charts . It charted within the top five in the Netherlands , Germany , and New Zealand , peaking at number two , three and five respectively . It entered the United Kingdom charts on July 16 , 1988 at number fourteen and the following week went to number four , where it stayed for two weeks .

" Dirty Diana " peaked at number three in Ireland , number seven in Austria and number nine in France . It peaked at number thirty in Australia . Following Jackson 's death in June 2009 , his music experienced a surge in popularity . In July 2009 , " Dirty Diana " saw a strong chart surge , mainly due to digital download sales . The song charted at number eighteen on the French Digital Singles Chart on July 4 , 2009 . On July 12 , the song peaked at number 13 on the Swiss Singles Chart . " Dirty Diana " re @-@ entered the United Kingdom charts on July 4 , 2009 at number fifty and the following week peaked at number twenty @-@ six .

= = Music video = =

The five @-@ minute music video for the song was directed by Joe Pytko . It won the " Number One Video In The World " at the second World Music Awards held on April 14 , 1989 . It is featured on the DVD albums Number Ones , Michael Jackson 's Vision , and the Target version DVD of Bad 25 . The woman who appears in the video is model Lisa Dean , chosen over hundreds .

= = = Live performance video = = =

A second seven @-@ minute long accompanying video of a live performance ( which should not be confused with the actual music video ) was filmed in early 1988 in front of a live audience during Jackson 's show in Madison Square Garden ( Steve Stevens playing guitar ) . The video starts with

the screen saying " Pepsi Presents Michael Jackson Tour 1988 " in front of a white background for forty seconds . After showing a black screen , Jackson can be seen from a distance performing in front of an audience with the only source of light being blue lights . During Jackson 's performance he is dressed in a white button down shirt , black pants and has metal and leather belts on his pants while singing and dancing . In between Jackson 's performance from a distance , there are clips of him performing up @-@ close while singing into a microphone , as well as clips of his guitarist Jennifer Batten performing behind him . Jackson then begins dancing and singing to the woman before walking down a cat @-@ walk and dancing near guitarist Steve Stevens . Jackson 's performance is then shown from a distance again and the video ends with Jackson finishing his performance and the lights turning blue .

= = Live performances = =

" Dirty Diana " was performed during Jackson 's Bad World Tour concert series from 1987 to 1989 , but only in the second leg , as the 10th song in the setlist . According to Jackson in an interview with Barbara Walters , " Dirty Diana " was scheduled for a live 1988 performance at Wembley Stadium during the Bad World Tour ; however , Jackson felt the song would be an insult to Diana , Princess of Wales , who was in attendance , so he had it removed . After Diana informed him the song was actually one of her personal favorites , Jackson re @-@ added the song to the set list . This performance can be seen on the DVD Michael Jackson : Live at Wembley July 16 , 1988 . This Is It concert series choreographer , Kenny Ortega , stated in an interview that " Dirty Diana " was going to be performed by Jackson for the concerts from 2009 to 2010 . Ortega said that Jackson had planned to rehearse the song before he died . The set up for the song would include an expert pole dancer who would lure Jackson onto a giant steel bed on which she performed acrobatic feats .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =