

= Run the World (Girls) =

" Run the World (Girls) " is a song recorded by American recording artist Beyoncé , from her fourth studio album 4 (2011) , released as the lead single from the album on April 21 , 2011 . It was written by Terius " The @-@ Dream " Nash , Beyoncé , Nick " Afrojack " van de Wall , Wesley " Diplo " Pentz , David " Switch " Taylor , and Adidja Palmer . Production was handled by Switch , The @-@ Dream , Beyoncé , and Shea Taylor . The song 's development was motivated by the fact that Beyoncé wanted something different : a mixture of different cultures and eras , a new sound , and a message which would give women strength . An unedited demo of the song , then thought to be titled " Girls (Who Run the World) " , was leaked on the internet on April 18 , 2011 . " Run the World " premiered on US radio on April 21 , 2011 , and was digitally released the same day .

" Run the World " is a electropop and R & B song that heavily samples " Pon de Floor " by Major Lazer . The song 's title and lyrics comprise an unapologetically aggressive message promoting female empowerment . " Run the World " initially divided critics ; some complimented the song 's sample , its musical direction , and Beyoncé 's aggressiveness , while others criticized the continuation of past themes and stated that they wanted to see Beyoncé covering new topics . Several critics compared " Run the World " to Beyoncé 's other singles with similar themes such as " Independent Women " (2000) ? with Destiny 's Child , and " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " (2008) among others , stating that " Run the World " takes a more direct and assertive approach towards female empowerment .

The single peaked at number 29 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , and reached the top 10 in Australia , Belgium , Japan , the Netherlands , New Zealand , Norway , Scotland and South Korea . " Run the World " was a top 20 hit in Canada , France , Ireland , Italy , and the United Kingdom . The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Francis Lawrence and was filmed in California over a three @-@ day span . It received widespread critical acclaim , with critics affirming that Beyoncé started a dance revolution and favoring the heavily @-@ choreographed visuals . The video won Best Choreography at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards and Best Dance Performance at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards .

Beyoncé promoted " Run the World " with high @-@ profile live performances , notably at the 2011 Billboard Music Awards and on the French X Factor . Although her performance at the Billboard Music Awards was well received by critics , it ignited controversy surrounding the production due to visual similarities to a performance by Italian pop star Lorella Cuccarini in February 2010 at the 60th Sanremo Music Festival in Italy . " Run the World " was used to awaken the crew of the final mission of the US Space Shuttle Atlantis and was dedicated to Mission Specialist Sandra Magnus . Heather Morris covered " Run the World " for the American television show Glee episode " Asian F " .

= = Background and development = =

In an interview with The Capital FM Network in early March 2011 , Shea Taylor confirmed that 4 's lead single would premiere at the end of April . " Run the World " was written by Terius " The @-@ Dream " Nash , Beyoncé , Nick van de Wall , Thomas Wesley Pentz , Dave Taylor , and Adidja Palmer . It was produced by Switch , The @-@ Dream , Beyoncé and Taylor . " Run the World " was recorded by DJ Swivel and Pat Thrall at MSR Studios , New York City , and was mixed by Serban Ghenea at MixStar Studios , Virginia Beach . Before release , the song 's title was rumored to be " Girls (Who Run the World) " . On April 14 , 2011 , two portions of the song leaked online while an unfinished demo of " Run the World (Girls) " was leaked online on April 18 , 2011 . In an interview with Billboard , Beyoncé described the song :

It 's definitely riskier than something a bit more ... simple . I just heard the track and loved that it was so different : it felt a bit African , a bit electronic and futuristic . It reminded me of what I love , which is mixing different cultures and eras ? things that typically don 't go together ? to create a new sound . I can never be safe ; I always try and go against the grain . As soon as I accomplish one thing , I just set a higher goal . That 's how I 've gotten to where I am .

Between June 16 and June 27 , 2011 , one song from 4 each day was available to listen to on

Beyoncé 's official website , together with its accompanying photographs from the album packaging and a quote . On June 27 , 2011 , " Run the World (Girls) " was the twelfth song to be made available . In the accompanying quote , Beyoncé said : " I try to write songs that will bring out the best in all of us and keep us close together . I think about saying the things that women want to say but sometimes are not confident enough to say . I am going to continue to write those songs that give women strength . "

= = Release and artwork = =

After the single leaked on the internet , it was released early . " Run the World (Girls) " premiered on US radio on April 21 , 2011 , at 8 a.m. EST , and was made available for download on iTunes Stores worldwide the same day . According to Digital Spy , the single was available on iTunes , and podcast service Concrete Loop , without payment a few hours before its official release . " Run the World (Girls) " was released to mainstream , urban contemporary and urban adult contemporary radio on April 26 , 2011 . According to MTV News , " Run the World (Girls) " was well received by Beyoncé 's fans on Twitter . A Digital EP with three remixes of the song was released in Australia , New Zealand , Europe , and the UK , on September 2 , 2011 .

The cover art for " Run the World (Girls) " was previewed on April 20 , 2011 . On the cover , Beyoncé strikes a bold pose while standing in sand . With her fist in the air covered in forearm protectors , Beyoncé wears a hip cut draping yellow Emilio Pucci dress and black stiletto boots . The Los Angeles Times wrote that the photograph points to a " ... post @-@ apocalyptic war zone , donning an elaborate gold headdress and holding a red flag emblazoned with a black ' B ' . " The photograph was taken on April 14 , 2011 . Tray Hova of Vibe magazine complimented the cover art of the single , stating that Beyoncé looks " resplendent as hell " on the cover and that " Nobody 's complaining about Bey season here . " Eleanor Young , in Marie Claire , described the cover art as " hideous " . Ray Rogers of Billboard stated that Beyoncé " clearly transmits her trademark message of female empowerment " . Becky Bain of Idolator described the cover as " pretty disappointing " , and that , with a " ballistic , over @-@ the @-@ top club banger " song like " Run the World (Girls) " , she expected something more than a body shot of Beyoncé , and criticized the cover for being confusing regarding the location of the photography . However , Bain complimented Beyoncé on her choice of stilettos as " ... serious business " .

= = Composition = =

" Run the World " is an electropop and R & B song . Jocelyn Vena of MTV News described the song as a " club banger " and " female empowerment / girl power type of song " , like several of Beyoncé 's previous singles , including " Independent Women " (2000) ? with Destiny 's Child ? and " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " (2008) . Shea Taylor said that the track draws more from pop music than R & B , and is reminiscent of Michael Jackson 's prime work . " Run the World (Girls) " also incorporates dancehall influences in the tradition of " Get Me Bodied " (2007) . The " high energy " song contains elements of go @-@ go , and is set to a marching militaristic drumbeat sampled from the club song " Pon de Floor " by Major Lazer and Vybz Kartel . " Run the World " also consists of heavy synth pangs and African and marching percussion .

A review in The Huffington Post , and Kevin O 'Donnell of Spin magazine , noted that " Run the World (Girls) " features shout vocals and raw chanting . In an interview with Ray Rogers of Billboard , Beyoncé stated that this was something she wanted to showcase in 4 , " I used a lot of the brassiness and grittiness in my voice that people hear in my live performances , but not necessarily on my records . " Kathy McCabe of Australian newspaper The Daily Telegraph likened " Run the World " to " Single Ladies " and " Diva " (2009) . Johnston Breihan of The Village Voice compared " Run the World (Girls) " to schoolyard chants , due to its " cheer @-@ team beats " and the repetitive use of the word " Girls " . Billboard magazine 's critic Jem Aswad described the song 's production , lyrics and Beyoncé 's vocals :

" Run the World (Girls) " is a complex but catchy track that 's actually more reminiscent of M.I.A.

and Santigold than Sasha Fierce . The song combines a dancefloor @-@ defying military drumbeat , a sample from Switch 's group Major Lazer , an unconventional song structure and some incongruously pretty , layered melodics that are basically chanted but still employ [Knowles '] full vocal range . The lyrics , however , are just as female @-@ empowering as we 've come to expect . There 's much more to the song than first meets the ear ? it confuses on first listen but coalesces beautifully with repeated plays .

Rap @-@ Up stated that Beyoncé is dominant over men in " Run the World " . " Run the World " opens with a short piano solo and a heavy beat . Beyoncé chants , " Girls ! / We run this mutha / Girls ! / Who run the world . " It moves into smoother , more persuasive but still boastful lyrics , " I think I need a barber / None of these ho 's can fight me / I 'm so good with this / I remind you I 'm so ' hood with this . " She then delivers the repetitive hook and chorus lines . In the second verse , Beyoncé sings that education gives women strength and independence . Other lyrics of this theme include the line , " smart enough to make these millions , strong enough to bear the children , then get back to business . " Jocelyn Vena of MTV News said that Beyoncé sings in her signature staccato style on the second verse of the song . She repeats the chorus after the bridge lines and her vocals fade out as the song finishes .

= = Critical reception = =

Critics had mixed reactions towards the track . Amos Barshad writing for the New York magazine described " Run the World (Girls) " as " kind of a monster ? aggressive and intense and totally committed " . He also called the song declarative and felt that as a lead single , it was " bluntly effective . " Matt Donnelly of The Los Angeles Times compared " Run the World (Girls) " to several of Beyoncé 's previous singles , stating that the song has a harder edge than " Independent Women Pt . 1 " , nevertheless , it does not contain " the gritty , futuristic chic " of " Diva " (2009) . Jenna Clarke of The Sydney Morning Herald called it an " infectious sounding track " having a catchy dance beat with empowering lyrics and added that the song showcases " a grittier sounding Beyoncé " , yet still following the " power footsteps " of her other chart topping hits such as " Single Ladies " and " Crazy In Love " (2003) . Kevin O 'Donnell of Spin magazine described the song as " a rousing girl power anthem " , which resembles " Single Ladies " and " If I Were a Boy " (2008) , and highlighted that " Run The World (Girls) " is " far rowdier " than any of those songs because of its synth squiggles and raw chanting . Jarett Wieselmann of the New York Post considered " Run the World (Girls) " to be one of the most exciting tracks Beyoncé has ever released .

Jocelyn Vena of MTV News called " Run the World (Girls) " a " sassy [song with] girl @-@ power lyrics paired with [a] club appeal " , further writing that the song is " loud and proud in its relentless message " , and that Beyoncé " is clearly rallying the troops to her side " . Nick Minichind of VH1 lauded the song for several pointed comments on empowerment which according to him , " are skillfully weaved into the lyrics , without feeling out of place . " He also wrote that " Run the World (Girls) " restores girls ' own subjectivity and that the bridge shows a " practically Cleopatra @-@ channeling Beyoncé . " Lewis Corner from Digital Spy described " Run the World (Girls) " as " yet another female @-@ empowerment revolution that is sure to dominate dancefloors this summer " . Robert Copsey , also writing for Digital Spy , awarded the song four stars out of five , complimenting the " earthy beats , hypnotising hooks and militant drums pound [ing] relentlessly as Queen B declares it 's ' GRLZ who run this mutha ' with more woman @-@ friendly conviction than Geri Halliwell at a Spice Girls convention circa 1998 . " Tom Breihan of Pitchfork Media wrote that " Run the World (Girls) " is " as devotedly pro @-@ female as the title would lead you to expect " , and is as dancefloor @-@ directed as Beyoncé gets , in the tradition of " Get Me Bodied " and " Single Ladies " . Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani wrote " [Beyoncé] misses the mark big time here " and called the song " plain daft " . He , however , praised the song 's bridge and Beyoncé " warm , gooey harmonies " . Maura Johnston of The Village Voice disapproved of the song 's lack of structure , calling it " a bit overstuffed , but fairly enjoyable " . Dallas Observer critic Shahryar Rizvi stated that the track " cribs a bit " from Major Lazer 's " Pon de Floor " and M.I.A. 's track " Boyz " , but added that Beyoncé being a couple of years late in acquiring this sound was " a problem " .

= = = Recognition = = =

Digital Spy ranked " Run the World " at number 16 on its list of 25 Best Songs of 2011 . Jon Pareles of The New York Times placed the song in his list of Top Songs from 2011 . It received a Teen Choice Award for Choice R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Track at the 2011 Teen Choice Awards . " Run the World " was nominated for Best Single at the 2011 Virgin Media Music Awards . On The Village Voice 's 2011 year @-@ end Pazz & Jop singles list , " Run the World (Girls) " was ranked at number 137 . The song was nominated for Best R & B / Urban Dance Track at the 27th Annual International Dance Music Awards . In 2013 , John Boone and Jennifer Cady of E ! Online placed the song at number seven on their list of ten best Beyoncé 's songs , writing that it " had everyone , male and female , dancing " . The same year , the writers of Complex magazine put the song at number 25 on their list of Beyoncé 's 25 best songs , adding that her assertion " we run this mother " , " practically wills every woman who hears this song to aspire to bigger things " .

= = Chart performance = =

Three days after its release to digital download outlets , the single debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 18 on April 24 , 2011 . A week later it had risen to number 11 and debuted at number five on the UK R & B chart . The song descended the chart for five consecutive weeks to number 45 before rising again to number 23 on the singles chart and from number 12 to number 6 on the R & B chart on May 29 , 2011 when the music video was released . In Ireland , the single debuted at number 11 on April 28 , 2011 , the highest chart entry that week and in France , " Run the World (Girls) " debuted at number 33 with 2 @,@ 065 copies sold . It peaked at number 12 . On May 1 , 2011 , the song entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 12 , being the highest new entry that week , and at number six on its urban chart . One day later , " Run the World (Girls) " debuted at number 21 in New Zealand , where it was the highest new entry that week . " Run the World (Girls) " declined in the charts in Australia and New Zealand . However , after the release of its music video , the single rose from number 42 to number 15 on the ARIA Singles Chart and peaked at number 4 on its urban chart on May 30 , 2011 . The following week , it climbed to number 10 on the singles chart , where it peaked . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for sales of over 70 @,@ 000 copies . The video release helped " Run the World (Girls) " re @-@ enter the New Zealand Singles Chart at number 26 on May 23 , 2011 and it peaked the following week at number nine . " Run the World (Girls) " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) for sales of over 7 @,@ 500 copies .

" Run the World (Girls) " debuted at number 40 on Canadian Hot 100 chart issue dated May 7 , 2011 . Paul Tuch of Nielsen SoundScan called the debut impressive as the song was released between digital and radio charts . It stands as Beyoncé 's highest entry as a solo artist on the chart . After declining in the chart for three consecutive weeks , " Run the World (Girls) " left the chart in the week ending May 28 , 2011 . For the week ending June 11 , 2011 , the single recovered from number 60 to number 16 on the Canadian Hot 100 chart , receiving the titles of the greatest chart mover and the greatest digital gainer . For the issue dated May 7 , 2011 , " Run the World (Girls) " debuted at number 23 on the US Hot Digital Songs chart , selling 77 @,@ 000 downloads sold. and at number 65 on the Radio Songs chart with 18 million listener impressions . It accordingly debuted at position 33 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , and was the highest debut on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , opening at number 41 . Digital sales of the single declined by 39 % , amassing a total of a total of 47 @,@ 000 downloads ; it fell to number 39 on the Hot Digital Songs chart .

" Run the World (Girls) " was the highest debut , starting at number 37 on the US Pop Songs chart issue dated May 21 , 2011 . For the same week ending , the song continued to descend the Hot 100 chart to number 65 . One week later , the single debuted at number 43 on the US Hot Dance Club Songs chart , becoming Beyoncé 's nineteenth solo entry on that chart . The same week , the single fell to number 76 on the Hot 100 chart . After descending the Hot 100 chart for four consecutive

weeks , " Run the World (Girls) " recovered 26 places , moving from number 76 to number 50 for the week ending June 4 , 2011 , promoted by the song 's re @-@ entry on the Hot Digital Songs chart at number 44 after its music video 's release . The following week , the single escalated to number 29 on the Hot 100 chart , which was its peak , as it descended the Hot 100 chart in subsequent weeks . " Run the World (Girls) " peaked at number one on the Hot Dance Club Songs chart issue dated July 9 , 2011 . On July 29 , 2011 , it was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for sales of over 500 @,@ 000 copies . As of January 2016 the song has sold 1 @,@ 324 @,@ 000 digital copies .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and release = = =

The music video for " Run the World (Girls) " was directed by Francis Lawrence . Beyoncé worked with eight choreographers , including Frank Gatson and Sheryl Murakami . The executive producer was Missy Galanida . Filming took place in the Mojave Desert and Inglewood , California . Images from the Mojave shoot were leaked online on April 12 , 2011 , showing Beyoncé standing in a smoky , post @-@ apocalyptic war zone , wearing a gladiator outfit and a gold crown , and waving a red flag with a " B " logo . She was surrounded by dancers in brightly colored skirts , black military @-@ style jackets and peaked caps . Other images showed an army of women posing against a ravaged car with the word " Révolution " sprayed on it . Posters of Beyoncé 's face are seen behind the women . In an interview with MTV News on April 18 , 2011 , director Francis Lawrence , who had previously directed the video for Lady Gaga 's " Bad Romance " (2010) , discussed the music video :

" I just shot a Beyoncé video at the beginning of this last week , Monday , Tuesday , Wednesday , which was fun , and I hadn 't done a video since 2009 . It 'll be big , it 'll probably be one of the bigger Beyoncé music videos ever done . And , I can say that I think the song is unbelievable . The Gaga thing took me by surprise , ' cause I 've done videos for probably 15 years , and I had forgotten what it felt like to have a video premiere and have it be anticipated and have it explode . And yeah I hope the same for Beyoncé , but I don 't know if that 's gonna happen . It is a fantastic song , so I really hope that song catches for her , and I think the video 's gonna be really fun and cool and different for her . "

On May 4 , 2011 , another 20 @-@ second clip of the music video was released , showing a troupe of females in a rural location , however Beyoncé is not seen during the clip . A third teaser was released on May 10 , 2011 , showing Beyoncé standing in front of a burning car , riding a horse and assembling an army in a post @-@ apocalyptic clip . At a private listening party held on May 12 , 2011 for 4 , Beyoncé offered a small group of fans a preview of five songs from the album and the official video for " Run the World (Girls) " , which reportedly features a lion and Beyoncé writhing around in sand . The video was scheduled for release on May 13 , 2011 at 12 : 01 a.m , however Vevo confirmed that the release would be delayed because Beyoncé was " ... perfecting it " . The video premiered on American Idol on May 18 , 2011 . The director 's cut of the music video is included on the deluxe version of 4 . The video was released on July 1 , 2011 but was leaked on June 29 , 2011 .

= = = Fashion = = =

In the video for " Run the World (Girls) " , Beyoncé 's outfits include armor , a high priestess ' headdress , lingerie and runway couture Beyoncé is first seen wearing a red and gold embroidered dress with thigh @-@ high boots , both by Alexander McQueen from fall / winter 2010 . In the first dance scene of the video , she is wearing a Brian Lichtenberg patchwork fur vest . For a dance routine in sand , she wears a black fringed Norma Kamali outfit , followed by a Givenchy dress in a scene depicting Beyoncé with two larger @-@ than @-@ life hyenas . During a scene involving

warriors , Beyoncé is wearing a black cut @-@ out dress shown at Jean Paul Gaultier 's spring couture show . A short Gareth Pugh dress with golden sequins and two gowns by Emilio Pucci ? one yellow with a plunging neckline , the other emerald green with an asymmetrical cut ? complete Beyoncé 's outfits .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video begins with Beyoncé riding a black horse over an open , deserted plain . As the horse lifts off the ground , scenes of Beyoncé standing atop a ruined vehicle are shown , as she leads a large army of women . Additional scenery includes a large bull in the middle of the battleground and a large banner featuring an African themed drawing of Beyoncé . A woman seemingly nailed on a cross is later seen . As several scantily clad women are shown , a SWAT team of men charge towards the battlefield as a sample from Major Lazer 's " Pon de Floor " is played . As the male forces arrive , Beyoncé , is wearing a large golden helm and is surrounded by a lion , a large group of women prepared for battle and banners featuring Beyoncé insignia . As the song begins , Beyoncé removes her armor and confronts the male army , engaging in a series of shoulder @-@ thrusting dance routines .

Beyoncé dances seductively towards the men as scenes of Beyoncé wearing several outfits are seen , the first of which is a white evening gown as she grasps the chains of two chained hyenas . As the confrontation escalates , Beyoncé appears next to several flaming vehicles , and she undergoes another costume change . Returning to the main plot , the video shows Beyoncé in front of a small group of her female army , wearing a yellow ensemble and black heeled @-@ boots . As the dancing commences , scenes of the two clashing armies are seen while Beyoncé writhes in sand . The females , now an even larger group , are shown dancing , using powerful and emphatic movements , in front of the male army with alternating costumes and several flags in the background . The video ends with the front line of females confronting the men face to face , raising their right arms and saluting to them as Beyoncé rips off the male general 's badge , placing it on herself .

= = = Reception = = =

The video received general acclaim from critics . On the night of the video 's premiere , Rap @-@ Up complimented Beyoncé on starting a " dance revolution " , her " heavily @-@ choreographed visuals " and " menagerie of wild animals , outrageous fashion , and epic dance sequences " . Eric Henderson of Slant Magazine wrote that Beyoncé comes off like " barely sentient " but added that she remains cohesive and rational as a human being in real life . He further wrote : " Her reserve of crazy is far from bottomless , and she seems to save it all for her music videos , and I love her for that [...] [The video is] awesome in distressingly fragmented ways . " Gina Serpe of E ! Online wrote that " for anyone still laboring under the illusion that Beyoncé does not mean business , well , just watch this video . Described by B [eyoncé] herself as ' futuristic ' , ' electronic ' and ' African ' , the 29 @-@ year @-@ old fused all that and more into a still remarkably cohesive music video . " CBS News wrote the " smoking hot video [was] blowing up on the web " . The Huffington Post wrote that Beyoncé largely brings back the elements that made " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " ' s video a hit , citing women 's empowerment and a brand new dance . Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post complimented Beyoncé 's wardrobe and dancing in the video , and wrote that the choreography ensures the lyrics , " my persuasion can build a nation " .

James Montgomery of MTV News wrote Beyoncé has returned " to claim her throne " and that the message in the video " hammers the point home with all the subtlety of a jackhammer " . He highlighted the " elaborate , hip @-@ displacing dance routines , haute @-@ couture costuming , wide @-@ screen cinematography and expensive @-@ looking sets " . Larry Fitzmaurice of Pitchfork Media wrote that " a thousand YouTube bedroom dancers flood [ing] the Internet with their own takes " were to come in the near future . Rolling Stone praised Beyoncé 's dance moves and wrote that it is the latest addition " to the canon of dance pop videos with over @-@ the @-@ top apocalyptic imagery " . Nick Neyland of Prefix Magazine wrote Beyoncé made the best music

video of 2011 , commending its " big budget extravagance , full of preposterous costumes and ridiculously over the top dance routines " . Sarah Anne Hughes of The Washington Post wrote that Beyoncé uses " the non @-@ violent tactic of dance to fight off some bad guys in riot gear " and that Beyoncé 's alter ego Sasha Fierce " is out in full force as she uses an army of swiveling and shimmying women , her middle finger and two hyenas on leashes to keep control of a post @-@ apocalyptic society " . Billboard magazine wrote that Beyoncé made a triumphant return in the elaborate music video for " Run the World (Girls) " after creating classic clips for " Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It) " , " Crazy in Love " , and " Ring the Alarm " .

= = = Recognition and accolades = = =

On July 20 , 2011 , the video received three nominations at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards in the categories Best Female Video , Best Choreography , and Best Cinematography . It won the Best Choreography category . The video was nominated for Best Video at the 2011 MTV Europe Music Awards . On November 27 , 2011 , the video won Best Dance Performance at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards . It was nominated for Best Video at the 2011 Virgin Media Music Awards and Favorite Music Video at the 2012 People 's Choice Awards . The writers of Slant Magazine put the music video at number 12 on their list of The 25 Best Music Videos of 2011 . The Guardian included " Run the World (Girls) " on its list of the best pop videos of 2011 , praising its " glorious effect " and the heavy choreography , before concluding that it is " tiring just watching it " . On BET 's Notarized : Top 100 Videos of 2011 , " Run the World (Girls) " was ranked at number two . The video was nominated for Best Pop Video and Best Choreography at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards Japan , and International Artist Video of the Year at the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards . It was nominated for World 's Best Video at the 2012 World Music Awards . In 2013 , John Boone and Jennifer Cady of E ! Online placed the video at number seven on their list of Beyoncé 's ten best music videos , comparing her dancing in the sand with Shakira 's .

= = Live performances = =

Beyoncé 's first live performance of " Run the World (Girls) " was on May 17 , 2011 on Surprise Oprah ! A Farewell Spectacular at the United Center in Chicago . The special aired on May 23 , 2011 . Beyoncé wore a tuxedo leotard with red heels and was accompanied by 40 female back @-@ up dancers . The show was organized to commemorate the 25th and final season of The Oprah Winfrey Show . Celebrities including Madonna , Tom Hanks , John Legend , Dakota Fanning , Tom Cruise and his wife Katie Holmes were present . Beyoncé altered the bridge 's lyrics , singing : " Oprah , your persuasion can build a nation . " The crowd held up blue lights in the arena as Beyoncé sang the song twice while Winfrey danced . According to the Chicago Tribune , Beyoncé received the loudest applause of the show . Beyoncé performed " Run the World (Girls) " live at the 2011 Billboard Music Awards ceremony at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on May 22 , 2011 . The writers of Billboard magazine described the live performance as both " stunning " and " impressive " . Erika Ramirez of the same magazine put the performance at number one on her list of " Beyoncé 's 5 Biggest TV Performances " saying that it " showcased the strength of her reign best " . It was also placed in the list of 15 Awesome Billboard Music Award Performances by the writers of the magazine .

During her promotional tour of Europe , Beyoncé performed at several festivals and made only a limited amount of television appearances . Beyoncé performed the song at a private concert in Nice , France , on June 20 , 2011 . One week later , Beyoncé flew to the United Kingdom to serve as the closing act at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival on June 26 , 2011 , where " Run the World (Girls) " was featured as the second to last song on the 90 minute set list , before finishing with " Halo " . Beyoncé was also the solo female ever to headline the Pyramid stage in over twenty years . Beyoncé then returned to France , where she performed the song along with her live band on Le Grand Journal in June 2011 . " Run the World (Girls) " was sung live by Beyoncé on June 28 , 2011 on the French X Factor . On July 1 , 2011 , Beyoncé gave a free concert on Good Morning

America as part of its Summer Concert Series on August 14 , 2011 and during her 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé shows in Roseland Ballroom , New York City , to an audience of 3 @, @ 500 . Beyoncé wore a gold dress and performed with her all @-@ female band and backing singers , called the Mamas . During the ITV special A Night with Beyoncé which aired on December 4 in the United Kingdom , Beyoncé performed " Run the World (Girls) " to a selected crowd of fans .

In May , 2012 , Beyoncé performed " Run the World " during her Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live revue in Atlantic City , New Jersey , United States ' entertainment resort , hotel , casino and spa , Revel . The revue was also called " Back to Business " which was picked from a lyric of the song . A writer of Black Entertainment Television noted , " She dazzled fans with an assortment of high @-@ energy performances of her upbeat hits like ... ' Run the World (Girls) . ' " Caryn Ganz of Spin magazine praised the " swaggy " march , while Rebecca Thomas of MTV News wrote that Beyoncé 's choreography during the performance of " Run the World " , " is meant to do the same : a series of sensual quickstep moves that revolve around the hips and legs . " Ben Ratliff of The New York Times mentioned the song in the " almost continuous high point " of the concert . The song also acted as the opening number of her Mrs. Carter Show World Tour . After a video intro of Beyoncé imitating Mary Antoinette , Beyoncé rises from beneath the stage along with sparks and flames , leading into the opening performance of " Run the World (Girls) " . The song was part of the set list of Beyoncé and Jay @-@ Z 's co @-@ headlining On the Run Tour (2014) .

= = = Controversy = = =

Following her performance at the Billboard Music Awards , Beyoncé initially received widespread praise from fans , critics and celebrities . However , the following day , critics voiced concerns about similarities to a performance by Italian pop star Lorella Cuccarini in February 2010 at the 60th Sanremo Music Festival . Billy Johnson , Jr of Yahoo ! Music wrote : " Kenzo Digital , who spent a month creating Beyoncé 's interactive video , told Yahoo ! News that Lorella concert footage is only part of the inspiration for Beyoncé 's show : " [The Cuccarini artists] are awesome and do incredible work as well , but there are a lot of different inspirations for where our piece came from . " In a Yahoo ! Amplified interview with Daniel Kreps , Digital said : " It 's just a bare white screen . It 's a technique in video art since the [19] 80s in terms of frontal projection and interactive things . That 's really nothing new . It 's not even a new technology . It 's just an incredibly simple , awesome storytelling device , and with a performer like Beyoncé it becomes incredibly powerful . " Beyoncé later responded through an interview with AOL Music , saying she was inspired after finding Cuccarini 's performance online :

" My makeup artist showed me the performance of Lorella Cuccarini a year ago , and it inspired me so much . I then met with the talented people who worked on it . The technology and concept were so genius . She was inspired after discovering Cuccarini 's performance online . Thank God for YouTube or I would have never been exposed to something so inspiring . I never worked so hard on anything in my life as that performance for the Billboard Awards . "

= = Usage in media and cover versions = =

Beyoncé pre @-@ recorded a message to the astronauts of the final mission of the US Space Shuttle Atlantis on July 16 , 2011 . With " Run the World (Girls) " playing in the background , Beyoncé said : " Good morning Atlantis . This is Beyoncé . Sandy , Chris , Doug , and Rex , you inspire all of us to dare to live our dreams ? to know that we are smart enough and strong enough to achieve this . This song is especially for my girl Sandy and all the women who have taken us to space with them , and the girls who are our future explorers . " " Run the World (Girls) " was used in a commercial for Beyoncé 's fragrance , Pulse (2011) . Released on August 18 , 2011 , the 15 @-@ second advertisement , directed by Jake Nava , shows Beyoncé wearing a metallic gown and walking through lights an instrumental version of the song plays in the background .

A dancer who had worked with Beyoncé , Heather Morris , covered " Run the World (Girls) " for the American television show Glee episode " Asian F " , which aired on October 4 , 2011 . Morris

danced to the song wearing a leather cheerleading skirt . Amy Lee of The Huffington Post described Morris ' dance choreography as " amazing " and Kristen Dos Santos of E ! News called Morris ' performance " knockout " and added that it might be Glee 's best performance to date . Morris ' version debuted at number 91 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and at number 47 on the US Hot Digital Songs chart for the week ending October 22 , 2011 . On August 25 , 2013 , girl group Adira ? Belle performed " Run the World (Girls) " during the fifth season of The X Factor Australia . Giles Hardie of The Sydney Morning Herald rated their performance six out of ten and wrote it was a " terrible song choice " . He also felt that it was " a bit early for Beyoncé for these girls perhaps as the song was bigger than them " .

American Idol season 14 contestant Tyanna Jones sang the song as her farewell performance .

The song was covered a cappella in the film Pitch Perfect 2 .

Knowles performed the song live with actor Channing Tatum on a 2016 episode of Lip Sync Battle

= = Format and track listing = =

Digital download

" Run the World (Girls) " [Single Version] ? 3 : 56

UK digital remix single

" Run the World (Girls) " [Chris Lake Remix] ? 6 : 24

" Run the World (Girls) " [Kito Remix] ? 3 : 37

" Run the World (Girls) " [Billionaire Remix] ? 5 : 19

US digital remix single

" Run the World (Girls) " [Kaskade Club Remix] ? 5 : 02

" Run the World (Girls) " [RedTop Club Remix] ? 6 : 02

" Run the World (Girls) " [Jochen Simms Club Remix] ? 6 : 17

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from 4 liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =