

= Shape ( song ) =

" Shape " is a song by English girl group Sugababes , released as the fourth and final single from their second studio album , Angels with Dirty Faces ( 2002 ) . It was composed by Sting , Dominic Miller , and Craig Dodds , who produced the song . The midtempo pop and R & B ballad incorporates a sample of Sting 's 1993 recording " Shape of My Heart " , whose vocals are featured in the chorus . It received mixed reviews from critics , who were ambivalent towards the sample of " Shape of My Heart " .

The single attained moderate success and reached the top twenty on the charts in Ireland , the Netherlands , Norway and the United Kingdom . The song 's music video was directed by Michael Gracey and Pete Commins , and filmed in Sydney , Australia . The video was censored and later re-shot due to its depiction of nudity . It features the Sugababes at a masquerade ball in a mansion . The Sugababes performed " Shape " on GMTV , at the V Festival , and on tour in support of their albums .

= = Background and composition = =

" Shape " was written by Sting , Dominic Miller and Craig Dodds , and produced by Dodds under his production name Craigie , for the Sugababes ' second studio album , Angels with Dirty Faces ( 2002 ) . It is a remake of Sting 's 1993 recording " Shape of My Heart " ; the song 's verses were changed , while the chorus that features Sting 's vocals was re-recorded . According to Sugababes member Mutya Buena , " He felt he could do better with the chorus , so he came in to re-record it " . The song was engineered by Jack Guy , and programmed by Dean Barratt . Additional vocal recording was completed by Ben Georgiades . " Shape " is the album 's fourth and final single , and was released in the United Kingdom on 10 March 2003 as a CD single and cassette tape . The B-side is a cover version of English producer Adamski 's and English musician Seal 's 1990 single " Killer " .

" Shape " is a midtempo pop and R & B ballad with a subtle dance groove . The song was composed in the key of F minor , at a moderately slow tempo of 82 beats per minute . The Sugababes ' vocal range in the song spans from the higher note of F3 to the lower note of G4 . Its instrumentation consists of keyboards and bass guitar . The chorus of the song features Sting 's vocals . Adrian Thrills of Daily Mail described " Shape " as an " ambitious , harmonica-led reworking " of " Shape of My Heart " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Shape " received generally mixed reviews from critics . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian criticised the track as a " lumbering , mirthless AOR ballad , grown up in the worst sense of the phrase " . The Birmingham Post 's Andrew Cowen panned the song as " horrible " , and regarded the sample from " Shape of My Heart " as " not big or clever " . Andy Kellman of AllMusic called " Shape " a " bum moment " on the album , and dismissed it as a " misguided re-configuration " of the sample . Alex Needham of NME considered it a " massive faux pas " on the album . The Jerusalem Post writer Harry Rubenstein viewed " Shape " as " [ a ] sing-along , more than a cover , that sounds completely uninspired and out of place amongst the faster-paced R & B tracks on the rest of the album " . In contrast , David Byrne of RTÉ.ie called the track a " nice touch " on the album , while Daily Record writer Julie MacCaskill complimented the sample of Sting 's " Shape of My Heart " , which she felt produced the song 's powerful hook . Alan Poole from the Coventry Evening Telegraph wrote that the Sugababes " underline their versatility " on the track . A writer from South Wales Echo felt that " Shape " was equally good as " Freak like Me " and " Round Round " , the group 's number-one singles from the same album . A critic from Daily Mirror described it as a

" clever " cover that depicts the Sugababes " on top form " .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

" Shape " debuted at number eleven on the UK Singles Chart on 22 March 2003 . It became the first single from Angels with Dirty Faces to not reach the top ten . By early 2010 , it had sold 55 @,@ 000 copies in the UK . The song was more successful on the Irish Singles Chart , where it debuted and peaked at number nine , and in turn became the third single from Angels with Dirty Faces to reach the top ten . " Shape " also achieved commercial success in Continental Europe . In Belgium , the song reached number two on the Ultratip chart in Wallonia , and number 49 on the Ultratop chart in Flanders . The single debuted at number 16 on the Netherlands ' Dutch Top 40 chart , and peaked at number seven three weeks later . It ended as the chart 's 76th best @-@ performing single of 2003 . The song peaked at number 16 on the Norwegian VG @-@ lista chart and spent four weeks in the top twenty . " Shape " attained top @-@ forty positions on the German and Swiss singles charts , and reached the top fifty on the Austrian chart . The single debuted and peaked at number 75 on the Australian Singles Chart , where it charted for a total of four weeks .

= = Promotion = =

= = = Music video = = =

The accompanying music video for " Shape " was directed by Michael Gracey and Pete Commins . It was filmed during December 2002 in Sydney , Australia , and was released on 24 February 2003 . Baz Luhrmann 's Moulin Rouge team assisted in its production . Sting did not appear in the video due to a busy schedule . The Sugababes wore flesh @-@ coloured bodysuits which caused controversy as it implied nudity . The video was subsequently censored and later re @-@ shot after being deemed " too raunchy " . The video features computer @-@ generated butterflies around the group members ' bodies and was described as displaying " a wonderland " .

The video opens with a scene of the ocean at night . It then shows a mansion by the water , in which Buena is seen standing by a balcony . The following scene shows Range entering the mansion as two men open the doors for her . Buena is shown walking in the middle of a masquerade ball , in which she captures the attention of a man . The Sugababes are shown on a couch , where Buchanan holds a man 's hand ; they all then walk down the mansion 's staircase . Each group member begins to dance with a man at the ball . Buena walks towards a mirror which depicts a reflection of the Sugababes , while Buchanan drops her white mask which subsequently shatters . Towards the end of the video , they are shown leaving the ball before Buchanan jumps off the balcony and into the water . All three members are shown collectively in the water , which begins to fade out into the sky . The last scene shows the men that were in the mansion walking away .

= = = Live performances = = =

The Sugababes performed " Shape " on GMTV on 20 February 2003 which was the same day of the 2003 BRIT Awards . They performed the song on 30 March 2003 at the Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool . An acoustic version of the song was performed during their tour in support of Three ( 2003 ) , the group 's third studio album . The group sang " Shape " at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange on 18 August 2004 as part of a set list . The third line @-@ up of the Sugababes , comprising Buchanan , Range and Amelle Berrabah , played the single while on the Taller in More Ways tour as part of a medley with " Stronger " . The trio also performed these two songs as an acoustic medley at the 2006 V Festival , and at the 100 Club in London to promote the release of their greatest hits album , Overloaded : The Singles Collection .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting ? Sting , Dominic Miller , Craig Dodds

Production ? Craigie

Engineering ? Jack Guy

Additional vocal recording ? Ben Georgiades

Additional programming ? Dean Barratt

Keyboards ? Jonathan Quarmby

Vocals ? Keisha Buchanan , Mutya Buena , Heidi Range

Bass guitar ? Kevin Bacon

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

= = Charts = =