

= Ugly (Sugababes song) =

" Ugly " is a song by British girl group Sugababes from their fourth studio album , Taller in More Ways (2005) . Written and produced by Dallas Austin , inspiration for the song was conceptualised in the midst of reading negative comments about members of the band . The song released on 5 December 2005 in the United Kingdom as the second single from the album . " Ugly " is a midtempo pop song that contains lyrics about personality and body @-@ image issues . It received comparisons to " Unpretty " by girl group TLC and " Beautiful " by Christina Aguilera . Ugly is the band 's final single released under the second line up of Sugababes , after original member Mutya Buena departed the group in December 2005 .

" Ugly " garnered positive reviews from music critics , many of whom praised the emotional and empowering concept behind it . The song peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart . It achieved international commercial success , where it reached the top five in Denmark and New Zealand , and the top @-@ ten the Czech Republic , Finland , Hungary , Ireland , the Netherlands and Norway . The song 's accompanying music video is set in a warehouse in New York City , and features people of different ages and races showcasing their talents . The Sugababes have performed the song at the V Festival in both 2006 and 2008 , and at the Indig02 in London , all of which received positive reviews from critics . " Ugly " has been used in schools within Wales to promote diversity and eliminate prejudice .

= = Background and development = =

" Ugly " was written and produced by Dallas Austin for the Sugababes ' fourth studio album , Taller in More Ways . Paul Sheehy , Doug Harms , Graham Marsh and Ian Rossiter served as the assistant recording engineers for the song . " Ugly " was mixed by Jeremy Wheatley for 365 Artists at TwentyOne Studio , London . Tony Reyes provided the accompanying guitar and bass guitar for the track , while the drums and keys were provided by Austin . " Ugly " was recorded at DARP Studios , at Atlanta & Home Recordings , London .

During an interview with Jess Cartner @-@ Morley of The Guardian , the Sugababes revealed that Austin wrote the song after reading " the cuttings file he was sent about the band " . Keisha Buchanan , one of the group 's members , elaborated upon this : " All the rubbish and nasty stuff that 's been written about us , calling us the Sugalumps , that sort of thing . " The title of the song 's parent album , Taller in More Ways , was inspired by a line in " Ugly " , which reads : " I grew taller than them in more ways / But there 'll always be one who will say / Something bad to make them feel great " .

= = Composition and theme = =

" Ugly " is a midtempo pop song that has a length of three minutes and fifty @-@ three seconds . The song was composed in the key of C major using common time with a tempo of 117 beats per minute . The Sugababes ' vocal range on the song span from the lower note of G3 to the higher note of E5 . Instrumentation consists of a guitar , bass guitar , drums and keys . Nick Southall of Stylus Magazine noted that the song incorporates acoustic guitars " buoyed by peripheral detail " .

K. Ross Hoffman of Allmusic described " Ugly " as a " towering ballad " with romantic and body @-@ image issues . The song received numerous comparisons to " Unpretty " by American girl group TLC , another track composed by Austin . Group member Heidi Range compared the song 's lyrics to " Beautiful " , a song performed by American recording artist Christina Aguilera . Harry Rubenstein of The Jerusalem Post also noted that the song is reminiscent of both " Unpretty " and " Beautiful " . The lyrical content makes reference to feeling ugly from having different eyes and hair , in addition to being shorter than other people .

= = Release and response = =

" Ugly " was released as a CD single in the United Kingdom on 5 December 2005 , containing the radio edit of the song , and " Come Together " . The extended play version of " Ugly " was released on the same day and contains the album version of the song , a B @-@ side titled " Future Shokk ! " , a Desert Eagle Discs remix , and a Suga Shaker Vocal Mix . On 9 December 2005 , " Ugly " was released as a CD single in Germany , which contains the same tracks on the extended play release , in addition to the single 's music video .

" Ugly " garnered generally positive reviews from music critics . Phil Udell of Hot Press regarded it as a " classy , catchy pop tune with a human heart " . Peter Robinson of The Observer felt that the track was one of the album 's standouts , stating that it " immediately hits on the Sugababes ' core values " , which according to him are " cool , but so unswervingly radio @-@ friendly that it would hardly be out of place as this year 's Children in Need single " . Talia Kraines of BBC described " Ugly " as a " ballad full of true Sugababes attitude " . K. Ross Hoffman of AllMusic considered the track as an " aptly pitched inspirational mini @-@ epic " , and a writer for The Liverpool Daily Post & Echo characterised it as an " empowering anthem " . Nick Southall of Stylus Magazine called it " vastly superior self @-@ help pop " and " lovingly produced " . However , Ben Hogwood of musicOMH thought the song was unconvincing , while Alex Roginski of Sydney Morning Herald criticized the songwriting as " flat " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Ugly " entered the UK Singles Chart at number three on 11 December 2005 ? for the week ending dated 17 December 2005 ? with sales of 21 @,@ 107 , becoming the Sugababes ' second consecutive top @-@ three single . The song spent four weeks in the chart 's top @-@ ten and 15 weeks on the chart overall . " Ugly " has sold 170 @,@ 000 copies in the UK and ranks as the group 's seventh best @-@ selling single in the country . " Ugly " debuted and peaked at number seven on the Irish Singles Chart , becoming the Sugababes ' second consecutive top @-@ ten single in Ireland . The song peaked at number four in Denmark , becoming the Sugababes ' fourth top @-@ five single in the country . " Ugly " also reached number seven in Hungary and the Netherlands , earning the Sugababes their second consecutive top @-@ ten single in both countries .

" Ugly " also became a commercial success in many other European countries . The single number eight in the Czech Republic and Finland , and number nine in Norway . In Belgium , the song reached numbers eight and 13 on the Wallonia Ultratip and Flanders Ultratop charts , respectively . " Ugly " attained top @-@ twenty positions in Austria , Sweden and Switzerland ; it charted at number 26 in Germany and number 68 in Slovakia . " Ugly " also achieved success outside of Europe . In New Zealand , it entered the chart at number seven and peaked at number five two weeks later , becoming the Sugababes ' second consecutive top @-@ five single in the country . It remained in the chart for 16 weeks . In Australia , " Ugly " debuted at number 16 and peaked at number 13 on its fourth week on the chart , becoming their second @-@ best performing single in the country .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Ugly " was directed by Toby Tremlett and filmed on 1 November 2005 . It is set in a warehouse in New York City that is used for people who are taking part in an audition . It begins with a yellow taxi driving on a New York City road with apartment complexes . As the song begins , Buena sings her verse while looking into a mirror , and other people in the warehouse begin to hold up signs of the song 's lyrics . During the chorus , they begin to showcase their talents such as dancing and juggling . Buchanan 's chorus features her sitting on a staircase ; during this part , a child holds up a sign reading " short " while a woman carries a sign saying " loneliness " . As Range sings the bridge , she is leaning on a wall in the warehouse while more people begin dancing . When Sugababes sing the chorus again , they dance with the people who also begin to show other talents , including instrumentation and magic tricks . As the video ends , a row of people hold up signs containing one word from the song 's lyrics , " people are all the same " .

= = Live performances and school usage = =

Sugababes performed " Ugly " at the V Festival in 2006 as part of a set list , which included Hole in the Head , Red Dress and Push the Button . Reviewers from The Sun said that the Sugababes " proved both that pop can work at festivals and that losing Mutya has not caused them to miss a beat " . In 2008 , they performed the song at the same event in the JJB Champion Arena , as part of a set list which included Push the Button and About You Now . The performance received positive reviews , with a reviewer from MTV UK calling it " a highlight of our festival in the JJB Arena " . In August 2007 , former group member Mutya Buena , who left the band shortly following the single 's release , performed the song at the V Festival in Chelmsford ; before playing it , she stated : " This song is one I sang with my previous group ... It 's called ' Ugly ' " . On 18 September 2007 , Sugababes performed an acoustic version of " Ugly " at the Indig02 as part of a set list , which included such songs as " Freak Like Me " , " Round Round " , " In the Middle " , " Red Dress " and " Too Lost In You " . Nick Levine of Digital Spy felt the performance " proves that no member 's a slacker in the trilling department " .

In March 2006 , it was announced by The Commission for Racial Equality Croeso initiative that the Sugababes would take part in supporting diversity and opposing injustice in Wales . The group allowed all schools located in Wales to use " Ugly " as part of an assembly , in which the schools can use the same resources provided by the Croeso initiative .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Charts = =