

= Here Comes Your Man =

" Here Comes Your Man " is a song by the American alternative rock band Pixies , written and sung by the band 's frontman Black Francis . Produced by Gil Norton , it was released as the second single from the group 's second album Doolittle in June 1989 .

Written by Black Francis as a teenager , " Here Comes Your Man " was recorded for the band 's 1987 demo tape , but not included on either Come On Pilgrim or Surfer Rosa , as the songwriter was reluctant about releasing the song . Critics saw " Here Comes Your Man " as the Pixies ' breakthrough song ; Jon Dolan of Spin magazine commented that it was " the most accessible song ever by an underground @-@ type band . " The song reached number three on the U.S. Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart .

= = Background and recording = =

Black Francis recalled that he wrote " Here Comes Your Man " around the time he was age 14 or 15 . Years later after the Pixies were formed , producer Paul Kolderie noted the group didn 't want to record " Here Comes Your Man " for its demo " The Purple Tape " . The group referred to it as " the Tom Petty song " , according to Kolderie . Producer Gary Smith said , " There was some reluctance to do ' Here Comes Your Man ' because it was too pop , there was something too straight about it . " When 4AD label head Ivo Watts @-@ Russell handpicked the track listing for the group 's debut release Come on Pilgrim , he intentionally left out " Here Comes Your Man " . Watts @-@ Russell stated that he liked the song , but " it felt just too obviously commercial and I didn 't know what we were doing with [the band] " . Watts @-@ Russell also felt it was too reminiscent of Mink DeVille 's " Spanish Stroll " . For a post @-@ Surfer Rosa single , 4AD rejected another recording of the song ; they later chose " Gigantic " , with " River Euphrates " on the B @-@ side .

Francis reflected in 2004 that during the recording of the group 's second album Doolittle he felt embarrassed by " Here Comes Your Man " , but since producer Gil Norton really liked the song , the songwriter " threw him a bone " . Norton recorded the band performing the song 's backing track when Black Francis was not available . The song featured a different arrangement from previous recordings of the track , and Black Francis added another verse to it .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Here Comes Your Man " opens with the Hendrix chord , favored by Pixies guitarist Joey Santiago and used on " Tame " . The acoustic guitar plays a D ? G ? A chord progression , while Santiago plays a guitar riff which is the result of him double @-@ tracking a 12 @-@ string Rickenbacker and a Telecaster .

In an interview with NME , Francis commented on the meaning of the song :

The word " boxcar " was apparently a starting point for the song 's lyrics , and Francis has suggested that this was in part inspired by the song " Carnival of Sorts (Box Car) " by R.E.M. : " I probably liked the word ' boxcar ' because I heard it on the R.E.M. song , from their first record . "

= = Video and imagery = =

A music video , co @-@ directed by Neil Pollock and Jonathan Bekemeier , to promote the single shows the band playing its instruments through a distorted fish @-@ eye lens , the camera variously panning horizontally across the performance space and vertically over the individual band members . Keeping in the spirit of the mimed performance , Francis and Deal open and shut their mouths in time with their prerecorded vocals , yet make no attempt to articulate their lips in synch with the words that they are supposed to be singing . Instead , they simply keep their mouths wide open with blank expressions for the duration of each verse . Francis stated that " Water on the brain " was the theme of the clip .

= = Release and reception = =

" Here Comes Your Man " was released as a single in June 1989 , and the song 's music video received some airplay on MTV . The cover image , chosen by Francis , comes from a photograph cover designer Simon Larbalestier took of a bulldog terrier for a gallery showing . The Pixies rarely played " Here Comes Your Man " at concerts or at promotional events . Music writer Ben Sisario described this stance as " vintage college @-@ rock ' tude--the hit , the pop song , should be avoided as inauthentic , while the aggro , anticommercial song represents legitimacy . " Ivo Watts @-@ Russell stated if Black Francis had been possibly persuaded to release the version of the song recorded during the session for the " Gigantic " single ? which he described as " totally streamlined and ready for radio " ? that " maybe if a major label company was able to convince people to take a more commercial route , maybe Pixies would have sold a whole bunch more records than they did . But those steps were just not required back in 1989 " . The song reached number three on the U.S. Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart .

Joey Santiago later recalled : " The tour manager asked , ' Hey , Arsenio Hall wants you to come on the show . ' We said , ' Well , what do they want to hear ? ' He said , ' Here Comes Your Man . ' No way . We told them we would love to go on , only if we did the song ' Tame ' . And they said , ' No , thank you . ' "

= = Use in other media = =

The song makes an appearance in indie rom @-@ com (500) Days of Summer , where it is sung by the main character Tom Hansen in a karaoke bar , and The Simpsons episode " Hardly Kirk @-@ ing " as well as Say It Isn 't So and Daddy 's Home .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by Black Francis .

" Here Comes Your Man " ? 3 : 00

" Wave of Mutilation " (UK Surf version) ? 3 : 00

" Into the White " ? 4 : 42

" Bailey 's Walk " ? 2 : 23