

= The Show (Girls Aloud song) =

" The Show " is a song recorded by British girl group Girls Aloud for their second studio album , What Will the Neighbours Say ? (2004) . It was released by Polydor Records on 13 September 2004 , as the lead single from the album . The song was written by Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Lisa Cowling , Jon Shave , and Tim Powell . The synth rhythm , composed by Shave , represents a change in musical direction from the band 's previous releases . " The Show " is an uptempo dance @-@ pop and electropop song with elements of the 1990 rave records . It garnered a positive response from music critics , who deemed it as another unique track produced by Xenomania , and was considered one of the best songs of 2004 by The Times .

" The Show " debuted and peaked at number 2 on the UK Singles Chart , continuing the band 's string of hits by becoming their fifth consecutive single to chart within the top three . The song also peaked inside the top ten in Ireland and certain European territories . In 2006 , it charted at number 67 on Australia 's singles chart . The accompanying music video was directed by Trudy Bellinger , and portrays the five members as characters working in a salon . To promote the song , Girls Aloud performed " The Show " at the 2004 Royal Variety Performance and at London gay nightclub G @-@ A @-@ Y. It was also performed on five of the group 's concert tours .

= = Background and release = =

Following a brief hiatus , Polydor Records enlisted Brian Higgins and Xenomania to produce Girls Aloud 's second album in its entirety , following the success of their debut album . Higgins explained that Polydor were not going to continue with the group 's contract unless he produced songs for the album . He continued , saying that his initial reaction was that he thought he would only be required to produce a couple of songs , however Polydor insisted that he produce the album in its entirety and that they thought only he understood what they wanted . The album was recorded from April to September 2004 . For the lead single from What Will the Neighbours Say ? , Polydor presented the band four singles choices , including " The Show " , " Wake Me Up " , " Graffiti My Soul " , and " Androgynous Girls " . Although " Wake Me Up " was the preferred choice , it was deemed too hard sounding and the record company didn 't want to take the risk , and they also added " Androgynous Girls " as a b @-@ side to the album 's second single three months later . " The pressure to come up with singles was , as always , immense . But [...] we were able to have a lot of fun working on ideas that were maybe a little too odd to be on the radio , " Higgins said . They decided to release " The Show " , which was debuted on 28 June 2004 , less than six months after the release of " Jump " . It was released on two different CD single formats , but did not feature any new b @-@ sides . A remix of " Jump " appears on the first disc , while the Gravitas Club Mix of " The Show " and an exclusive interview both appeared on the second disc . " The Show " was also released in Australia two years later , on 3 June 2006 , as the second single from the Australian version of Chemistry .

= = Composition = =

The song was written by Miranda Cooper , Brian Higgins , Lisa Cowling , Jon Shave , and Tim Powell . Contrary to the verse @-@ chorus form that is typically used in modern pop music , " The Show " opts for a less conventional song structure . It was noted for its intricacy . The song 's lyrics , which contain an anti @-@ promiscuity message , " set in motion a writing style that would come to epitomise Girls Aloud 's music . " In the group 's 2008 autobiography Dreams That Glitter - Our Story , Cheryl Cole described Girls Aloud 's cover of the Pointer Sisters ' " Jump " as " the point when we realized everything we 'd been doing was quite down and moody [...] and that 's not what people wanted . " As their first single following the cover , " The Show " served as an introduction to Girls Aloud 's new sound , being " their most risqué cut at the time . " Rather than the guitar that dominated the band 's first three singles , " The Show " mostly utilises synthesisers . The synth rhythm was composed by a Xenomania musician named Jon Shave . MusicOMH contributor John Murphy deemed the track 's composition similar to " Love Machine " , which he considered inspired

by " ' 80s synth pop . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" The Show " was described by BBC Music as " a feisty , thumping track with a positively rude bassline , " while a reviewer for Virgin Media described the song as a " rush of thrilling synth stabs and natty vocal hooks . " Paul Scott of Stylus Magazine referred to " The Show " as one of Girls Aloud 's best songs , deeming it " audacious to say the least . With its clipped delivery and gnarled synth riffs barely sweetened , it ? s SAW doing SST ; tungsten and gristle polished to an FM sheen . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian considered " The Show " and " Love Machine " as the perfect examples of Xenomania 's unique production , and added that the lead single " is based around a frantically exciting electronic noise that seems to have escaped from an early @-@ 1990s rave record . " In their best @-@ of @-@ year countdown , The Times noted that the song helped Xenomania to establish themselves as the best pop music production team .

= = = Chart performance = = =

On the week ending 17 July 2004 , " The Show " debuted at number 2 on the UK Singles Chart , being held of the top spot by Usher 's " Burn " . It fell to number 5 the following week . " The Show " is Girls Aloud 17th best @-@ selling single in the United Kingdom . The single also debuted and peaked at number 9 on the European Hot 100 Singles , falling to number 18 the following week . In Ireland , it debuted at number ten , and peaked at number 5 three weeks later . After its release in Australia in 2006 , " The Show " failed to make impact and missed the top forty of the ARIA Charts , debuting and peaking at number 67 .

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " The Show " was directed by Trudy Bellinger . After the video shoot , Girls Aloud decided it was time to change their choreographer , hiring Beth Honan , who continued to work with the band for several years . Walsh also said that the music video for " The Show " was her least favourite from the band . The story takes place in a salon called " Curls Allowed . " Each member of the band plays a character working in the salon , pampering and making @-@ up a variety of men . Nicola Roberts is " Chelsea Tanner , " who sprays insulting messages with fake bronzer onto her male customers ; Nadine Coyle is " Frenchie " , who ineptly tries to give her male customers facials ; Sarah Harding is " Supa Styler " , a hair stylist who fails to satisfy any of her customers ; Cheryl Cole is " Maxi Wax " , who makes the waxing process as painful as possible ; and Kimberley Walsh is " The Boss " , who looks on amusedly as her employees take their revenge on the salon 's male customers .

= = Live performances = =

Girls Aloud performed " The Show " at 2004 's Royal Variety Performance . During the performance , they changed from little black uniforms to sultry red dresses during the course of their routine . They also performed the song at London gay nightclub G @-@ A @-@ Y , to promote the release of the single , on 26 June 2004 . Girls Aloud have included " The Show " in five of their concert tours . For their first tour , 2005 's What Will the Neighbours Say ? Live , " The Show " served as the opening number . For 2006 's Chemistry Tour , each member have individual " stations " modeled after beauty salons , referencing the song 's music video . The stations are surrounded by frames , which are illuminated through the song . The group then uses the framework for their dance routine . The following year , on their first greatest hits tour , the band performed the song with a half @-@

naked male dance partner , using a bed for a prop . " The Show " was also performed on 2009 's Out of Control Tour , where the song was included in a greatest hits medley which closed the concerts . In 2013 , the song was performed in full during the Ten : The Hits Tour in the style of a Victoria 's Secret show .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " The Show " .

= = Personnel = =

Nadine Coyle ? co @-@ lead vocals
Cheryl Fernandez @-@ Versini ? co @-@ lead vocals
Sarah Harding ? co @-@ lead vocals
Nicola Roberts ? co @-@ lead vocals
Kimberley Walsh ? co @-@ lead vocals

= = Charts = =