

= Say You 'Il Be There =

" Say You 'Il Be There " is a song by English girl group Spice Girls . It was co @-@ written by the Spice Girls with Jonathan Buck and Eliot Kennedy , for their debut album Spice (1996) . Production duo Absolute incorporated a mix of pop and R & B into the song , which includes a harmonica solo , played by Judd Lander . The lyrics ? which described the things the group have been through together and how they always have been there for each other ? received mixed reviews from critics , who described them as " confusing " and felt that the R & B @-@ infused production was a " bid for street cred " . The song has also been covered by Danish singer @-@ songwriter MØ which also gained popularity .

The music video was inspired by the films Faster , Pussycat ! Kill ! Kill ! (1965) and Pulp Fiction (1994) , and features the group as a band of female techno @-@ warriors , who use martial arts and high @-@ tech ninja influenced weapons to capture a hapless male . It includes symbols of male disempowerment , and serves as an example of solidarity and the group 's bonding . It received positive reactions from fans and was nominated for numerous awards including the 1996 Smash Hits ! Awards , the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards , and the 1997 BRIT Awards .

Released as the album 's second single on 14 October 1996 , it became their 2nd top @-@ one single in the United Kingdom , and was certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) . It was a commercial success across Europe , reaching the top ten in most of the charts that it entered . As a result of its popularity , the song was released in 1997 in Australia , receiving a gold certification by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , and in North America , entering the top five in both , Canada and the United States .

= = Background = =

In October 1994 , armed with a catalogue of demos and dance routines , the Spice Girls began touring management agencies . They felt insecure about the lack of a contract and were frustrated by the direction in which Heart Management was steering them . In November , the group persuaded their managers ? father @-@ and @-@ son team Bob and Chris Herbert ? to set up a showcase performance in front of industry writers , producers and A & R men at the Nomis Studios in Shepherd 's Bush where they received an " overwhelmingly positive " reaction .

Due to the large interest in the group , the Herberts quickly set about creating a binding contract for them . Encouraged by the reaction they had received at the showcase , all five members delayed signing contracts on the legal advice from , amongst others , Victoria Beckham 's father , Anthony Adams . In March 1995 , because of the group 's frustration at their management 's unwillingness to listen to their visions and ideas , they parted from Heart Management . In order to ensure they kept control of their own work , the group retrieved the master recordings of their discography from the management offices . The next week they were supposed to meet with Sheffield @-@ based producer Eliot Kennedy . The Herberts arranged the session weeks before the group 's departure .

= = Writing and recording = =

Without access to Herbert 's address book , the group knew nothing of Kennedy 's whereabouts other than he lived in Sheffield . Melanie Brown and Geri Halliwell drove to Sheffield the day after the departure from Heart Management and looked for the first phone book they came across , Eliot was the third Kennedy that they called . That evening they went to his house and persuade him to work with them , the rest of the group travelled to Sheffield the next day . Kennedy commented about the session :

None of them played instruments , so I was left to do the music and get that vibe together . What I said to them was , ' Look , I 've got a chorus ? check this out ' . And I 'd sing them the chorus and the melody ? no lyrics or anything ? and straight away five pencils and pads came out and they were throwing lines at us . Ten minutes later the song was written . Then you go through and refine it . Then later , as you were recording it you might change a few thing here and there . But pretty

much it was a real quick process . They were confident in what they were doing , throwing it out there .

The group stayed at Kennedy 's house for the most part of the week . He named his studio Spice , after the group , because it had never been used before . Together , they composed two songs in the session : " Love Thing " and " Say You 'll Be There " . Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins ? the songwriters and production duo known as Absolute ? produced the song and recorded it for the most part at Olympic Studios in Barnes , London . At first , discussions were made about what song the group would release as their second single , originally it was going to be " Love Thing " , but in the end they decided to change it for " Say You 'll Be There " .

In December 1996 , while charting across Europe , " Say You 'll Be There " became the focus of a controversy when the Israeli soldier Idit Shechtman accused the group of copying her song " Bo Elai " (??? ??? , " Come to me ") , a highly similar song released two years earlier in Israel . Shechtman hired lawyers and threatened to sue . A spokesman of the group later declared : " Where there 's a hit , there 's a writ . There 's always someone who crawls out of the woodwork claiming to have written a hit song . We look forward to seeing her in court . "

= = Composition = =

" Say You 'll Be There " is a mid @-@ tempo dance @-@ pop song , with influences from G @-@ funk and R & B. It is written in the key of D ? major , with a time signature set on common time , and moves at a moderate tempo of 108 beats per minute . The song is constructed in a verse @-@ chorus form . It uses the sequence B ? m ? E ? ? G ? m ? D ? as its chord progression during the verses and the chorus . The third verse includes an instrumental solo , that closes with a coda , which consists in the group singing the chorus repeatedly until the song gradually fades out , while Melanie Chisholm adds the high harmony . Absolute played the instruments , except for the harmonica , which was played by Judd Lander , who also played it on Culture Club 's " Karma Chameleon " .

The lyrics , according to Brown are about relationships , and to be there for each other . That it does not matter to say merely that you love them , the only thing that they care is that their lover give his promise that he will be there for them whenever they need him . In " Say You 'll Be There " , the group exuded a brash confidence that was attractive to their teenage and young adult fans . The Spice Girls decide to be friends , not lovers , the clear message is that the relationship can be channelled and controlled by the girl , with an emphasis on stating where they come from and what they stand for .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The song received mixed reviews , some critics praised " Say You 'll Be There " as a catchy song , others dubbed it as merely a bid for credibility . Dele Fadele of the NME said that it is " another monstrously catchy tune from the fledging pop starlets " , and called it " state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art pop music for ' 96 " . Time magazine 's Christopher John Farley commented that the song 's " groove is penetrating , but the whole thing sounds suspiciously like an Earth , Wind and Fire song that 's just on the tip of one 's tongue " . Melissa Ruggieri of the Richmond Times @-@ Dispatch commented that the song " is a harmless , mid @-@ tempo foot @-@ tapper that will work just fine on Top 40 radio " . Edna Gundersen of the USA Today said that Spice " is assembly @-@ line dance @-@ pop " , adding that " only the funky ' Say You 'll Be There ' and touchingly cornball ' Mama ' hint at depth " . Steve Dollar of The Atlanta Journal @-@ Constitution said of the song " it 's all pure confection more sugar really than spice " , adding that it " even includes a Wonderesque harmonica solo among other obvious sources " .

Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune said that their first album " is a compendium of slick secondhand

urban pop encompassing [...] G @-@ funk synths on ' Say You 'll Be There ' [...] and Babyface 's guitar and strings balladry on ' 2 Become 1 ' " . Larry Flick of Billboard magazine compared it to " Wannabe " saying that it " is as immediately infectious , though it 's not nearly as silly and novelty @-@ driven " . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly called the song " a bid for street cred " , while David Browne from the same magazine commented about the confusing lyrics , " let 's see : She wants to be friends , he wants more , and yet she croons , ' I 'm giving you everything / All that joy can bring ' ? She 's as confused as I am . Better to revel in the delectably frothy girl @-@ group melody " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic , in a review of their debut album Spice , said that " what is surprising is how the sultry soul of ' Say You 'll Be There ' is more than just a guilty pleasure " . In a review of the group 's 2007 compilation album Greatest Hits , NME said that it is a " fine song in any age " .

== Chart performance ==

" Say You 'll Be There " was released in the UK on 14 October 1996 once the popularity of " Wannabe " began to fade . The high anticipation for their second single assured its commercial success . A week before the release , reports gave the single advanced sales of 334 @,@ 000 copies , ? the highest Virgin Records had ever recorded for a single ? while the song jumped eleven positions to number eight on the UK Airplay Chart . It debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number one , selling 350 @,@ 000 copies . It was the group 's first single to debut at number one , staying at the top position for two weeks , twelve weeks inside the top forty , and seventeen weeks inside the top seventy @-@ five . It sold 750 @,@ 000 copies by the end of October , and 940 @,@ 000 copies in total , receiving a platinum certification by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) in October 1996 .

" Say You 'll Be There " was commercially successful in Europe . On 16 November 1996 it reached the top of Eurochart Hot 100 for two weeks , and had a similar performance across the continent , topping the singles chart in Finland , and peaking inside the top ten in Austria , Belgium (both the Flemish and French charts) , Denmark , France , Ireland , the Netherlands , Norway , Spain , Sweden , and Switzerland . In New Zealand , it debuted on 10 November 1996 at number two , stayed ten weeks inside the top ten , and twenty @-@ three weeks in total . In Australia , the single debuted in January 1997 on the ARIA Charts at number twenty @-@ three , peaked at number twelve thirteen weeks later , remained on the chart for over five months , and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) .

In March 1997 , " Say You 'll Be There " debuted on the Canadian RPM singles chart at number ninety , reaching a peak of number five in its twelfth week . It ended at the thirty @-@ fifth position on the year @-@ end chart . In the United States , it was released on 6 May 1997 . The song set a record on the Billboard Hot 100 , when it debuted on 24 May 1997 at number five , with sales of 60 @,@ 000 copies . At the time this was the highest @-@ entry by a British act in the US . " Say You 'll Be There " peaked at number six on the Hot 100 Airplay and at four on the Hot Singles Sales , peaking at number three on the Hot 100 for three consecutive weeks . It sold over 900 @,@ 000 copies by December 1997 , and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . It peaked at two on the Mainstream Top 40 , and had crossover success , peaking at three on the Rhythmic Top 40 and at nine on the Hot Dance Singles Sales chart .

== Music video ==

The music video for " Say You 'll Be There " was directed by Vaughan Arnell , produced by Adam Saward and filmed on 7 ? 8 September 1996 , in the Mojave Desert , located in California . It was inspired by the films Pulp Fiction and Faster , Pussycat ! Kill ! Kill ! , the latter in which led the girls to adopt fictional identities , an idea that Halliwell came up with .

The video features the group as a band of female techno @-@ warriors , who use martial arts and high @-@ tech ninja influenced weapons to capture a hapless male , played by American model Tony Ward , who happens to appear in a Petty blue Dodge Charger Daytona . The clip is presented

as a narrative , with movie credits at the start introducing the Spice Girls as fantastic characters .

Melanie Chisholm played " Katrina Highkick " , Geri Halliwell 's alter @-@ ego was " Trixie Firecracker " , Emma Bunton took on the role of " Kung Fu Candy " , Victoria Beckham played " Midnight Miss Suki " , and " Blazin ' Bad Zula " was Melanie Brown 's alter @-@ ego . The shots of male bondage are unexplained , and function as symbols of male disempowerment , just as the rest of the clip serves to assert the power and fighting abilities of the women . At the end the group captures a confused icecream man who appears in his pick @-@ up truck . He is carried off on the roof of the car as a trophy . Another man with a cowboy hat is also captured and tied to his car . An alternate version of the video exists that removes the male bondage shots and replaces them with unseen shots of the girls . This version was never given an official release .

The video won for Best Pop Video at the 1996 Smash Hits ! Awards , for Best Video at the 1997 BRIT Awards , and was nominated for the Viewer 's Choice at the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards . It won the FAN.tastic Video honour ? given by online Billboard readers ? at the 1997 Billboard Music Video Awards , and was also nominated for Best New Artist in a Video and Best Pop / Rock Clip .

= = Live performances = =

The song was performed many times on television , in both Europe and the US , including An Audience with ... , Live & Kicking , Top of the Pops , the Bravo Supershow , Much Music , the Late Show with David Letterman , and Saturday Night Live . The performance at Saturday Night Live on 12 April 1997 was the first time " Say You 'll Be There " was performed with a live band ? their previous performances have all been either lip @-@ synched or sung to a recorded backing track . The group performed the song at the 1996 Smash Hits ! Awards , the 1997 Prince 's Trust Gala , the 1997 San Remo Festival , and the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards . In October 1997 , the group performed it as the fifth song of their first live concert at the Abdi ?pekçi Arena in Istanbul , Turkey . The performance was broadcast on Showtime in a pay @-@ per @-@ view event titled Spice Girls in Concert Wild ! , and was later included in the VHS and DVD release Girl Power ! Live in Istanbul .

The Spice Girls have performed the song on their three tours , the Spiceworld Tour , the Christmas in Spiceworld Tour , and the Return of the Spice Girls . The performance at the Spiceworld Tour 's final concert can be found on the video : Spice Girls Live at Wembley Stadium , filmed in London , on 20 September 1998 . It remained in the group 's live set after Halliwell 's departure . The second verse had originally been sung by Halliwell with Chisholm adding the harmonies . After Halliwell 's departure , Chisholm sang the lead and Bunton added the high harmony . For the Return of the Spice Girls Tour , it was performed as the third song from the show 's opening segment . The group dressed in tight bronze and copper coloured outfits made by Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " Say You 'll Be There " :

= = Credits and personnel = =

Published by Windswept Pacific Music Ltd / Sony ATV Music Publishing .

= = Charts = =