

= Just Like Heaven (song) =

" Just Like Heaven " is a song by British alternative rock band The Cure . The group wrote most of the song during recording sessions in southern France in 1987 . The lyrics were written by their frontman Robert Smith , who drew inspiration from a past trip to the sea shore with his future wife . Before Smith had completed the lyrics , an instrumental version of the song was used as the theme for the French television show Les Enfants du Rock .

" Just Like Heaven " was the third single released from their 1987 album Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me , while Smith 's memories of the trip formed the basis for the song 's accompanying music video . The song became the Cure 's first American hit and reached number 40 on the Billboard charts in 1988 . It has been praised by critics and covered by artists such as Dinosaur Jr . , Alvin and the Chipmunks , and Katie Melua . Smith has said he considers " Just Like Heaven " to be one of the band 's strongest songs .

= = Background and recording = =

In order to develop material for Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Smith forced himself to write music for 15 days of each month . During this regimen , he developed the chords and melody which form the basis of " Just Like Heaven " . Structurally , Smith found what he had written was similar to The Only Ones 's 1979 hit " Another Girl , Another Planet " . When he brought an instrumental demo of the song to the album recording sessions in Southern France , Cure drummer Boris Williams increased the tempo and added an opening drum fill which inspired Smith to introduce each instrument singularly and in sequence .

When the French TV show Les Enfants du Rock asked The Cure to provide a theme song , Smith offered the instrumental version . As he explained , " It meant the music would be familiar to millions of Europeans even before it was released " . He completed the lyrics when the group moved the sessions to Studio Miraval , located in Le Val , Provence @-@ Alpes @-@ Côte d 'Azur . The band completed the song quickly , and at the time Smith considered it to be the most obvious potential single from the songs the band had recorded during their two @-@ week stay at Miraval .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Just Like Heaven " is written in the key of A major and consists of an A ? E ? Bm ? D chord progression which repeats throughout the song , except during the chorus when the band plays an F ? m ? G ? D progression . The song 's central hook is formed from a descending guitar riff which appears between song verses and in parts of the bridge and the last verse . This guitar line contrasts with the " fuzzier mix " of the rhythm guitars .

According to Smith , " The song is about hyperventilating ? kissing and fainting to the floor . " The lyrics were inspired by a trip with his then @-@ girlfriend (and later wife) Mary Poole to Beachy Head in southern England . Smith said the opening line of the song (" Show me , show me , show me how you do that trick ") refers to his childhood memories of mastering magic tricks , but added " on another [level] , it 's about a seduction trick , from much later in my life " .

= = Reception = =

" Just Like Heaven " was the third single released from the band 's Kiss Me Kiss Me Kiss Me album . Melody Maker 's review of the single was undecided ; writer David Stubbs described it as " a colourful , fluttery , fussy thing " and " unimpeachable " , but added , " [it] turns my face green , as if having consumed too many truffles . " The song was The Cure 's eleventh top 40 hit in the UK , and stayed on the charts there for five weeks during October and November 1987 , peaking at number 29 . In the United States , " Just Like Heaven " became The Cure 's first top 40 hit when in January 1988 it reached number 40 on the Billboard Hot 100 for one week .

Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic said " the stately ' Just Like Heaven ' [...] is remarkable and

helps make the album [Kiss Me , Kiss Me , Kiss Me] one of the group 's very best " . Ned Raggett , also of Allmusic , wrote that the song was " instantly memorable , [and] sparkling with rough energy [...] it 's a perfect showcase for Robert Smith 's ear for wistful , romantic numbers . His main guitar line , a descending , gently chiming melody , contrasts perfectly against the fuzzier mix of the rhythm guitars , while Simon Gallup 's bass and Boris Williams ' strong , immediate drums make for a great introduction to the track . " Barry Walsh of Slant magazine said The Cure " ... is at the top of its game [...] on the simply stellar ' Just Like Heaven ' . Glistening descending guitar lines , Gallup 's throbbing bass line , and Williams ' authoritative thumping frame a typically lovelorn Smith lyric , with the end result being one of The Cure 's finest singles , and perhaps one of the best pop singles of the late ' 80s . "

Although the later singles " Lovesong " and " Friday I 'm in Love " reached higher chart positions , " Just Like Heaven " was the band 's American breakthrough , and has been described as " in American terms , at least , the one Cure song everyone seems to know . " The song inspired the name of , and was used in the 2005 film Just Like Heaven . In 2004 Rolling Stone magazine ranked it number 483 on their list of the " 500 Greatest Songs of All Time " . In 2005 Entertainment Weekly ranked " Just Like Heaven " 25th on its list of " The 50 Greatest Love Songs " , saying , " Turns out guys who wear black eyeliner can be happy . " The following year the song placed at number 22 on VH1 's poll " 100 Greatest Songs of the 80s " .

Robert Smith said he considers " Just Like Heaven " to be one of the band 's strongest works , and called it " the best pop song The Cure have ever done " . Several high @-@ profile fans have expressed their appreciation of the song . Musician Ben Folds told Blender " everything about it ? the songwriting , the music ? is state of the art . It ? s as good as it gets . Anytime I hear it on the radio or a mix tape , I jump around like a freak . " J Mascis said his band Dinosaur Jr . ' s affection for the song inspired them to record a cover version that was released in 1989 . On 16 July 2006 , " Just Like Heaven " was played as a wake @-@ up call for the crew of Space Shuttle Discovery on their flight STS @-@ 121 at the request of astronaut Piers Sellers ' family ; Sellers told mission control center that the song reminded him of " the wild , happy , beer @-@ drinking years of my youth . " Just like Heaven was used extensively as the playout track on episode ten of the current series of the BBC TV drama New Tricks " The Queen 's Speech " which was broadcast on Monday 20 October 2014 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Just Like Heaven " was directed by Tim Pope , who had directed all of the band 's previous videos since 1982 's " Let 's Go to Bed " . The video was filmed in England 's Pinewood Studios in October 1987 . Set on a cliff overlooking a sea , the video recreates many of the memories detailed in the song 's lyrics . When a fanzine asked Smith what the song was about , he said it was inspired by " something that happened to me a long time ago ? see the video ! " While Smith had claimed for years that the video was shot at the same place that inspired the song , he later admitted that the bulk of it was filmed in a studio , utilising footage of the water and cliffs of Beachy Head taken for the band 's 1985 video for " Close to Me " .

During the song 's piano solo the sky turns to nighttime and the band is shown clad in white shirts . Mary Poole appears in this sequence as a woman dressed in white dancing with Smith . As Smith explained , " Mary dances with me in the video because she was the girl [in the song] , so it had to be her . " Pope later commented , " [Poole] can honestly lay claim to being the only featured female in any Cure video , ever . "

= = Cover versions = =

A number of cover versions of " Just Like Heaven " have been released , including recordings in Spanish , French , and German .

Katie Melua recorded a cover for the 2005 film Just Like Heaven , which also appeared on her 2005 album Piece by Piece . In the UK the cover was released as a double A @-@ side single with " I

Cried for You " in late 2005 , and in the U.S. it became a minor adult contemporary radio hit in 2006 . In 2007 , Alvin and the Chipmunks covered the song for their video game Alvin and the Chipmunks , which also appeared in the 2011 video game Alvin and the Chipmunks : Chipwrecked .

AFI has covered " Just Like Heaven " as well on MTV Icon on The Cure in 2004 and have since incorporated it into their tour rotation for their upcoming album Burials .

Goldfinger covered the song on their 1999 album Darrin 's Coconut Ass : Live from Omaha Punk band 30footFALL also covered the song in 1999 on their album Ever Revolving , Never Evolving . Indie rock band Gatsbys American Dream covered the song on the 2005 compilation album Punk Goes 80 's . Jazz singer Kat Edmonson covered the song in 2009 .

Deadsy recorded a version of the song on their 1995 demo . This version was much slower than the original .

Robert Smith 's personal favourite is the cover recorded by American alternative rock band Dinosaur Jr . , which was released as a single in the UK in 1989 (and 1990 in the US) . Dinosaur Jr . ' s version has a faster tempo and showcases the band 's loud and distortion @-@ heavy sound . The band 's frontman J Mascis explained , " We recorded it for a compilation album , but when we finished it we liked it so much we didn 't want to give it to them . " Smith said , " J Mascis sent me a cassette , and it was so passionate . It was fantastic . I 've never had such a visceral reaction to a cover version before or since " , and even said the cover has " influenced how we play it live " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =