

= Suga Mama =

" Suga Mama " is a song recorded by American R & B singer Beyoncé Knowles for her second studio album , B 'Day ( 2006 ) . It was written by Knowles , Rich Harrison , and Makeba Riddick , and produced by Harrison and Knowles . " Suga Mama " is influenced by 1970s funk and rock music . An R & B and soul song , " Suga Mama " is built on a hip hop and jazzy beat , and samples Jake Wade and the Soul Searchers ' song " Searching for Soul " , written by Chuck Middleton . Lyrically , it features the female protagonist willing to pay large sums of money to keep her love interest contented .

" Suga Mama " was generally well received by music critics , who noted it as one of the highlights from B 'Day and complimented Harrison 's production . However , there was some limited criticism about Knowles ' vocal delivery on the song . Though not released as a single , " Suga Mama " had a music video filmed in black @-@ and @-@ white , and directed by Melina Matsoukas and Knowles , for the B 'Day Anthology Video Album . It received a limited release to British music TV channels . " Suga Mama " was added on the set list of Knowles ' world tour , The Beyoncé Experience ( 2007 ) .

= = Recording = =

Knowles enlisted Harrison as one of the five co @-@ producers of B 'Day , and she arranged for him , Sean Garrett and Rodney Jerkins to be given individual rooms at Sony Music Studios in New York City . Knowles said she fostered " healthy competition " between the producers by going into each of their rooms and commenting on the " great beats " the others were creating . She and Harrison had previously collaborated on her 2003 single " Crazy in Love " , which uses a prominent soul music sample in a similar manner to " Suga Mama " . Fox News said that " Suga Mama " and " Freakum Dress " , Harrison 's other contribution to B 'Day " fall short of originality but mimic the Chi Lites [ sic ] percussion section [ of " Crazy in Love " ] yet again " , adding , " Harrison is like the Indiana Jones of soul , constantly pulling out forgotten gems of the past for sampling [ ... ] You can 't help but think : Thank God someone wrote music in the past that can be repurposed now . "

= = Music and theme = =

" Suga Mama " is a moderate R & B and soul song that displays influences of the 1960s as well as 1970s funk and rock music . It also song contains limited elements of the 1980s go @-@ go and sounds more closely resembling live music than Knowles ' previous recordings . According to the sheet music published by Hal Leonard Corporation , " Suga Mama " was composed using common time in the key of G minor , with a moderate tempo of 94 beats per minute .

Knowles ' vocals span from the low note of C4 to the high note of G5 as she sings on a hip hop and jazzy beat . The main instrumentation is provided by a bluesy guitar . IGN Music noted that " Suga Mama " is built of a " static grit groove " , and Jody Rosen of Entertainment Weekly wrote that the song consists of a mixture of " brute power and slick syncopation " . It samples Jake Wade and the Soul Searchers ' song " Searching for Soul " , which was written by Chuck Middleton .

" Suga Mama " features the female protagonist offering up the keys to her house and car , and her credit card just to keep her love interest and his good loving at home , presumably so that he can listen to her collection of old soul records . These interpretations are shown in the lines : " It 's so good to the point that I 'll do anything just to keep you home ... Tell me what you want me to buy , my accountant 's waiting on the phone ... " . The woman also sees the man as a sex object , asking him to sit on her lap and " take it off while I watch you perform " . Staff members of USA Today contrasted " Suga Mama " with the 1999 song " Bills , Bills , Bills " by Destiny 's Child ( of which Knowles was a member ) , writing that " From needing somebody to pay her automo @-@ bills , [ Knowles is ] now doling out the cash as a satisfaction @-@ seeking ' Suga Mama ' . " Dave de Sylvi of Sputnikmusic noted that Knowles sings : " I could be like a jolly rancher that you get from the corner store " with the same sense of mischief as Christina Aguilera on ' Candyman ' ( 2007 ) . " On the other hand , Gail Mitchell of Billboard magazine noticed that the song 's lyrical arrangement was

similar to that of Tina Turner 's work . A remix of the song features American rapper Consequence .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received generally positive reviews . Jim DeRogatis of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times , who reviewed B 'Day negatively , wrote that " Suga Mama " was the " best moment " on the album , and that it " owes much of its charm to lifts from Jake Wade and the Soul Searchers " . Likewise , Bernard Zuel The Sydney Morning Herald cited " Suga Mama " as one of the " good moments " on B 'Day , writing : " ... followed by a dud ... the slinky funk of ' Suga Mama ' is trodden on by the mechanical ' Upgrade U ' and then trampled by the posturing and eventually annoying ' Ring the Alarm ' " . Chris Richards of The Washington Post commented that Rich Harrison " delivers again with ' Suga Mama ' , twisting a vintage Soul Searchers sample into a gritty , loping groove . Beyonce sounds right at home on this one ... And while it doesn 't quite eclipse ' Crazy in Love ' , it 's still B 'Day 's finest moment . " Andy Kellman of Allmusic described " Suga Mama " as a " spectacularly layered " track .

Eb Haynes of AllHipHop considered " Suga Mama " to be an embodiment of " the woman wearing and buying \$ 500 stiletto pumps . " Dave de Sylvi of Sputnikmusic wrote that Knowles is as " sweet and faux @-@ innocent " as the 1960s soul stars in the song . Jody Rosen of Entertainment Weekly wrote that songs such as " Suga Mama " showcase of Knowles ' virtuosity and continued , " No one ? not R. Kelly , not Usher , to say nothing of her rival pop divas ? can match Beyoncé 's genius for dragging her vocal lines [ ... ] " . By contrast , IGN Music criticized Knowles ' vocals in the song , writing that she " comes in over the low @-@ end track with too much earnestness , drowning out the funky grooves with her piercing dramatic mezzo @-@ soprano . If she were a throaty alto , she 'd fit the beats that have been served up to her much more appropriately . "

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Suga Mama " was released to British music channels in April 2007 . It was shot in black @-@ and @-@ white and was co @-@ directed by Melina Matsoukas alongside Knowles for the B 'Day Anthology Video Album , which was released the same month ; " Suga Mama " was one of eight videos shot in two weeks for the video album . It begins with Knowles sitting in a chair , wearing men 's clothing and smoking a cigar . She gets up and begins to pole dance . The remainder of the video presents Knowles dancing on top of a sugar cube , dancing with backing dancers whose faces are partially concealed , lying in a circle of light , and riding a mechanical bull . Knowles said she is meant to " slowly become a woman " during the video , adding " Well , a sexier woman ? I 'm always a woman . "

Knowles rehearsed the pole dancing using two ballet bars , which was when it was decided to add a pole above her head to form an arc . Though she is from Texas , she had never previously been on mechanical bull . There were no problems during warm @-@ ups , but the man operating the bull during the video shoot programmed it to go faster , causing Knowles to fall off when she tried to perform tricks such as lifting up her foot , leaning back and turning around . To minimize the time Knowles spent on the bull , the director shot the sequence at twelve frames per second ( see frame rate ) and Knowles sang twice as quickly , but it wasn 't until 4 : 00 am that they completed work .

= = Live performances = =

Although Knowles did not perform " Suga Mama " in any televised appearances , the song was a part of her set list on The Beyoncé Experience ( 2007 ) . In Los Angeles , Knowles performed segments of the song , dressed in a golden , translucent slip and golden , sparkling panties . It was executed without backup dancers , but with live instrumentation and only backup singers toward the performance 's conclusion . " Suga Mama " was included on her 2007 live album The Beyoncé Experience Live . Bill Friskics @-@ Warren of The Tennessean wrote that the song " was even sexier and more gutbucket than on record " .

