

= Baby Boy ( Beyoncé song ) =

" Baby Boy " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Beyoncé , featuring singer Sean Paul . It was written by Beyoncé , Sean Paul , Scott Storch , Robert Waller , and Jay @-@ Z for Beyoncé 's debut solo studio album *Dangerously in Love* ( 2003 ) . It was also on the Grammy Award @-@ winning album *Dutty Rock* which was re @-@ released in 2003 . Containing a lyrical interpolation of " No Fear " by hip hop group O.G.C , " Baby Boy " is an R & B and dancehall song with reggae and Arabic music influences ; its lyrics detail a woman 's fantasies .

Columbia Records released " Baby Boy " as the second single from *Dangerously in Love* to United States radios on August 3 , 2003 . It was well received by music critics , who complimented the Indian , Middle Eastern music and dancehall styles in the song , as well as Beyoncé 's collaboration with Paul . " Baby Boy " topped the US Billboard Hot 100 chart for nine consecutive weeks , and was Beyoncé 's longest @-@ running solo number @-@ one single until 2007 . It reached the top ten in many countries , and was certified platinum in Australia and the US .

The song 's music video was directed by Jake Nava and mostly shows Beyoncé dancing in various locations . " Baby Boy " has remained a staple of Beyoncé 's concert set list . The American Society of Composers , Authors , and Publishers ( ASCAP ) recognized it as one of the most performed songs of 2005 . During the same year , US singer @-@ songwriter Jennifer Armour filed a copyright infringement lawsuit claiming that Beyoncé had used the primary musical hook from her song " Got a Little Bit of Love for You " . The suit was dismissed .

= = Background and writing = =

In 2002 , Beyoncé went to Miami , Florida , in the United States , to work with American record producer Scott Storch for her debut solo album , *Dangerously in Love* . She and Storch wrote " Baby Boy " , with contributions from American songwriter Robert Waller and Beyoncé 's then @-@ boyfriend , hip hop artist Jay Z. The song also contains a lyrical interpolation of " No Fear " by hip hop group O.G.C. used towards the ending of the song : " We steppin ' in hotter this year " .

Once the track was supposedly done , Beyoncé had the idea that it would be " perfect " if Jamaican reggae artist Sean Paul contributed a vocal track . Beyoncé contacted Paul about a possible collaboration for " Baby Boy " . Sean Paul agreed , and flew in from Jamaica to join the recording sessions of the song . He contributed a toast verse , and they finished recording " Baby Boy " in March 2003 , during the later stages of the album 's recording .

= = Music and theme = =

" Baby Boy " is a midtempo contemporary R & B and dancehall song with reggae , house and Arabian music influences . It was composed using common time in the key of C minor , and set in moderate groove of 92 beats per minute . Storch 's knowledge on Indian and Middle Eastern music contributes to its Eastern influences . Neil Drumming of *Entertainment Weekly* noted that " ' Baby Boy ' goes full @-@ tilt Bollywood ' n da hood , with Sean Paul ripping a pulsing tabla raga " . Beyoncé 's vocals are accompanied by clicky and castanet @-@ sounding beats , synthesized handclaps and slaps . According to Roger Friedman of Fox News Channel , " Baby Boy " is based on the 1995 reggae song " Here Comes the Hotstepper " , performed by Jamaican singer Ini Kamoze .

" Baby Boy " is considered to be a sequel in ways to " ' 03 Bonnie & Clyde " ; a 2002 Jay @-@ Z song featuring Beyoncé . The lyrics detail a woman 's fantasies , and in keeping with the album 's overall theme , Beyoncé 's deemed them as personal to her . Paul remarked , " She 's telling me about her fantasies and picturing me and her going here and there , all over the world ... I 'm answering back , like , ' I 'm wit it ' . " The lyrics are constructed in the toast ? chorus ? verse form ; Sean Paul performs the toasting while Beyoncé sings all other verses and choruses . The pattern is repeated twice ; a further chorus and verse follow , resolving at the toasting and final verse .

= = Release and reception = =

" Baby Boy " was released as the second single from the debut studio album , Dangerously in Love . It was added to United States contemporary hit radios and rhythmic contemporary radios playlists on August 3 , 2003 . The song was released in maxi single in Canada on October 7 , 2003 , and as a CD single in Germany and in the US on October 13 , and October 14 , 2003 respectively . " Baby Boy " was included in the revamped version of Paul 's second album , Dutty Rock ( 2003 ) .

" Baby Boy " was generally well received by critics . Rolling Stone magazine reviewer Anthony DeCurtis wrote that Beyoncé sounded as if she was " having fun " on the song , while Stephen Thomas Erlewine of the online music guide service Allmusic described Beyoncé 's vocals as " assured and sexy " . Mark Anthony Neal of the international webzine PopMatters , regarded " Baby Boy " as one of the " high @-@ profile collaborations " on Dangerously in Love . Lisa Verrico of the daily British newspaper The Times described the song a " Latino @-@ tinged collaboration ... Paul does a reggae rap in the middle , but it 's when he chats while Beyoncé half raps that the pair have real chemistry " . Yancey Strickler of the Flak magazine wrote that " ' Baby Boy ' ' s diwali stutter is enhanced by Sean Paul 's dancehall monotone " .

James Anthony of the British newspaper The Guardian commented that the track " bridges the gap between the genres of R & B and dancehall " . Los Angeles Times writer Natalie Nichols wrote that " the ... house @-@ spiced ' Baby Boy ' successfully meld [ s ] [ Beyoncé 's ] breathy cooing with hip , interesting production . " British record label EMI was honored by the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers ( ASCAP ) during the 2005 Pop Music Awards as Publisher of the Year for publishing " Baby Boy " , among other songs . Scott Storch earned Songwriter of the Year at the same event .

= = Chart performance = =

" Baby Boy " attained a positioning on the commercial charts before its physical release in the US . The track led to a higher Billboard 200 chart placing for Dangerously in Love , and helped the album to attain multi @-@ platinum certification in the US . The single debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 , the official singles chart of America , at number fifty @-@ seven , while " Crazy in Love " was still in the top spot . " Baby Boy " dominated the US airplays , and ultimately reaching the top of the Hot 100 . It reached the chart 's top spot eight weeks after its debut , and stayed there for nine consecutive weeks . The single stayed number one for a week longer than " Crazy in Love " had , becoming Beyoncé 's longest @-@ charting number @-@ one single . The feat was not broken until Beyoncé 's 2006 single " Irreplaceable " , from her second album B 'Day ( 2006 ) , which spent ten weeks at the top spot in late 2006 to early 2007 due to heavy radio play . " Baby Boy " stayed on the Hot 100 for twenty @-@ nine weeks , and was certified platinum on June 6 , 2006 , by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . " Baby Boy " achieved success on Billboard crossover and mainstream radio charts , appearing on the Top 40 Tracks , Rhythmic Top 40 and Top 40 Mainstream , as well as on the Hot 100 Airplay , Hot Dance Airplay and Hot Dance Music / Club Play . As at October 6 , 2010 , " Baby Boy " had sold 6 @,@ 000 physical units in the US .

Internationally , " Baby Boy " performed just as well , peaking inside the top ten on most charts . The single debuted at number two in the United Kingdom , becoming the chart 's highest debut and " Baby Boy " ' s highest entry internationally . Though it spent eleven weeks on the chart , it failed to top it ( being held off by " Where Is the Love ? " by The Black Eyed Peas ) . In most European countries , the single entered the top ten . In Australia and New Zealand , " Baby Boy " peaked at number three and two , respectively . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for shipment in excess of 70 @,@ 000 units .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Baby Boy " was filmed by English director Jake Nava , who also shot Beyoncé 's " Crazy in Love " video . It was recorded in Miami , Florida on August 7 ? 8 , 2003 . Parts

of the video were captured in a house with different style rooms : one in a Japanese style and one in an old English style .

Scenes featuring Beyoncé and Paul are shown separately . The video begins with Paul sitting on a throne while toasting ; Beyoncé is leaning against a wall and dancing . In the following scene , Beyoncé is seen on a bed tossing herself . Paul is shown with several women who are lying on the floor caressing each other . Beyoncé walks towards the beach ; she spots a man , and the two touch and flirt . As the second verse of the begins , Beyoncé is at a party . At the party Beyoncé decides to dance with the same man that she interacted with earlier . Then , water floods the floor of the party as she sings " the dance floor becomes the sea " . As the second chorus of the song begins , the video is cut with scenes of Beyoncé and four back @-@ up dancers dancing on a platform in the sand on the beach . The original track is interrupted towards the end with an Arabic instrumental , designed for the music video . This section showcases Beyoncé vigorously dancing on the sand .

Sal Cinquemani of the online publication Slant Magazine , described the video as a " baby @-@ oil @-@ logged follow @-@ up " to " Crazy in Love " ' s " bootylicious video " . In 2013 , John Boone and Jennifer Cady of E ! Online placed the video at number nine on their list of Beyoncé 's ten best music videos , praising the extended belly @-@ dancing breakdown . " Baby Boy " premiered on MTV 's program Total Request Live on August 25 , 2003 at number ten and reached the top spot . It stayed on the show for forty @-@ one days , the same chart run " Me , Myself and I " earned .

= = Live performances = =

Beyoncé first performed " Baby Boy " live at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards ; she sang it in a medley with the pre @-@ recorded vocals of Paul . Beyoncé later sang " Baby Boy " with Paul at the 2003 MTV Europe Music Awards . " Baby Boy " has been included on the set list for most of Beyoncé 's concert tours . It served as opening song of her Dangerously in Love World Tour that began in late 2003 . During her performance of the song on the tour , she was initially suspended from the ceiling of the arena that was gradually lowered to a red lounge ? a prop she also used during the 2003 MTV VMAs . The footage taken in London 's Wembley Arena in the UK was included on the Live at Wembley concert DVD . Beyoncé also performed " Baby Boy " with her former group Destiny 's Child 's farewell tour Destiny Fulfilled ... And Lovin ' It , and it was included on the Destiny 's Child : Live in Atlanta concert DVD .

" Baby Boy " was a part of Beyoncé 's set list on The Beyoncé Experience in Los Angeles and I Am ... World Tour . On August 5 , 2007 , Beyoncé performed the song at the Madison Square Garden in Manhattan ; wearing a belly @-@ dancer @-@ type outfit , she descended the staircase holding an umbrella and was met by three guys wearing fatigues . A short section of the reggae classic " Murder She Wrote " was incorporated into " Baby Boy " . Jon Pareles of The New York Times praised the performance , writing that Beyoncé " needs no distractions from her singing , which can be airy or brassy , tearful or vicious , rapid @-@ fire with staccato syllables or sustained in curlicued melismas . But she was in constant motion , strutting in costumes " . She performed in a similar arrangement at the Los Angeles ' Staples Center on September 2 , 2007 . She was dressed in a belly dancing outfit , and the performance was executed with several male backup dancers and live instrumentation . Beyoncé re @-@ produced the dance she executed in the song 's music video . When Beyoncé performed " Baby Boy " in Sunrise , Florida on June 29 , 2009 , she was wearing a glittery gold leotard . When her performance began , she was suspended in the air , and then lowered to the B @-@ Stage to where she sang " Baby Boy " with an excerpt from Dawn Penn 's " You Don 't Love Me ( No , No , No ) " . Animated graphics of turntables , faders and other club equipment were projected behind the dancers and musicians . Beyoncé was accompanied by two drummers , two keyboardists , a percussionist , a horn section , three imposing backup vocalists called the Mamas and a lead guitarist , Bibi McGill . " Baby Boy " was included on her live albums The Beyoncé Experience Live ( 2007 ) , and the deluxe edition of I Am ... World Tour ( 2010 ) . At the 2005 ASCAP Pop Music Awards , " Baby Boy " along with Beyoncé 's two other songs ? " Me , Myself and I " and " Naughty Girl " ? were recognized as three of the most performed songs of 2004 .

" Baby Boy " was performed by Beyoncé in a pink fringe dress at a concert at Palais Nikaïa in Nice , France , on June 20 , 2011 , and at the Glastonbury Festival on June 26 , 2011 , where she brought out British trip hop singer Tricky to guest on the song . In May , 2012 , Beyoncé performed the song during her Revel Presents : Beyoncé Live revue in Atlantic City , New Jersey , United States ' entertainment resort , hotel , casino and spa , Revel . Jim Farber of the Daily News wrote , " The first , and last parts of the show stressed the steeliest Beyoncé , told in bold songs ... [ like ] dancehall @-@ inflected ' Baby Boy . ' " On February 3 , 2013 , Beyoncé performed the song during the Super Bowl XLVII halftime show .

= = Copyright infringement lawsuit = =

In 2005 , US singer @-@ songwriter Jennifer Armour filed a copyright infringement lawsuit , claiming that Beyoncé had used some lyrics and the musical hook from her song " Got a Little Bit of Love for You " . In 2003 , Armour 's former label manager had submitted a demo recordings to record labels , including Beyoncé 's Columbia Records and Sean Paul 's Atlantic Records . According to the district court , an Expert witness ( Chair , Dept. of Music Theory & Composition , Shepherd School of Music , Rice University ) determined the songs to be " substantially similar " ( a requirement for an infringement finding ) . With regard to the musical hook , the Expert stated in his report , " When the aural comparisons of the two songs are presented in the key of C Minor ( for easy comparison ) and presented back @-@ to @-@ back , in A ? B ? A ? B fashion , even the least musically inclined listener should immediately determine that the two songs are strikingly similar ; I daresay that many listeners may even perceive them as being the same song ! And again , transposing a song for this purpose does not alter any fundamental qualities or characteristics of the song but merely assists the ability of those unfamiliar with the technicalities of music in making a comparison . " The district court judge nonetheless ruled that she , herself , could not hear the similarities between the two songs and dismissed the case , denying the motion for the songs or case to be heard by a jury .

On appeal , the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court 's ruling , but ruled with different reasoning . It held that there was no infringement based on Beyoncé 's claim that Armour 's demo tape was received shortly after the writing of Beyoncé 's song had been substantially completed . However , the court did not address the issue of substantial similarity .

= = Formats and track listing = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Chart precession and succession = = =