

= Bad Day (Daniel Powter song) =

" Bad Day " is a pop song from Canadian singer Daniel Powter 's self @-@ titled debut studio album (2005) . It was written by Powter and produced by Jeff Dawson and Mitchell Froom . Powter and Dawson recorded the song in 2002 but could not find a record label to release it at first . The song was first used in a French Coca @-@ Cola television advertisement in Christmas 2004 before its official release . Tom Whalley , Warner Bros. Records ' chairman and CEO , offered Powter a contract after hearing a demo tape of it . This track ended up being released as the lead single in Europe in early 2005 .

Although " Bad Day " received mixed critical reviews , with some music critics finding a " universal appeal " and others claiming a lack of depth in its lyrics , it was a commercial success . In 2005 , the single charted in the top five in more than ten countries worldwide , and became the most played song on European radio . After its European success , it was released in the United States where it topped Billboard 's Hot 100 , Pop 100 , Adult Top 40 , and Adult Contemporary charts . In 2006 , it became the first song ever to sell two million digital copies in the United States . After another million were sold , it was certified three @-@ times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) in 2009 . It was certified platinum in Australia and Canada , gold in Denmark , Germany and the United Kingdom , and also received a certification in France and Japan .

The accompanying music video for " Bad Day " was directed by Marc Webb and reached 9 @.@ 8 million views in 2006 . The video depicts two downcast people sharing a similar routine until they meet each other at the end of the video . The song was used for advertisements and television programs , most prominently as American Idol 's elimination song . Different shows and artists covered and parodied " Bad Day " , including Saturday Night Live and Alvin and the Chipmunks . Powter has also performed the song on television shows including The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Ellen DeGeneres Show , and during his concert tours in North America and Europe . The song 's success made it Powter 's " anthem " and would be included on his later compilation albums B @-@ Sides (2007) and Best of Me (2010) .

= = Background and writing = =

After leaving MacEwan University in Edmonton at 20 , Powter moved to Vancouver , British Columbia where he played keyboards before he started composing songs . In 1997 , he partnered with music producer Jeff Dawson ; they recorded " Bad Day " in 2002 . For two weeks , Powter had a melody that " wouldn 't go away " from his mind . Thinking of a lyric that would fit the melody , he thought an " up and poppy " lyric would make it " the cheesiest song of all time " . He then thought " bad day " would be a good choice for the chorus , and wrote the lyrics partly based on his life as " a struggling musician " . It was the last song to be composed for his album , with Powter writing it in an hour during a ferry journey between Victoria and Vancouver . Powter said it was not a lyrically elaborate song , but that : " mostly it 's about phonics . It 's about words that sing great . I was mumbling something , and those words came out . "

Dawson and Powter included the song on a disc that was offered to record labels that asked Powter to audition in New York ; but his lack of stage presence led to the labels turning him down . Disappointed , he returned to Vancouver to move on because : " once a record company says no , it 's difficult to come around again " . After this failure , his new representative , Gary Stamler , played a demo tape for Tom Whalley , chairman and CEO of Warner Bros. Records . Whalley offered Powter a contract but he was reluctant to sign it because he considered himself primarily a songwriter . He accepted the offer in April 2003 and , along with Dawson and producer Mitchell Froom , worked on his album and the song in Los Angeles , California . The album was originally recorded in Powter 's Vancouver apartment but Warner Bros. asked that it be rerecorded . However , because Froom wanted to keep its " original feel [ing] " , in Powter 's words it was just " touch [ed] up " .

= = Composition = =

" Bad Day " is a " midtempo pop " power ballad , performed in a moderate groove and accompanied by a piano . The song is composed in the key E ? major , and uses syncopated 16th @-@ note rhythms . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Warner Bros. , Powter 's vocals range from the note of E ? 4 and D ? 6 . Its instrumentation differs from " the scores of adolescent thrust @-@ rockers " and includes , as Powter referred to it , " aggressive " drums . David Browne of Entertainment Weekly said it is : " addressed to anyone who 's feeling depressed ... but [in contrast] its grand , panoramic arrangement wants to pump you up " . Simon Donohue of the Manchester Evening News commented its sound " seagues [sic] from boy band banality to Foo Fighters @-@ style raucous rock " . According to Winston Kung of PopMatters , it is " in tune with the zeitgeist " .

The lyrics of " Bad Day " were said to have a universal appeal by Alan Connor of BBC News Magazine as they have an " everyman breeziness " because the song 's subject can be any person going through a bad daytime . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic described it as : " a loping , sunny tune that pretty much has the opposite sentiment of its title " . Although About.com 's Bill Lamb described its lyrics as having a " reassuring , comforting " tone , Powter said the song " mak [es] fun of self @-@ absorbed and narcissistic people who bitch and gripe " . He also affirmed : " It 's not literally about having a bad day , it 's more about not taking yourself too seriously and complaining about trivial things " .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received mixed reviews by commentators ; some reviewers praised it for its composition , while other critics felt that the lyrics were not profound . Billboard 's Chuck Taylor called the song " instantly memorable " and praised its instrumentation for being different " from the scores of adolescent thrust @-@ rockers currently dominating the scene . " Dubbing it " elegant , timeless pop / rock " , Taylor qualified it as " one of the great discoveries of the year " , while Pete Waterman , writing for The Guardian in 2007 , stated it was " one of [his] favourite songs of recent years " . Eric R. Danton from the Hartford Courant classified it as the best track on the album , while Erlewine called it " the template for the rest of his debut " . In contrast , Wilson Kung said the song " pales in comparison to some of the truly strong songs " on the album Daniel Powter . Alan Connor of BBC News Magazine said it is a typical sentimental song but that in " Bad Day " ' s case " there 's even less detail " . He said the song " is so low on the specifics , there are some couplets that feel like they 've been translated from a foreign language , possibly by a computer " . A writer for The Daily Edge called it " a song so sweet it gave you a toothache " , while a reviewer from The Scotsman called it a " horrible song " . Bill Lamb said it " feels genuine " but " if you are looking for depth , this is not your song " , Chris Lee of the Los Angeles Times said the song is " baleful but soulful " , and People commented : " ' Bad Day ' may be catchy enough to overcome its trite lyrics " .

= = = Accolades = = =

" Bad Day " won an award from the Society of Composers , Authors and Music Publishers of Canada as one of six Canadian pop songs with the most radio airplay in 2005 . In 2006 , it won the Tokio Hot 100 Award for Best Song , and guaranteed Powter the Canadian Radio Music Award for Best New Group or Solo Artist ? Mainstream AC . In the following year , the song won a BMI Pop Award , and shared the 2007 Japan Gold Disc Award for the most @-@ downloaded international song with " You Raise Me Up " by Celtic Woman and " Dani California " by Red Hot Chili Peppers . The song was nominated for Hot 100 Single of the Year at the 2006 Billboard Music Awards losing to Nelly Furtado 's " Promiscuous " . At the APRA Music Awards of 2006 , it was nominated for Most Performed Foreign Work but lost to Rob Thomas 's " Lonely No More " . In 2007 , it was nominated for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards but John Mayer 's performance on " Waiting on the World to Change " won him the award . It received a nomination for Best Song at the 2007 Kids ' Choice Awards but lost to Beyoncé 's " Irreplaceable " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Bad Day " topped Nielsen Music Control 's Pan European Airplay 100 as the most played song on European radio stations in 2005 . It was also the third most downloaded song that year in Europe . On Billboard 's European Hot 100 Singles it peaked at number two on the weekly chart , while it placed seventh on its year @-@ end chart . The song debuted on the UK Singles Chart issue dated August 6 , 2005 , at number two , its peak position , spending 38 weeks on the chart . " Bad Day " was the eleventh best @-@ selling single and the third most downloaded song in the UK in 2005 . It was the most played song on UK radio during the period 2003 ? 08 . The song debuted on the Irish Singles Chart at number 13 on July 28 , 2005 , and topped it for three weeks , spending 19 weeks on the chart . The song peaked at number three on the French Singles Chart , and was the most played song on French radio in 2005 . It was the most played song on the German Airplay Chart in 2005 . It sold 143 @, @ 600 copies and was certified silver in France , and in Germany it was certified gold for the shipment of over 150 @, @ 000 copies . It peaked at number one in the Czech Republic , at number three in Italy , at number 5 in Denmark , and reached the top 10 on the singles chart in eight other European territories .

" Bad Day " debuted at number 55 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart issue dated February 25 , 2006 . On March 30 , 2006 it reached the top spot on the chart . A week before , the song had reached the top of the Hot Digital Songs chart . In the following weeks , it reached number one on the Pop 100 and the Adult Top 40 . It topped the Adult Top 40 for 12 weeks , the longest period a song by a lead male artist had spent on the chart . It remained at number one on the Adult Contemporary chart for 19 weeks , making it the song that spent the most time on the Adult Contemporary chart that year , tying Phil Collins ' " You 'll Be in My Heart " as the longest @-@ running number @-@ one song by a solo male artist to that date . " Bad Day " became the first song to sell two million digital copies in the United States in December 2006 , and was the best @-@ selling " digital track " and " digital song " for 2006 . " Bad Day " received a three @-@ times platinum certification from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for digital sales of over 3 million in September 2009 . It was the seventh most played song on the American radio in 2006 , and was the number one song of 2006 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart . It also performed well on other year @-@ end charts , ranking first on Hot Digital Songs , second on Hot Adult Pop Songs , and third on Hot Adult Contemporary Songs . Media considered its exposure on American Idol as a major factor in its success in the United States .

In Canada , the song was certified platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association for the sale 20 @, @ 000 downloads . " Bad Day " peaked at number seven on the Canadian Singles Chart and at number six on the Hot Canadian Digital Singles chart . In Japan , a ringtone version was certified by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) for shipment of over one million copies . Its full @-@ length ringtone version was certified platinum for shipment of over 250 @, @ 000 copies , while its single track version was certified double platinum for shipment of over 500 @, @ 000 copies . " Bad Day " was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipment of over 70 @, @ 000 copies . The song debuted at number 21 on the ARIA Charts issue dated July 4 , 2005 , peaked at number three on the issue dated August 15 , 2005 , and spent 20 weeks on the chart . It was the 18th top single of 2005 in the year @-@ end ARIA Charts , and was the second most @-@ played song in the country in 2006 . It peaked at number 7 in New Zealand appearing for 23 weeks , and was on Venezuela 's Pop Rock chart for 19 .

= = Music video = =

The music video was directed by Marc Webb and premiered on Yahoo ! ' s website in early 2005 . As of August 2005 , it had been streamed over a million times . It was released on VH1.com on April 28 , 2005 , and at the iTunes Store for digital download on December 13 , 2005 . It debuted on television channel VH1 on January 23 of the following year , reaching the Top 20 Countdown for two

weeks in March . It was subsequently put on heavy rotation in April 2006 , when it was played more than 50 times a week , reduced to 30 weekly airings in May . The video was the eighth most @-@ watched music video on the Internet , with over 9 @.@ 8 million views in 2006 . Warner Bros. Records released the video on YouTube on October 26 , 2009 .

The music video accompanying " Bad Day " features a man (Jason Adelman) and a woman (Samaire Armstrong) going about their daily routines over a three @-@ day period . Parts of the video are shown in split screen as they do exactly the same thing at different times , sometimes in the same location . The central point of the video occurs when they paint separately on the same billboard . Armstrong character shows her negativeness by adding rain and a car running through puddle of water while Adelman adds an umbrella and a man with a coat to protect the woman in the billboard . At some point , he draws half a heart and she completes it . At the end of the video , they finally meet when the man offers the woman an umbrella during a rain shower as a taxi cab stops for them . Throughout the video , Powter is shown playing a piano while wearing a tuque ? a type of knitted hat .

Chuck Taylor said the video is " strikingly good " and " brings emotion and clarity to an artist that we are meeting for the first time " . The Daily Edge disagreed calling the video " drippy " . VH1 ranked it 17th on its Top 40 Videos of the Year in 2006 . It was nominated for the MuchMoreMusic Award at the 2006 MuchMusic Video Awards , but lost to Michael Bublé 's " Save the Last Dance for Me " . It was nominated for Best Male Video at the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards Japan , but " Age Age Every Knight " by DJ Ozma was the winner .

= = Usage in other media = =

" Bad Day " was much @-@ used in the media to the point where Powter declared he felt " quite detached from th [e] song . It 's more like it 's everybody 's song " . According to Alan Connor : " ... turning off the radio isn 't enough to escape the tune . It can be heard everywhere from in shops , on mobiles and especially on TV . " During Christmas 2004 , the song was used in a Coca @-@ Cola advertisement which played in France for two weeks . It was also featured in a television advertisement for Right Guard deodorant in the United Kingdom .

The fifth season of American Idol used " Bad Day " to underscore a montage of each contestant shown when they were eliminated . Although it was not his decision to have it on the show , Powter said : " I need every opportunity that I can to get the music out there " . " Bad Day " was subsequently used in other shows , including the Brazilian series *Malhação* in 2005 , and TV Asahi 's 2006 Japanese drama *Regatta : Kimi to Ita Eien* . It was featured in Veronica Mars episode " The Bitch Is Back " in 2007 , and in a 2012 episode of the German show *Danni Lowinski* . In 2014 , the song was used as a ringtone for Sherlock Holmes and Joan Watson in an episode of *Elementary* titled " The One Percent Solution " . A FX promotional trailer for *Fargo* featured a muzak version of " Bad Day " .

" Weird Al " Yankovic wanted to record a parody of the song in 2006 but Powter refused his proposal . Later , Powter decided to give him permission to record the parody , which was to have been called " You Had a Bad Date " , but was told by Yankovic told that " the train had left the station " ; he had recorded " White & Nerdy " the day before instead . In April 2006 , " Bad Day " was parodied on an episode of the television series *Saturday Night Live* , featuring a montage of former member of the United States House of Representatives Tom DeLay . The *Daily Show* used the song for an American Idol @-@ based montage satirizing the June 2006 death of Abu Musab al @-@ Zarqawi , leader of Al @-@ Qaeda in Iraq . It was parodied by comedy group Moron Life titled " Overplayed " and was released on MySpace in August 2006 . " Bad Day " was also covered by the fictional music group Alvin and the Chipmunks for their 2007 film *Alvin and the Chipmunks* . Their version made the charts in January 2008 , peaking at number 67 on the *Billboard Hot 100* .

= = Live performances = =

Powter performed " Bad Day " during the Live 8 concert in Berlin on July 2 , 2005 , at the

Siegessäule . He also performed the song at the MTV Asia Awards 2006 on May 6 at the Siam Paragon in Bangkok . During the penultimate episode of American Idol on May 23 , 2006 , Powter performed " Bad Day " at the Kodak Theatre . On May 26 , 2007 , he performed the song at the Saitama Super Arena during the MTV Video Music Awards Japan . Powter performed it in a duo with Japanese singer Ayaka on November 26 , 2008 , at Astro Hall in Harajuku , Japan .

Powter has performed the song on several television shows , including CD USA in February 2006 , and Total Request Live on April 6 , 2006 . On April 14 , he sang it during the The Today Show at the Rockefeller Center in the morning , and , at night , on the Late Night with Conan O'Brien . He sang it on Live with Regis and Kelly on April 18 , on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno on April 24 and , on The Ellen DeGeneres Show on April 27 . He performed again on Leno 's and DeGeneres 's shows on June 1 and on July 7 respectively , and appeared on The CBS Early Show to sing it on August 9 .

The song was included on the set lists for Powter 's European tour , in the United Kingdom , and in the United States to promote its parent album . In a performance in Chicago 's Park West venue during the American tour , Andy Downing of the Chicago Tribune called the song " a high point " of the show , and said the slower version was prettier than the original record but that it was " the spartan arrangement " that saved it from " montage hell " .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Daniel Powter .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =

= = = Process = = =

" Bad Day " was first released to three French radio stations ? RTL , NRJ , and Europe 2 ? in early 2005 . On February 8 , Barnes & Noble released it on an exclusive extended play (EP) , which also contained " Free Loop " , " Lie to Me " , and " Song 6 " . In the United States it was digitally released on February 22 , 2005 . In 2005 , Warner Bros. Records released it as a CD single in Switzerland on March 4 , in France on March 22 , in Italy on May 18 , in Germany on May 30 , in Australia on June 27 , in the United Kingdom on July 25 , and in Canada on July 28 . The Swiss and Canadian release also included " Stupid Like This " , a non @-@ album track , while the Italian , German , and Australian versions included " Stupid Like This " and " Lost on The Stoop " . In France and the United Kingdom , both versions were released , and the British release also contained the music video for " Bad Day " . A live @-@ recorded version for Austrian radio station Hitradio Ö3 was included on the 2005 EP Free Loop . On August 6 , 2008 an EP live from Tokyo was released exclusively on iTunes and it included " Song 6 " , " Free Loop " , " Best of Me " , " Love You Lately " and " Bad Day " . " Bad Day " was also included on Powter 's compilation albums B @-@ Sides (2007) and Best of Me (2010) .

= = = History = = =

