

= When I Grow Up ( The Pussycat Dolls song ) =

" When I Grow Up " is a song by American girl group The Pussycat Dolls from their second and final studio album Doll Domination ( 2008 ) . It was released by Interscope Records on June 3 , 2008 , as the lead single from the album . " When I Grow Up " was their first single following the departure of the group 's longest @-@ standing member Carmit Bachar . It was first recorded for Nicole Scherzinger 's planned solo project , Her Name Is Nicole , but after its cancellation and Scherzinger 's return to the group , she felt that the song was better suited for the group . It was written by Theron Thomas , Timothy Thomas and Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins , who also produced the song . It is an uptempo electropop song with elements of the 1966 song , " He 's Always There " by British rock band The Yardbirds . " When I Grow Up " speaks about the desire to be famous , and was described as being " autobiographical " by Scherzinger .

The single was received favorably by contemporary music critics , many of whom highlighted it as a stand @-@ out . It peaked at number nine on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming the group 's highest charting single since " Buttons " ( 2006 ) . The song has sold over two million digital copies in the United States , making the Pussycat Dolls the first female group in digital history to have three singles pass the two million mark in digital sales . The song reached the top @-@ five in countries such as Australia , Canada , France , Ireland , New Zealand and the United Kingdom , and the top @-@ ten in Austria , Denmark , Germany and Switzerland .

The song 's accompanying music video premiered on June 13 , 2008 . Directed by Joseph Khan , it portrays the Pussycat Dolls in a traffic jam on Hollywood Boulevard . It was complimented for its dance breakdown , and was nominated in five categories at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards , the most of that ceremony , and went on to win Best Dance Video . The Pussycat Dolls performed the song on television shows including Jimmy Kimmel Live ! and So You Think You Can Dance , as well several award shows including the 2008 American Music Awards , and throughout their Doll Domination Tour ( 2009 ) .

= = Background = =

Following the commercial success of PCD ( 2005 ) , and over the course of two years ( 2005 ? 07 ) , Scherzinger recorded 75 @-@ 100 songs for Her Name Is Nicole , her planned solo debut album . Her work as lead singer furthered Scherzinger 's popularity as she began work on her own music . She stated that she enjoyed collaborating with many different artists , and that although she had been writing songs for over ten years , she felt as if she was at a different level while working with such A @-@ list writers and producers . Following the moderate success of " Baby Love " , the complete lack of success of the singles such as " Whatever U Like " and numerous push backs , Scherzinger decided to put the release of the on hold . She then returned her focus back on the Pussycat Dolls , and recording commenced for their second studio album . Scherzinger cited that she felt as if the songs were more suited as a Pussycat Dolls song than her own .

" When I Grow Up " was written by Theron and Timothy Thomas , along with Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins , who also produced the song . The Yardbirds ' drummer Jim McCarty and bassist Paul Samwell @-@ Smith both received co @-@ writing credits for the song , for its sample of " He 's Always There " ( 1966 ) . The song was recorded by Paul Foley , Mike " Handz " Donaldson and Roberto " Tito " Vazquez at 2nd Floor Studios in Orlando and Chalice Studios in Los Angeles , and was mixed by Spike Stent and Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins at Chalice Studios in Los Angeles . " When I Grow Up " made its world premiere online on May 16 , 2008 , and was issued as a digital download in North America on May 27 . It was later serviced to contemporary hit radio in the United States on June 1 , 2008 . The release of " When I Grow Up " came after the departure of member Carmit Bachar . It was officially confirmed , after months of speculation , on March 4 , 2008 that Bahar had left the group to follow " other performance interests " . At the time of her departure , she had been the longest member of the group , joining in 1995 when they were a burlesque act .

= = Composition = =

" When I Grow Up " is an uptempo R & B and electropop song that lasts four minutes and five seconds . Built around " bouncy synth lines " and a " thudding " bassline , the song features a heavy use of sirens , handclaps and pitch @-@ shifted vocals . Scherzinger was cited as adopting Britney Spears ' breathiness against the song 's sirens , shouts and " pumping beat " . Jaime Gill from Yahoo Music UK described " When I Grow Up " as a " dark , dissonant club banger " , while Rudy Klapper from Sputnikmusic compared the song 's composition to that of Basement Jaxx 's 2003 track " Plug It In " . " When I Grow Up " contains a sample of the main riff of " He 's Always There " by British rock band The Yardbirds , from their third studio album Roger the Engineer ( 1996 ) . The song 's writers , Jim McCarty and Paul Samwell @-@ Smith , were honored for their contributions to the song at the American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers ( ASCAP ) .

According to the sheet music published by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " When I Grow Up " is set in common time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of E minor , with Scherzinger 's vocal range spanning from low @-@ note of E3 to the high @-@ note of G5 . Lyrically , the song is centered around the desire to be famous when one grows up . Using satirical and autobiographical lines , Scherzinger begins the song 's first verse with : " Now I 've got a confession / When I was young I wanted attention " . The " repetitive and catchy chorus " follows , where she sings the lines : " When I grow up / I wanna be famous / I wanna be a star / I wanna be in movies " . MTV News commented that the song contains a theme that is " getting plenty of traction these days ? beware the high cost of fame . " Meanwhile , group member Melody Thornton said of the song 's concept : " If you strive for higher and bigger things ? along with that ? comes hard work and dealing with a lot of stuff that you 'd never assume you 'd have to . So yeah , while the song is meant to be playful , it still does have that little warning twist to it " . Bill Lamb from About.com named " When I Grow Up " a possible answer song to Pink 's " Stupid Girls " ( 2006 ) . Music critics were initially confused by the line " I wanna have groupies " in the chorus ; mistaking the line as saying " I wanna have boobies " . American comedian Ellen DeGeneres also pointed this out when they performed the song on her talk show on September 23 , 2008 .

= = Remixes = =

A number of remixes were commissioned by Interscope Records to accompany the song . On July 23 , 2008 a remix of " When I Grow Up " featuring a rap verse from American rapper Eve was released . Later that same day , a second remix was released online . Entitled the " Darkchild Remix " , it features an entirely different beat than the original , with added vocals from American rappers Diddy , Lil Wayne and Fatman Scoop , as well as the song 's producer Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins . Elements of Michael Jackson 's " Thriller " ( 1984 ) were heavily sampled throughout the remix , most noticeably in the song 's introduction . Lil Wayne 's verse was later removed and replaced by a new verse by the song 's composers , Rock City , due to issues with it being cleared in time for its commercial release as a B @-@ side to " Whatcha Think About That " , the second single from Doll Domination . For unknown reasons , the remix was never released . Additional " club " and " dub " remixes of " When I Grow Up " by DJs Dave Audé , Digital Dog , Dirty South and Ralphie Rosario , and the electronic band Wideboys were also released in a series of Compact Disc single and digital download releases .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , the song debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 76 on the issue dated June 14 , 2008 . On its second week , the song sold 34 @,@ 000 digital downloads and ascended to number 31 . In its fourth week , it reached its peak position of number nine , becoming the group 's highest charting single since " Buttons " which peaked at number three in 2006 . The song topped the Hot Dance Club Play chart , the issue dated August 2 , 2008 . The song has sold over 2 @.@ 18 million digital downloads in the United States to date , according to Nielsen Soundscan , making the Pussycat Dolls the first all @-@ female group in digital history to have three singles ? along with "

Don 't Cha " and " Buttons " ? pass the two million mark in digital sales . In Canada , the song debuted at number fifteen on the Canadian Hot 100 . On the chart dated September 6 , 2008 , " When I Grow Up " ascended and peaked at number three .

In Australia , the song debuted at number 45 , on June 22 , 2008 . In its sixth week , the song peaked at number two and stayed there for three consecutive weeks . " When I Grow Up " was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for shipments of 70 @,@ 000 copies . In New Zealand , the song debuted on the chart at number 33 . It reached number five a few weeks later. and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) for selling over 7 @,@ 500 copies . In the United Kingdom " When I Grow Up " debuted and peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart with sales of 29 @,@ 688 . On the Billboard European Hot 100 Singles the song peaked at number three , and also peaked at number nine in Germany .

= = Critical response = =

" When I Grow Up " received acclaim from music critics . Bill Lamb from About.com listed " When I Grow Up " among the top tracks on Doll Domination , stating that the song " bursts out of the blocks " , and that it was of no surprise that it " landed in the pop top 10 with ease " . On a separate review , Lamb gave the song three out of five stars . He noted that the " anonymous nature " of the group 's vocals and " sexual lyrical tease " is starting to wear thin , stating : " This is more of the same , not a step forward " . Lamb , however , did compliment the song as being a " catchy dance workout " , and stated that the song carries their " usual sassiness " and " pounding dance beats " . Nick Levine from Digital Spy echoed Lamb 's comments , noting that the song is a " bolshy , hyperactive pop stomper that works just as well in the aerobics class as it does on the dance @-@ floor . " He continued : " If they keep releasing singles as infectious as this , they could last longer than we 'd think . " August Brown from Los Angeles Times called the song as the " ideological centerpiece " of Doll Domination . "

Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine described the song as a " catchy , full @-@ throttle club track " and commented that it is " a perfectly concocted blend of camp and vamp for the famous burlesque troupe " . Steve Perkins from BBC Music awarded the song four out of five stars writing : " It 's good to see that the dynamics of the group remain fundamentally unchanged " and that the song was a strong comeback . He also noted that : " The whole song seems to be centred around the desire to be famous when you grow up , which while not my favourite of all messages to give out to The Kids " . He ended his review writing " but in all fairness : who cares ? It 's hella catchy , and really , who 's the bigger fool here ? the Pussycat Dolls lyricist who wrote some vaguely nonsensical lyrics , or the reviewer who expected anything different ? " Dan Cairns from The Times said that " if every song here were as batty and brilliant as this , Doll Domination would be one of the great pop records of 2008 . " However , Nic Oliver from MusicOMH , in a review of Doll Domination , did not favor the song , saying that the song would embarrass Paris Hilton , but " sets the template for the rest of the album . "

= = = Parodies and cover versions = = =

The song has been parodied on the video sharing website YouTube including a spoof called " I Wanna Be a Pussycat Mom " posted by The Momma Mary Show on September 9 , 2013 . On June 3 , 2008 the song was parodied by YouTube superstar Britney Houston as she recreated herself as part of the " Britneycat Dolls " and commented , " When I do these things , I [ usually ] try to give a twist to the choreography . But [ the Pussycat Dolls have ] a signature move , and I just had to put it in there intact . " It was posted on MTV.com. " When I Grow Up " was later performed by Simone Battle while auditioning for The X Factor in 2011 . It has also been covered by Mayday Parade on the compilation album Punk Goes Pop 2 in 2009 , and The Glee Project in 2012 .

= = = Use in media = = =

The song was featured in the 2008 comedy film *The House Bunny* , and the 2010 video game *Just Dance 2* . The song and its video were also featured briefly on the pilot for the Nickelodeon series *Big Time Rush* .

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was shot from May 23 to 24 , 2008 on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles , with director Joseph Khan . American recording artist Britney Spears filmed a cameo appearance for the video on June 4 at the Warner Bros. lot in Los Angeles . An on set " insider " said that Spears ' scene was short , only consisting of her driving in a passing car and waving to the other girls . On June 12 , 2008 it was announced by MTV News that the cameo had been cut from the final video . Scherzinger was asked why Spears got cut from the video . She said : " I honestly am not so sure . You shoot a lot of things when you do a video . Some things stay in but other things don 't make the cut and Britney just didn 't make it . I 've seen a little clip of her performance and she looked adorable so I really wish she was in it ! Hopefully we 'll work together in the future . " A short clip of the music video was released online on June 12 , 2008 ; a day before the video 's premiere on June 13 , 2008 on FNMTV .

In the video the Pussycat Dolls are shown sitting in a car in the middle of a traffic jam , where Scherzinger flashes a ring that says " famous " . They sing the introduction of the song in the car before jumping out . When the chorus kicks in , the women leave the car and stand on the roofs of the other cars and start dancing a routine . Then they walk down a street of Hollywood stars with bubbles floating all around them . As they walk down the street , they also stop to sing on a bench . As the second chorus starts , the Dolls climb scaffolding and begin to dance . During Scherzinger 's solo , she stands in a small area with the Pussycat Dolls logo to the left and a mirror to the right , with lights flashing . The Dolls then dance in the breakdown section with the logo behind them and the camera zooms out to reveal filming equipment and playback screens .

Nick Levine from *Digital Spy* , wrote that : " The Pussycat Dolls have a novel way of amusing themselves during traffic jams " and described the dance breakdown as " entertaining " and " nostalgic " . In Australia , the video was criticized for the video being too raunchy . On August 17 , 2008 , it was announced that the video was nominated for Video of the Year , Best Dance Video , Best Art Direction , Best Cinematography , and Best Choreography at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards , having the most VMA nominations of that year . The ceremony was held on September 7 , 2008 , and the video won the award for the Best Dancing . The music video was the fifteenth @-@ most streamed video on MTV.com in 2008 .

= = Live performances = =

" When I Grow Up " was debuted live on American talk show *Jimmy Kimmel Live !* on May 20 , 2008 . On May 27 , 2008 MTV News reported that the Pussycat Dolls were among many set to perform at the 2008 MTV Movie Awards on June 1 , 2008 . Scherzinger talked about the performance saying : " This is a big deal for us . We just want to kill it . It 's all about the Dolls right now , and we 're coming strong . " The girls performed wearing spandex @-@ and @-@ leather getups , while a backdrop was displayed in the background with images of flashbulbs , tabloid headlines and diamonds . They were joined by America 's Best Dance Crew winners the Jabbawockeez who descended from the ceiling wearing matching red T @-@ shirts with stark @-@ white masks covering their faces , and baseball caps perched at 45 @-@ degree angles atop their heads . Of the performance , Geoff Boucher from the *Los Angeles Times* commented : " the Pussycat Dolls ' set climaxed with a powerful pyro display that left celebs in the first few rows feeling a bit roasted " . MTV Buzzworthy described the performance as " sexy " and " sultry " . However , Tod Martens , in another review for the *Los Angeles Times* , criticized their performance . He commented : " [ They appeared ] onstage looking like they had escaped a taping for a sexed @-@ up Jazzercise video . " He also wrote that Scherzinger never commanded the song except on " the

cut 's final seconds when she turned her vocals up to a growl " and noted JabbaWockeez 's appearance as " annoy [ ing ] " .

" When I Grow Up " was also performed at So You Think You Can Dance on June 13 , 2008 . On August 2 , 2008 the Dolls performed the song and presented at the MTV Asia Awards 2008 in Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia , along with " Buttons " ( 2005 ) . The group then performed the song at the Walmart Soundcheck , along with " I Hate This Part " , " Takin ' Over the World " , " Buttons " and " Don 't Cha " . On November 21 , they performed a medley of " I Hate This Part " and " When I Grow Up " at the 2008 American Music Awards . The performance included stripper poles , and the girls donned all @-@ rubber outfits . The Pussycat Dolls also performed " When I Grow Up " at the Doll Domination Tour ( 2009 ) . Maureen Ellis of the Evening Times said that the " high @-@ energy encore of ' Don 't Cha ' and ' When I Grow Up ' ensured the Dolls reigned supreme . "

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Adapted from the Doll Domination liner notes .

Technical

Recorded at : 2nd Floor Studios , Orlando and Chalice Studios , Los Angeles .

Contains elements of the composition : " He 's Always There " , written by Jim McCarty and Paul Samwell @-@ Smith .

Personnel

Rodney " Darkchild " Jerkins ? songwriting , producer , additional vocals , audio mixing

Rock City ( Theron and Timothy Thomas ) ? songwriting , additional vocals

Jim McCarty ? songwriting

Paul Samwell @-@ Smith ? songwriting

Paul Foley ? recording

Mike " Handz " Donaldson ? recording

Roberto " Tito " Vazquez ? recording

Spike Stent ? audio mixing

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

= = Release history = =