**Whitney Houston – I wanna Dance with Somebody**

**Facts:**

Although getting mixed reviews coming out, it topped the charts in 13 countries and sold over one million copies.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH3giaIzONA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH3giaIzONA)

**Nena – 99 Red Ballons**

**Facts:**

An international hit originally recorded in German

Inspired by Nenas band member seeing a bunch of balloons being released and imagining what may have happened had they floated over the berlin wall potentially starting a war with the other side not knowing the others intentions.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ1TQYjCwYc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ1TQYjCwYc)

**Guns N’ Roses – Paradise City**

**Facts:**

Written in the back of a rental van by the band, it reached the top ten in the US and UK and was the only song on the album to feature a synthesizer.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbm6GXllBiw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbm6GXllBiw)

**Rick Astley – Never Gonna Give You Up**

**Facts:** Having been revived (even though it’s too catchy to ever truly fade from the limelight) this British one-hit wonder became the center of an internet meme called Rickrolling wherein you promise someone a certain type of content from a link, and after clicking said link, are redirected to his music video……still practiced today, infuriating as it may be….I still find myself having to watch the video out and occasionally singing along.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ)

**Beastie Boys – Fight For Your Right to Party**

**Facts:** The whipcream in the pies being tossed around was actually scoured from supermarket trach cans due to the fact there was no money on the budget for it…resulting in one heck of a room afterwards….something I could have gone the rest of my life not knowing….

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBShN8qT4lk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBShN8qT4lk)

**Extreme – More than Words**

**Facts:** A song warning others to talk the three little words “I Love You” a little more seriously and not just toss them around so lightly. As with all serious heartfelt things, it was parodied by Weird Al, Jason Segel, Mike Myers, and many many others….recently getting a parody from Jimmy Fallon and Jack Black….it just goes to show….you can’t take anything too seriously….even the serious things.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrIiLvg58SY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrIiLvg58SY)

**Metallica – Enter Sandman**

**Facts:** Leaving a much more complex setup after having done And Justice for All with new Bassist Jason Newstead, this song by Metallica evolved from Kirk Hammetts two bar riff, transformed into a wall of sound and became a staple track and instantly recognizable song off of Metallicas Black Album

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD-E-LDc384**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD-E-LDc384)

**Sinead O Connor – Nothing Compares 2 U**

**Facts:** Originally written and composed by the iconic artist Prince with his side project “The Family”, it was ultimately made famous by Irish artist Sinead O’Connor in the 90’s. Having written the song without him, Sinead O’Connor was summoned to his home do have a chat. Sinead O, not one to be messed with, gave him a few choice words and allegedly had to escape out of the house at 5 in the am after things started getting physical…

So if you’ve ever gone through a nasty break up, or had to cuss Prince out at 5 in the morning….I am sure you can share the sentiment that….nothing compares.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6MNvjrScyo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6MNvjrScyo)

**Nirvana – Smells Like Teen Spirit**

**Facts:** Touted with the heavy weight of bringing in an alternative rock era in the early 90’s, he set the stage for apathy and emo of generation X. The song was actually titled after a spray painted “Kurt Smells Like Teen Spirit” message on his wall from lead singer of riot girl band Bikini Kill. This was in reference to his then-girlfriends deodorant, although Kurt took it more in a revolutionary way.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTWKbfoikeg**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTWKbfoikeg)

**Smashing Pumpkins – Tonight, Tonight**

**Facts:** Sadly, a song about Billy Corrigans on encounters escaping childhood abuse and to continue believing in himself. The music video giving the feel of a turn of the century silent film, had a difficult time locating clothing for those in their video as the Titanic was being shot subsequently and had rented nearly every outfit in the area….thanks James Cameron. As you can see, they got by using leftovers and hiring designers to remake them.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOG3eus4ZSo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOG3eus4ZSo)

**Lady Gaga – Poker Face**

**Facts:** No stranger to controversy….Lady Gaga shot into the limelight known for catchy hooks and wild outfits. This song blasted in front quickly hitting number one multiple charts in late 2000. Close to ten years later you can still find it occasionally lurking in late night clubs and dark alleys…don’t look directly at it….keep walking and everything will be fine….except for tonight when you drive home and can’t get that catchy loop out of your head.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcioXWfioa4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcioXWfioa4)

**Outkast – Hey Ya**

**Facts:** This electro/funk/rock/hip-hop mix captures it all with catchy music, hooks, outfits, even giving a jumpstart back to the Polaroid Corporation with the lyric “Shake it like a polaroid picture”….which actually has no effect nowadays since the film is sealed behind a clear plastic window….if anything you will make it worse. So if you aren’t talking about current polaroid pictures….then shake it like a polaroid picture….

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWgvGjAhvIw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWgvGjAhvIw)

**Jet – Are you Gonna be my Girl**

**Facts:** This Australian band got some media attention for sounding eerily similar to the even more eerie Iggy Pop, they retaliated back with their own underpinnings of a Motown influence. Despite the controversy, it’s success went over well with the band ending their decade long journey together in 2012.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuK6n2Lkza0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuK6n2Lkza0)

**Destiny’s Child – Survivor**

**Facts:** With the group Destiny’s Child dropping members, adding new members, and dropping them again like bad habits….the media started drawing a parallel between them and the reality show Survivor…this song was their response to all of the negativity.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmc8bQoL-J0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmc8bQoL-J0)

**Kanye West – Gold Digger**

**Facts:** Originally written for female rapper Shawnna from a female perspective, this was passed over and Kanye West rewrote it for himself and released it, much to his own success.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vwNcNOTVzY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vwNcNOTVzY)

**Gym Class Heroes – Stereo Hearts**

**Facts:** Clever music based metaphors mashed up with a love serenade and pairing with Adam Levine, this song took off as well as the music video getting millions of views in the first month of it’s release.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3E9Wjbq44E**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3E9Wjbq44E)

**Katy Perry – Last Friday Night**

**Facts:** Appearances from Corey Feldman (Goonies, Lost Boys, Stand By Me), Debbie Gibson, the Hanson brothers (Remember Mmmbop….I don’t blame you if you forgot), Darren Criss, Rebecca Black, and the 45 minute record note holding Saxophone Playing Kenny G…..talk about pulling a multitude of generations into a single music video.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWNaR-rxAic**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWNaR-rxAic)

**FUN – Some Nights**

**Facts:** Fun was formed from lead singers Nate Ruess departure from The Format. This being their second album, it hit the top charts on multiple songs and gave them some nice radioplay along the way.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQkBeOisNM0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQkBeOisNM0)

**Taylor Swift – Shake It Off**

**Facts:** Taylor Switfts shot back at the music world for everyones analysis on her….well….everything. She makes light of her dancing, her style, and her own image in a roll with the punches type of message…..did I mention it was catchy.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfWlot6h\_JM**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfWlot6h_JM)

**LMFAO – Party Rock Anthem**

**Facts:** This electronic group took a parody off of the 28 Days Later film and featured some incredible dancing styles of the So You Think You Can Dance winners Quest Crew and other cameos, in addition to being a part of The Big Bang Theory on set Flash Mob compilation….it’s adorable in the nerdiest kinda way…you should check it out.

**Video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ6zr6kCPj8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ6zr6kCPj8)