

Kai Mitchell
Mr. Fox
WRDL LIT
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Hips Don't Lie

The popular culture song *Hips Don't Lie* was Colombian songwriter and artist Shakira's first English mainstream song. It reached number one in 18 countries, including the United States. Making the song Shakira's first number one in the United States. It also broke the record for the most radio plays in a single week and the fastest-selling digital download song in the United States. After the huge success of the song, Shakira and Wyclef Jean made a music video directed by Sophie Muller. The music video has been seen by over a billion people and shows a lot of Colombian cultures. Such as one of the backgrounds was a popular Colombian carnival, Shakira's dance moves, and the outfits Shakira is seen wearing.

One of the most visual ways Colombian culture is shown in the video is the backdrop of a fake parade based on the Carnaval de Barranquilla. Carnaval de Barranquilla or Carnival of Barranquilla is a well-known event, it is seen as Colombia's most important folkloric celebration and is the second largest carnival in the world. It is a four-day event full of intense festivities. Each day there is a main event including The Battle of the Flowers, The Great Parade, and an Orchestra Festival. While participating in the event, people are encouraged to dress for the occasion, such as wearing dresses, costumes, or traditional striped *costeño* hats. In the music video for *Hips Don't Lie*, the director includes all three. For example, throughout the video, you can see background characters wearing brightly colored dresses. These are traditional Colombian dresses or *La Pollera Colora*, which are worn for special occasions such as the Carnaval de Barranquilla. Also, you can spot spectators viewing the carnival wearing striped *costeño* hats. These hats are traditional and made out of *Gynerium sagittatum* or *caña flecha*, a type of cane that grows in the area. The frame in this portion of the video is filled with color, as an artificial Carnaval de Barranquilla is being held in a small warehouse in Los Angeles. This is one of the

ways that Colombian culture is being shown through Shakira's music video for her hit song *Hips Don't Lie*.

Another way that Shakira shows Colombian culture in the music video is through dance. Throughout the video, Shakira is seen doing some traditional Colombian dances. Such as, when *Hips Don't Lie* feature Wyclef Jean says "Let me see you move like you come from Colombia". After he says this, Shakira and background dancers start to dance using lots of inspiration from a traditional Colombian dance called Cumbia. Cumbia is Colombia's national dance and has aspects of three main cultures, American Indian, African, and a smaller amount of Spanish, being the result of the long and intense meeting of these cultures during the Conquest and the Colony. The dance involves wearing a large skirt, which women use as an accessory. Another type of dance Shakira is seen doing throughout the video is belly dancing. Although belly dancing is from Egypt, it is still big in Colombian culture. Another dance that Shakira does during the video is the Salsa. The Salsa is a street dance that consists of taking three steps for every four beats of the song. Although the origins of the Salsa are not 100% certain. What is certain is its popularity of it in Colombia. The Salsa was popularized due to its rhythm and energy after sailors brought the new trend to Barranquilla. Colombian culture is full of dance, and Shakira helps shows this in her music video by dancing in many different traditional Colombian ways.

Finally, Shakira helps show Colombian culture in the music video for *Hips Don't Lie* by dressing in traditional Colombian attire. As stated earlier, throughout the video, many types of traditional clothing is worn by other people in the video. Such as traditional striped costeño hats and La Pollera Colora. But, background dancers are not the only people wearing traditional Colombian clothes. In the video, Shakira and the other dancers are wearing large white dresses. These dresses are designed off of La Pollera Colora but without most of the color. Another thing to notice is the way Shakira is dressing. One social norm in Colombia is to not show too much skin. So, women tend to wear short sleeve shirts with pants or a long skirt. So, when wearing shorts or a shorter skirt, they tend to wear long-sleeve shirts. And in the music video, this is exactly what Shakira does. She is never seen wearing a short skirt and a short-sleeve shirt. She is most often wearing a long flowing skirt and a short-sleeve shirt. Following the unspoken dress

code of where she grew up to not show too much skin. Shakira can tell a story of Colombia by wearing traditional Colombian attire. And this helps viewers understand and learn about Colombia and its people.

In the music video for the song *Hips Don't Lie* Shakira shows Colombian culture in ways she might not have been intending to. She shows it by the background being a popular Colombian event, Shakira's dance moves, and the way Shakira dresses. By having the background be the Carnaval de Barranquilla, it shows the passion people in Colombia have for their country. It shows how they are not afraid and are honored to be a part of its culture. Also, Shakira dancing in traditional Colombian ways in her video can show other people around the world about the Colombian culture and inspire them to learn more. And having Shakira dress in traditional Colombian clothes, shows how Colombia has stuck to her. Even though this video was filmed years after she moved away. Colombia has a strong and vibrant culture, and it sticks to people who grew up there or just visited. This is visible in how Shakira still embraces the Colombian in her.