

Chapter 4: The Sonic Collage Assignment: Aesthetics, Affect, and Critique in Audio Sampling

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3. “Beyoncé Mess” by Logan

“Beyoncé Mess” was an appropriate track for Logan, whose work all semester had focused on Queen Bey’s discography. This is a dance track composed solely of Beyoncé songs cut up, spliced, layered on top of one another, distorted, reworked, and remixed. The track lacks the type of consistent beat that generally defines the dance genre, but the author does an excellent job using backbeats to connect the different sections of the episodic to create some sense of cohesion. Similarly, Logan manages to create a few genuinely danceable moments where she briefly captures a groove, though whether those moments were created by Logan, the samples she was using, or the interactions between the two was actively debated in class. Surprisingly, this track opened up very little discussion about appropriation and citation because the class unequivocally agreed that it was a respectful homage to an artist Logan clearly admired.

Transcript

[First minute is a mash-up of Beyoncé songs]

Beyoncé *[from “No Angel”]*: You’re no angel either, baby. You’re no angel either, baby. Cause you’re no angel either, baby. Cause you’re no angel either, baby.

Beyoncé *[from “Diva”]*: (Imma Imma Diva) Hey . . . Stop the track . . . Stop the track . . . Stop the track

Beyoncé *[from “End of Time”]*: Come on take my hand. I won't let you go. I'll be your friend. I will love you so, deeply. I will be the one to kiss you at night—kiss you at night—kiss you at night—night—night—ni—ni—ni—night

Beyoncé ft. Jay Z *[from “Crazy in Love”]*: So—so—so Looking so crazy in love’s got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love looking so crazy in love’s got me looking, got me looking so crazy in love

[beats from Beyoncé songs stop and the following marks an abrupt shift]

Nicki Minaj ft. Beyoncé *[from “Feeling Myself”]*: World Stop. Carry on.

[music immediately begins again]

Beyoncé *[from “Pretty Hurts”]*: Ahaha

Beyoncé *[from “Jealous”]*: I'm in my penthouse half naked (half naked, half naked). I cooked this meal for you naked. So where the hell you at? Just one shot left of this drink, in this glass.

Beyoncé *[from “Pretty Hurts,” begins to play halfway through the “Jealous” excerpt]*: Pretty hurts. Shine the light on whatever's worse. Perfection is the disease of a nation. Pretty hurts. Shine the light on whatever's worse. Tryna fix something, but you can't fix what you can't see. It's the soul that needs the surgery . . . Ahaha . . . Ahaha . . . Ahaha . . . ha . . . ha . . . ha . . .

[beats from Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies”]

Beyoncé *[from “Sweet Dreams”]*: You could be a sweet dream or a beautiful nightmare. Either way I don't wanna wake up from you.

Beyoncé [from “Blow”]: That sugar babe, it melts away. [moaning and indistinguishable lyrics]

Nicki Minaj ft. Beyoncé [from “Feeling Myself”]: I stop the world. Male or female it makes no difference, I stop the world . . . World stop—stop—stop—stop—stop

Beyoncé [from “Upgrade U”]: I hear you be the block, but I’m the lights that keep the streets on. Notice you the type that like to keep them on a leash though.

Lady Gaga [from “Telephone”]: Boy, the way you blowin' up my phone won't make me leave no faster, put my coat on faster, leave my girls no faster. I shoulda left my phone at home, cause this is a disaster! Callin' like a collector; sorry, I cannot answer!

[beats from Beyoncé’s “Single Ladies”]

[Jay-Z raps from Beyoncé’s “Drunk in Love” for a few seconds and then continues playing beyond Beyoncé’s “Halo”]

Beyoncé [from “Halo”]: Hit me like a ray of sun burning through my darkest night. You’re the only one that I want, think I’m addicted to your light. I swore I’d never fall again, but this don’t even feel like falling. Gravity can’t forget to pull me back to the ground again. Feels like I’ve been awakened. Every rule, I had you break it. The risk that I’m taking, I’m never gonna shut you out.

[just Jay-Z’s rapping for a few seconds before an abrupt musical shift]

Beyoncé [from “Pretty Hurts”]: Yes. Ahaha

Works Cited

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