

**Title****RAINDROPS KEEP FALLIN' ON MY HEAD****Admissibility****Yes: Note****Reviewers' Notes**

This song is admissible because there are no issues with its lyrics and message. The movie for which the song was written, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, contains problematic elements. The [Encyclopedia of Racism in American Film](#) points out that the movie includes racist depictions of Bolivia and its inhabitants. Bolivia is seen as "backward," or as Sundance states upon arrival there, "primitive." Butch and Sundance, portrayed as happy-go-lucky outlaws "[seen for instance in Butch's inability to learn the necessary Spanish phrases to conduct bank robberies in Bolivia], are contrasted to the rather stereotypical representations of the Bolivian bandits that attack the men and kill [a mine owner] from ambush." (In contrast, Butch and Sundance kill only if it is unavoidable.) The treatment of Hispanic men as ignorant subordinates is a [popular stereotype](#) in Westerns. *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* "and countless spaghetti westerns, could [not] have been made without the prop of complacent, weak, and illiterate peons whom the heroes could variously rescue, defend, organize, or slaughter -- depending on the plot."

**GENERAL NOTE RE: Innocuous Songs from Problematic Movies/Musicals or Source Material/Author**

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**Year written**

1969

**Lyricist**

Hal David

**Lyricist Research**

**Hal David** (1921-2012) was born in New York City, a son of Austrian Jewish immigrants and younger brother of American lyricist and songwriter Mack David. He is credited with popular music lyrics, beginning in the 1940s with material written for bandleader Sammy Kaye and for Guy Lombardo. He worked with Morty Nevins of The Three Suns on four songs for the feature film *Two Gals and a Guy* (1951). Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1972, his laurels include Grammy Hall of Fame

and Gershwin Prize, the highest US honor for a songwriter. He wrote 40 top 10 hits, has a Hollywood star, and was president of ASCAP.

### Lyricist add'l material

Hal David is best remembered for his collaboration with Burt Bacharach, including "Alfie", "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head", "This Guy's in Love with You", "I'll Never Fall in Love Again", "Do You Know the Way to San Jose", "Walk On By", "What the World Needs Now Is Love", "I Say a Little Prayer", "(There's) Always Something There to Remind Me", "One Less Bell to Answer" and "Anyone Who Had a Heart".

### Composer

Burt Bacharach

### Composer research

**Burt Freeman Bacharach** (1928 – 2023) was an American composer, songwriter, record producer, and pianist who is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential figures of 20th-century popular music. Starting in the 1950s, he composed hundreds of pop songs, many in collaboration with lyricist [Hal David](#). Bacharach's music is characterized by unusual [chord progressions](#) and [time signature](#) changes, influenced by his background in jazz, and uncommon selections of instruments for small orchestras. He arranged, conducted, and produced much of his recorded output.

Over 1,000 different artists have recorded Bacharach's songs. From 1961 to 1972, most of Bacharach and David's hits were written specifically for and performed by [Dionne Warwick](#), but earlier associations (from 1957 to 1963) saw the composing duo work with [Marty Robbins](#), [Perry Como](#), [Gene McDaniels](#), and [Jerry Butler](#). Following the initial success of these collaborations, Bacharach wrote hits for singers such as [Gene Pitney](#), [Cilla Black](#), [Dusty Springfield](#), [Tom Jones](#), and [B.J. Thomas](#).

Bacharach wrote seventy-three U.S. and fifty-two UK [Top 40](#) hits. His accolades include six [Grammy Awards](#), three [Academy Awards](#), and one [Emmy Award](#). He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1972. In 2015, [Rolling Stone](#) ranked Bacharach and David at number 32 for their list of the [100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time](#). In 2012, the duo received the [Library of Congress Gershwin Prize](#) for Popular Song, the first time the honor has been given to a songwriting team.

### Composer add'l material

Those that topped the [Billboard Hot 100](#) include "This Guy's in Love with You" ([Herb Alpert](#), 1968), "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" (Thomas, 1969), "(They Long to Be) Close to You" (the [Carpenters](#), 1970), "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)" ([Christopher Cross](#), 1981), "That's What Friends Are For" (Warwick, 1986), and "On My Own" (Carole Bayer Sager, 1986). **Motion picture scores** have also achieved classic status. With Hal David as co-writer, the output includes : "What's New Pussycat," (Tom Jones); "Casino Royale," from which the song "The Look Of Love" was a gold record for both Dusty Springfield and Sergio Mendez and Brazil 66. Broadway hits include "Promises Promises."

## Lyrics

lyrics/burt-bacharach-raindrops-keep-fallin-on-my-head

## What is the Song About

This song is about someone who overcomes his troubles and worries by realizing it won't be long til happiness returns.

## Song History

It was written for the 1969 western film [Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid](#). The single by [B. J. Thomas](#) reached No. 1 on charts in the United States, Canada and Norway, and reached No. 38 in the [UK Singles Chart](#). It topped the [Billboard Hot 100](#) for four weeks in January 1970 and was also the first American No. 1 hit of the 1970s. The song also spent seven weeks atop the Billboard [adult contemporary chart](#). *Billboard* ranked it as [the No. 4 song of 1970](#). According to *Billboard* magazine, it had sold over 2 million copies by March 14, 1970, with eight-track and cassette versions also climbing the charts. It won an [Oscar](#) for [Best Original Song](#). Bacharach also won [Best Original Score](#).

## Earliest Performance

<https://youtu.be/sySIY1XKlhM?si=BX1SXTIHG2ObkhTJ>

## Original Sheet Music contains inappropriate theme?

Song written after 1960.

## Racially/Ethnically Problematic?

No

## Research References

[Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head - Wikipedia](#)

[Hal David - Wikipedia](#) | [Burt Bacharach - Wikipedia](#)

### Additional Questions to Consider (do not pertain to Admissibility)

The remaining questions pertain to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion issues other than those of race. As such, **THESE QUESTIONS DO NOT AFFECT A SONG'S ADMISSIBILITY**. They are provided to encourage your group to consider factors that may affect members of your audience and/or your performers with regard to religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and more. ***Please refer to the Music Choices section of [Chapter Choices to Address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (in the [Chorus Toolkit](#)) for details and strategies related to these factors.***

Could the message/lyrics of the song, original or subsequent, limit any singer or audience member's ability to engage, related to the following? A listed category does not imply that the song is demeaning or exclusionary. [Please see instructions here](#).

#### DEI Categories

None

#### Lyric Adjustments to Increase Inclusivity?

No, I did not identify any lyrics that might be addressed.