# Gay Anthem “Smalltown Boy” in “Running Up That Hill”-style rebirth



Bronski Beat’s 1984 release "Smalltown Boy" has resurfaced as a major hit on TikTok, driven by the #80sdancechallenge trend. The song, renowned for its poignant depiction of a young gay man's struggles, reached number 3 in the UK charts and resonated globally. It was penned by the band's founding members, Jimmy Somerville, Steve Bronski, and Larry Steinbachek.

The track's resurgence coincides with its 40th anniversary, prompting London Records to reissue the song, featuring a modern rework by DJ-producer ABSOLUTE. Despite its original message about seeking acceptance, current TikTok trends primarily showcase family dance routines set to its 80s synth beats.

"Smalltown Boy" maintains its relevance, continuing to be featured in films and TV series while receiving praise for its unvarnished portrayal of LGBTQ+ issues. Somerville, the only surviving original member, has expressed his happiness over the song's renewed popularity.