

TikTok Users Turn Russian Pro-War Song Into 'LGBT Anthem'

April 15, 2024



Singer Shaman (Yaroslav Dronov). **Pelagia Tikhonova / Moskva News Agency**

A song by the Russian pro-war pop star Shaman is being used in TikTok videos showing same-sex couples embracing, a trend that appears aimed at ironically juxtaposing “extremist” LGBTQ+ lifestyles with the song’s militaristic overtones.

“Moy Boy,” whose title translates into English as “My Fight,” features the lyrics “I’m Russian, I go to the end,” while its accompanying music video shows scenes of camouflaged Russian soldiers serving in occupied eastern Ukraine.

Some listeners have reinterpreted “Moy Boy” into a more literal anglicization of the phrase “My Boy” and used it as background music for TikToks in which they show their queer relationships.

Embed:

Shaman стал символом ЛГБТ движения в России
Песня «Мой boy» стала саундтреком для записи ЛГБТ парами роликов в TikTok.
Флешмоб набирает обороты pic.twitter.com/DoDuhwoFMu

— Serg W (@SA61W) [April 13, 2024](#)

Scores of these videos have [appeared](#) on TikTok since mid-March, with same-sex couples lip-syncing the chorus to “Moy Boy,” dancing and embracing each other.

Some users [thanked](#) Shaman for the “beautiful song,” while others [joked](#) about hoping to see it performed at the Eurovision Song Contest in 2030.

The pro-LGBTQ+ [reinterpretation](#) of “Moy Boy” comes amid a deepening crackdown on LGBTQ+ people and lifestyles in Russia, which has seen at least two people [charged](#) for LGBTQ+ “extremism” over the past month.

Russia’s Supreme Court designated the “international LGBT movement,” which does not formally exist, as an “extremist” organization in November 2023. State financial watchdog Rosfinmonitoring [added](#) the “movement” to its list of “terrorists and extremists” in March.

The German translation of “Moy Boy” — “Mein Kampf” — has fueled [accusations](#) that Shaman, whose real name is Yaroslav Dronov, evokes “Nazi aesthetics” in his artistry.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/04/15/tiktok-users-turn-russian-pro-war-song-into-lgbt-anthem-a84847>