**ABOUT DAVID SABASTIAN:**

David Sabastian has spent years shifting pop culture from behind the scenes, and affecting change out in the streets. But after a lifetime of working *around* music—as a visionary fashion designer, painter, activist, and organizer—the lifelong Los Angeleno is bringing his creative, sociopolitical, and spiritual ideals to rap. Part Tupac Shakur and part Deepak Chopra, Sabastian spits with a captivating fervor whether he’s backed by concussive minimalist beats or stirring piano suites. His debut album, 2020’s *We Are God*, was testament to his status as both a lyrical evangelist of self-empowerment and an artist with his own gravitational pull—originally only available through his website, the highly philosophical album generated over six figures through sales and digital tips. It also made a worthy addition to a body of work that sprawls across worlds. When he isn’t designing subversive merch for rappers like YG (see 2020’s sold-out [“Fuck the Police” collection](https://www.complex.com/style/2020/07/yg-4hunnid-drop-helping-black-owned-businesses-in-los-angeles)) or [painting vibrant murals](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BhZLKI483U&feature=emb_title) outside the offices of his label, Warner Records (in a joint venture with The Blueprint Group), Sabastian works to fight homelessness in downtown L.A. with his streetwear company [SkidRowFashionWeek](https://skidrowfashionweek.com/" \t "_blank). After persevering through adversities of his own—with no small amount of encouragement from his strong Black mother—Sabastian dropped out of school at 16 to pursue his passion for clothing. Hip-hop was there all along, though, and it was only natural that he’d eventually add music to his creative arsenal in his love-fueled war against hatred and self-hate.