

RINI knows how to write his truth. The Melbourne-raised, Los Angeles-based R&B singer pours all of himself into his songs—an introspective process he can't force out unless he has something real to say. "I just want to take my time with songs," he confesses. "I don't want to make stuff up." His pensive songwriting, inspired by his own love life, is fluid and impassioned, turning small, mundane details into romantic neo-soul fantasies. He speaks directly to listeners while wearing his heart on his sleeve—allowing them to get to know him through his wins and losses.

For that reason, it's easy to understand why the 24-year old's music and sultry falsetto has already begun to resonate with millions. Over the past two years, RINI has applied that approach to his tireless work on his sensuous debut album, *Constellations*, which he describes as "the beginning of something new." Across *Constellations*' 12 tracks, RINI tells the story of a relationship with a childhood friend. The record is a showcase of his increased range that includes the seductive, Wale-assisted highlight "Red Lights," and tender acoustic lullaby "A Starry Night in Apollo Bay." He calls it a "storybook" that reflects his current state of mind: happier, grateful, and, of course, deeply in love.

"Every song on *Constellations* is a particular moment in my relationship," RINI says. "When people listen, the song will take them to that moment in their relationship or their life. I just want to make them feel something."

Music has played that kind of emotional role in RINI's life ever since he was a kid. The Filipino-Australian artist (born Justerini Sandoval) remembers his father playing classic rock jams over their massive sound system for all their neighbors to hear when they lived in the Philippines. When he moved to Melbourne, he started playing in his church's band, and then he started to busk throughout his teenage years.

Four years ago, however, RINI wasn't making music, let alone considering it as a career, due to the fallout of a stressful relationship. But eventually, he forced himself to go to the studio to unpack his most complicated feelings and turn them into songs. That healing process would eventually result in his breakout hit "My Favorite Clothes," which calls back to the stripped-down acoustic production of early 2000s R&B as he mourns the end of a relationship.

"My Favorite Clothes" revealed to RINI that songs created from his own healing would be able to lend a guiding hand to anyone who felt the same. After seeing that single's success, RINI felt he had to take a greater leap of faith and put on shows in his hometown of Melbourne. "I was shook because *everyone* pulled up," he remembers. "That was the first time I've seen and heard people singing my songs."

That moment cemented RINI's faith in music as a calling, further motivating him to want to write a song that people will "remember for the rest of their lives." In 2017, he released his self-titled project on which he experimented with aqueous production and funky electronic whirrs. Since then, the breakout star has moved to LA, where he's been able to work with songwriters and producers from all over that have exposed him to new sounds and opened his mind to the power of collaborative songwriting.

Now, as he prepares to release *Constellations*, he's ready to show the world his own growth as a songwriter. On "Butterflies," for example, RINI sings from his girlfriend's perspective about opening up to a new partner. Deep, searching songs like these prove that RINI is an artist that listeners are meant to grow alongside. Listening to his releases is like catching up with an old friend and seeing how life has changed since you last talked. RINI has spent the last few years learning and growing, exploring the depths of his soul, but now, finally, he's ready to share his feelings with the world.