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Isaiah Rashad Returns Ready to Party With 'Lay Wit Ya'

By Justin Curto



When quality-over-quantity rap label Top Dawg Entertainment teased a new release last week, most fans' minds went right to the label's heaviest hitters, Kendrick Lamar and SZA. But there was a smaller, vocal subsection of followers clamoring for new music from Chattanooga rapper Isaiah Rashad, who near-disappeared after releasing his debut album, *The Sun's Tirade*, in 2016. Turns out they were right — today brings a new Rashad song, "Lay Wit Ya," the lead single off his long-awaited sophomore album, *The House Is Burning*. "Lay Wit Ya" is a surprising party track from a rapper known for his more interior, emotional work; in a new cover story, Rashad told the *Fader*, "I just wanted this shit to sound fun." The song comes with an energetic feature from Memphis rapper Duke Deuce and a post-pandemic party dream of a music video.

In that *Fader* cover, Rashad opened up about dealing with alcoholism and spending problems after his 2017 tour, and struggling for years to record his *Sun's Tirade* follow-up. Eventually, he said, he went to Top Dawg about his drinking and spending in spring 2019, and began treatment at a California rehab center. After he left rehab, Rashad said, he also caught up on new rap, along with learning to freestyle from hip-hop producer Kenny Beats. Rashad cut many slow songs from *The House Is Burning* and hinted at releasing them later. "If I'm sad, people don't need to be able to tell," he added. "And this is probably my most depressing album." *The House Is Burning* is set to come out in June.