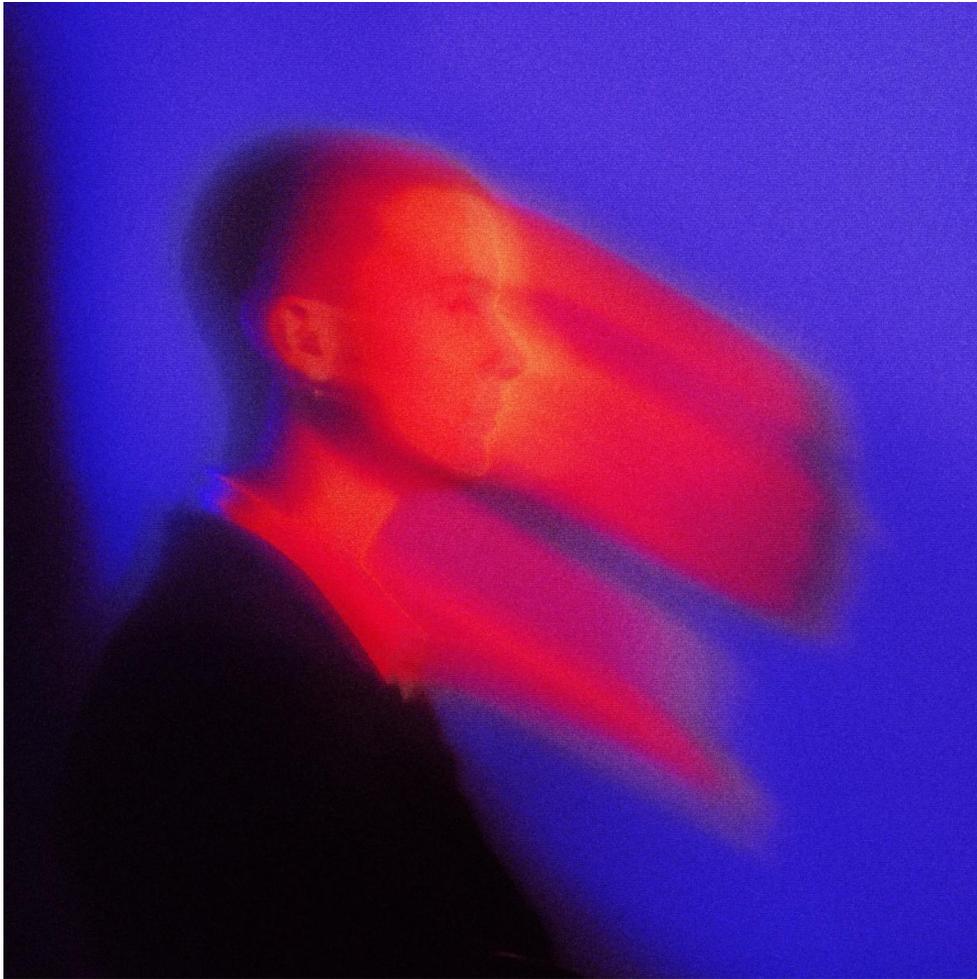


**ASTN WONDERS WHAT IS “REAL” ON SOULFUL NEW SINGLE
DEBUT EP *YOU’RE ALMOST THERE* SET FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 25**

LISTEN TO “REAL” [HERE](#) – WATCH THE VIDEO [HERE](#)



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March 11, 2022 (Los Angeles, CA)– Today, rising R&B singer, songwriter, and producer **ASTN** unleashes “**Real**,” the second single from his debut **Warner Records** EP, ***You’re Almost There***, due March 25. Listen to the deeply introspective track [HERE](#), and watch the fittingly evocative music video [HERE](#).

In the striking visual, a suited-up **ASTN** searches for an elusive woman. As soon as she is within reach, his object of affection vanishes. With strobe lights heightening the sense of confusion, **ASTN** is left alone in the darkness to ponder, “*Am I in love or alone? Dunno which is worse or why they feel the same.*” His captivating vocals and falsettos are contrasted by the gritty realities of a love that has run its course.

“This song asks the question: Was everything you experienced with this person even real?” **ASTN** explains. *“Beyond the lyrics of the song, the darker instrumental illustrates the mixture of spite and emotional numbness that one can feel during this phase.”* There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel: *“As this project shows, feelings are temporary and, with time, these darker emotions can be replaced with something better.”*

“Real” follows January’s “Gradually,” **ASTN**’s debut major-label single, and his viral R&B remix of Billie Eilish’s “Happier Than Ever,” which first brought him to the attention of music fans around the world. The original snippet of his cover version netted four million TikTok views overnight in

November and is currently at 60+ million views and counting. Fan demand led to the release of the full-length cover which has generated X streams to date.

“Gradually,” however, showcased **ASTN**’s original genre-melding flare and ushered in a new era. The pop-leaning heartbreak anthem has more than 1.7 million streams. Perhaps even more importantly, it set the stage for a conceptual five-track project that dissects the cyclical nature of relationships. “Real” finds **ASTN** in the immediate aftermath of the split chronicled in “Gradually.” *As You’re Almost There* will undeniably prove, ASTN is as real as they come.



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Credit: Bryce Glenn

ABOUT ASTN:

For ASTN, optimism and stormier emotions exist in perfect balance. The Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter, and producer makes genre-blurring songs built around light, textured R&B production, and relatable, repeatable hooks. And his new five-track EP, *You’re Almost There*, pushes his introspective songwriting even further—tracing the contours of the growth and confidence that comes after pushing through hard times. ASTN (born Austin Sanders) has always carried music with him wherever he went, especially as his family moved across the South when he was a kid. By his sophomore year of college, he had identified his own unique palette of warm R&B and poppier trap sounds—inspired by the hip-hop his older brother played him in the car when he was a kid—and started singing and writing. His first original offering was December 2017’s *Tell Your Friends*, followed by the introspective *IT’S NOT THAT SERIOUS* last June. ASTN has continued to demonstrate his growth as a boundary-pushing producer with his “what if this song was rnb?” remixes on social media, and his November 2021 take on Billie Eilish’s “Happier Than Ever” especially resonated—exploding to 56.6 million views in two months. With his Warner Records debut, *You’re Almost There*, ASTN is ready to introduce his truest self to his largest audience yet. “I just want that message to ring true,” he says. “You are almost there, whether ‘there’ is a million miles down the road or a couple feet ahead of you. I’m living proof of that.”

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