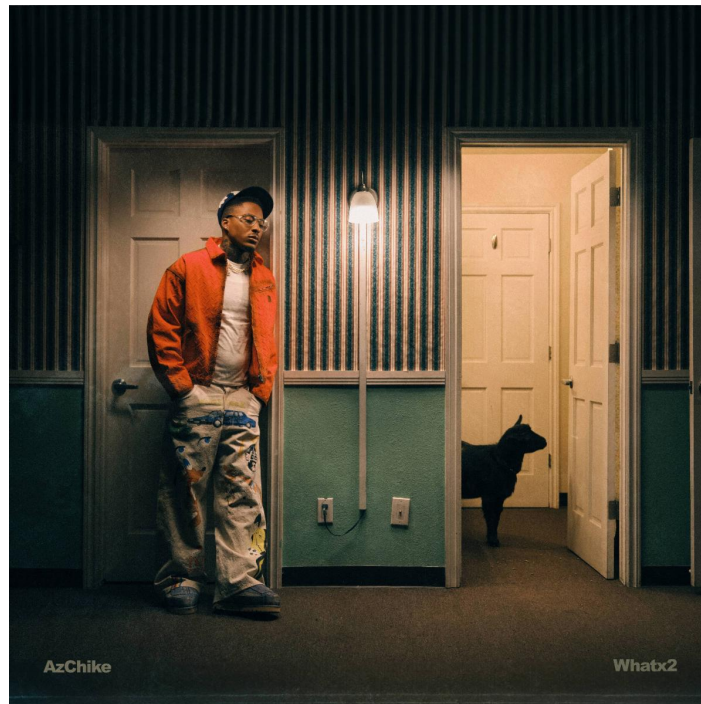


AZ CHIKE SIGNS TO WARNER RECORDS, DROPS SCORCHING SINGLE “WHATX2”

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FOLLOWS BREAKOUT COLLABORATIONS WITH KENDRICK LAMAR AND SCHOOLBOY Q



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February 21, 2025 (Los Angeles, CA) – Warner Records proudly welcomes South Central’s burgeoning **AZ Chike** (pronounced AY-ZEE CHYKE) to the roster. Kicking off this new chapter, the rising West Coast rapper delivers his scorching Warner Records debut single, “**Whatx2**” with an equally blazing video featuring baby goats. The track re-affirms the impact of the massive features he pulled off in 2024, lacing standout verses on two of the year’s hottest Hip Hop albums — **Kendrick Lamar’s** *GNX* and **Schoolboy Q’s** *Blue Lips*. Listen [HERE](#) and watch the video [HERE](#).

On “**Whatx2**,” **AZ Chike’s** sharp delivery cuts through a sea of bouncing bass, eerie synths, and panning percussion. With icy punchlines, enunciated bars, and a deep distrust of those around him, he makes it clear that he moves differently. As the beat rides out—leaving behind a trail of broken rivals, hearts, and budgets—he seems untouchable. *“Tim Hinshaw bringing me in at Warner and having a sit down with Aaron Bay-Schuck was the best decision I could have made following up all my current success. I love how in tune they are with the culture and Hip Hop. It feels like I’m supposed to be here, the stars are aligning, and I’m happy they are a part of that alignment,”* says **AZ Chike** of his new partnership with Warner Records.

*“We are thrilled to welcome **AZ Chike** to Warner Records at such a pivotal moment in his career. As an artist who has built incredible momentum over the past year, **Chike**, who was brought in by our partner Tim Hinshaw (Free Lunch), has already captivated audiences and proven his impact,”* says **Aaron Bay-Schuck**, co-Chairman & CEO, Warner Records. *“His talent, vision, and artistry have set him apart, and we are honored to support and help bring his music to an even larger global audience.”*

Directed by Stacking Memories (Peysoh, Wiz Khalifa, 310babii), the “**Whatx2**” video embraces the beat’s low-key surreality, mixing grit and glitz from scene to scene. In one moment, **AZ Chike** is stepping into a vintage Rolls Royce with a gorgeous woman at his side. In another, he’s sitting in a hallway flanked by literal goats. After the credits roll, we get a bonus snippet of an unreleased track.

AZ Chike has been one to watch, but his moment is now. Over the past year, he’s solidified his

status—supporting Schoolboy Q’s sold-out homecoming show at The Roxy, witnessing *GNX* hit No. 1 on the Billboard 200, and hearing Kendrick Lamar rap his “*Chike E. Cheese*” line from “[Peakaboo](#)” at Super Bowl LIX. But his grind started long before the spotlight. Since founding AzCult in 2013, he’s been a force in L.A.’s underground, finding viral fame with 2017’s “[Burn Rubber Again](#)” (25M+ of SoundCloud plays), rolling out his debut mixtape *My World*, and tearing up festival stages like Rolling Loud. Chike is also set to play **Rolling Loud** in Los Angeles on **Sunday, March 16th**.

More recently, **AZ Chike**’s been setting fire to freestyle sessions—see [Our Generation Music](#), [Power 106](#), [On the Radar](#)—while [Billboard](#) praised his 2024 single “[Love Yo Weapons](#)” for its “*slick wordplay*” and noted that, after his major crossover moments, “*the burgeoning West Coast rhymer certainly didn’t fumble the spotlight.*” Now, with Warner Records backing his vision, **AZ Chike** is poised to take 2025 by storm.



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ABOUT AZ CHIKE:

Sometimes progress is slow, other times it’s all at once. For L.A.’s AZ Chike, both have been true. Long considered one of the most promising rappers in a city full of them, the athletic MC’s profile exploded following: a breakout cameo on Schoolboy Q’s *Blue Lips* album, a standout performance at Kendrick Lamar’s The Pop Out concert on Juneteenth 2024, and a fiery feature on Lamar’s “*Peekaboo*” — a *GNX* highlight that made it into the Super Bowl LIX halftime show. Now known far and wide for bars as sinister as they are playful, AZ Chike is ready to show fans another side on his Warner Records debut album. *No Rest for the Wicked* moves seamlessly between aggressive, kinetic rap and autobiographical material, making it both a summation of the work he’s been doing for nearly a decade and a transition into a bold new era. Growing up in a family affected by the crack epidemic, AZ Chike started out in South Central before relocating to Watts, Compton, and Long Beach — a tour through L.A. subcultures reflected in his ability to move fluidly in an evolving rap scene. He blew up amid his city’s street rap boom, with his 2017 breakout “*Burn Rubber Again*” racking up millions of SoundCloud plays, clearing the way for his debut mixtape, *My World*, the Rolling Loud stage, and a run opening for Shoreline Mafia. He’s been prolific since, dropping tracks, collabs, EPs, and projects at an incredible clip. Thus, the title for his new LP was not chosen lightly. “It’s OK to work hard,” says AZ Chike, never one to waste a moment. And it’s his years doing it that’ll ensure he doesn’t waste the spotlight either.

CONNECT WITH AZ CHIKE

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