

OMAR BOILER 2021

Omar Apollo is one of R&B's most exciting shape-shifters. As the 23-year-old singer/songwriter prepares his debut album, he's holding close to music that feels inventive, experimental, and true to his wide-ranging passion. R&B remains the foundation, but Apollo is branching out with a bilingual fusion of funk, pop, electronic, hip-hop, reggaéton, corridos—as he puts it, “everything.” Apollo’s has been a transformative but linear journey, from listening to Brandy and Stevie as a kid, to plucking away at a guitar at 11, to self-releasing a pairs of EPs as a young man—2018’s *Stereo* and 2019’s *Friends*—that established his signature “bedroom soul,” and earned him love from fans and press (*Pitchfork*, *Rolling Stone*, *FADER*, et al.). As unique as his sound is, Apollo has gotten as much attention for his lyrics—themes of romantic yearning and self-improvement swirled up with expressions of cultural heritage and identity. Now, he’s leaning even more into all of it, making music that feels closer to his heart than ever. In 2020, he released his “quarantine project,” *Apolonio*. But as he finishes up his LP, he’s dreaming bigger, bringing in collaborators, and pushing himself harder than ever before. He’s more self-assured, and wants the rest of the world to catch up to what his fans have been seeing from the beginning “I used to think I wasn’t built for this because I’m just a kid from Indiana,” says Apollo. “But that thought is gone now. I know what to do. Everything just feels right.”