

Raashan Ahmad “The Sun”

Where did the time go? It's been about five years since my last official release, “Ceremony,” and it's been a whirlwind. That album and the tours that followed took me all over the world and opened up a part of me I had been waiting for. Countless live shows, great projects including two collaborative albums (one with Australian beat maker Ta-ku and another with fellow Crown City Rockers bandmate Headnodic), multiple guest featurings, and even a world tour with French producer Wax Tailor have all culminated in a new phase of my music career. The self-discovery and learning of production techniques, combined with seeing some of the best musicians doing their craft at high levels, and witnessing the political climate in the world, all led me to creating an album I didn't have the capability to make, until now.

“The Sun” is the start of me understanding how to get what's in my head out into the world. And, possibly more important, the bravery to try. Until this album, my process has always been about finding producers, getting beats, and putting my words over them (a process I still love). This album, though, is different. It is the first album I produced by collaborating with musicians all over the world to execute a vision of music without borders. For example, the track “Body Heat” features musicians from Dakar, Paris, Seattle, Spain and New Mexico. This wasn't about the features, but about the music representing how beautiful we are when we connect as well as my personal journey and merging with my worldwide community I'm blessed to be a part of.

Musically this is the most diverse I've ever been. I was led to journey into world music on my travels and as a result the rhythms, melodies and arrangements find an unfamiliar but beautiful home alongside my core sound. The way I use my voice was stretched as well and more singing and spoken word poetry is incorporated into this album. The topics range from the pain of my mother's passing to police brutality to my joy for life and all in between. It's my ode to this moment in time and the lessons I've learned about speaking to the current climate in the world as my musical heroes have taught me.

In short, “The Sun” is a new sound and I feel excited as ever to have taken my time to reach the next stage of my musical exploration and growth! I look forward to playing these songs live and sharing and supporting this album and movement!