

POP LIFE.



Tems' performance bore many of the hallmarks of a veteran performer, despite her ostensible rookie status. Framed in angelic light and wearing a flowing, translucent dressing gown, she delivered powerful vocals over renditions of "Damages," "Free Mind," and of course, "Essence," the Wizkid megahit that brought Tems to national prominence. Her fans, a diverse mix of young people, many flamboyantly dressed in traditional African patterns and styles, bought into every new song in the set, despite some being relatively very new. The inevitable singalong that broke out when she launched into "Essence" — assisted by WizKid in a surprise appearance, naturally — left the impression that she'll have plenty of opportunities to improve on lots of future tours.

— *Uproxx* hip-hop editor Aaron Williams on [Tems' live show in Los Angeles](#)

CATIE TURNER

SONGS FROM THE BATHROOM FLOOR



Our friends at Indie Mixtape just launched *Songs From The Bathroom Floor*, a new intimate performance series featuring Catie Turner. New episode drop every week, but you can check out the first four episodes [right here](#).

NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



JUSTIN BIEBER + THE KID LAROI

Speaking of Tems, she may not be sitting at the top spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100, but with an assist from the man who is — none other than Justin Bieber — she and WizKid might get there soon. Their new version of “Essence,” which features America’s favorite Canadian crooner, broke the top 10 on the chart this week, moving up one spot from No. 11. We’ll let that one cook. In the meantime, Justin Bieber and The Kid Laroi are still sitting pretty on top of the world with their nostalgia-fueled, pop-punk smash “Stay.” Both performed this past weekend in Las Vegas at the Justin Bieber & Friends mini-festival weekend presented by Pollen, but despite fans hoping for a live performance, that will have to wait for now. After seven total weeks at No. 1 though, this song is definitely here for the long-haul.

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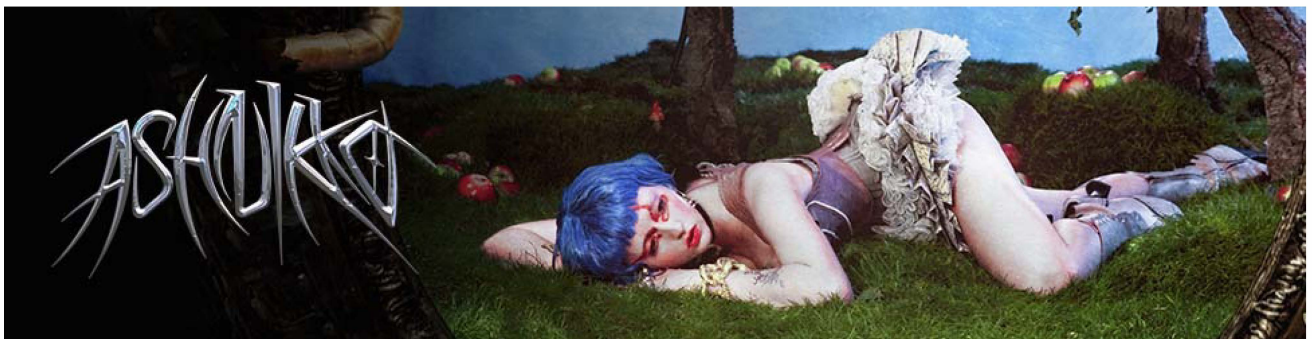
BUBBLING UNDER



GRACIE ABRAMS

If Gracie Abrams has already made her way onto your radar, congrats, you're ahead of the curve! If not, be prepared to start hearing her everywhere. For the elder millennials in the audience, think back to early 2000s era when A Fine Frenzy was ruling the radio waves. Gen Z fans know that slow, mystical pop has been in for a minute – thanks to *folklore*, *norman f*cking rockwell*, etc — but maybe not that it was just as influential 15 years ago. Abrams is standing on the shoulders of giants with songs like “Feels Like” that are loud within the quiet. Yes, it builds to a wonderful climax in the end, but never hits anthem status, staying in the lullabye realm all along. I, for one, am ready for lullabye pop to make a massive comeback.

[LISTEN](#)



CHECK OUT

DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST THIS HALLOWEEN



With Halloween right around the corner, now is as good a time as ever to pick up some merch from your favorite artists to celebrate and dress up.

CHECK IT OUT

REMEMBER WHEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARDI B!



Yesterday was Cardi B's birthday! Obviously, we're celebrating her outspoken, fair and balanced Libra personality... what else could we possibly spend this week doing? After her rise to fame off the fiercely independent "Bodak Yellow," Cardi doubled down with her excellent debut album, *Invasion Of Privacy*, a relationship with fellow hip-hop star Offset of Migos, and not one but two children. Needless to say it's been a busy few years for Cardi, but she's always resilient through it all, clapping back at haters on Twitter, collaborating with her fellow female stars like Megan Thee Stallion and Lizzo, and letting the world see her shine. Happy birthday Cardi, keep stuntin' on 'em.

[LISTEN](#)

LOVE LETTERS



JUSTIN BIEBER

I just spent the weekend in Vegas checking out Justin Bieber's latest live show, so it seems fitting to mention the new music he dropped last week. Aside from occupying the No. 1 spot on the chart, he's still giving his fans new music via *Justice (The Complete Edition)*, and one new song makes his intentions clearer than ever: "Hailey." Though the whole album could've arguably been titled this, as *Justice* is very much a Wife Guy album from a boy who grew up as a rebel teen in the spotlight, "Hailey" ditches insecurity and molasses-slow R&B for more of an upbeat pop vibe. Hopefully, this is the new direction he'll be going in post-*Justice*, and the 2022 sound will be a return to golden era Justin.

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