

AUDREY MIKA

Emotion seeps through the speakers and the screen.

Bold enough to sing out loud in her bedroom, confident clutching a plastic pink microphone, and unafraid to shed a tear or two on camera, Audrey Mika enchanted a growing diehard audience and impressively amassed nearly 60 million views and 1.2 million YouTube subscribers in under a year's time. Along the way, she received early acclaim from *Paper*, *Flaunt*, *OneToWatch*, and more. Renowned for holding nothing back, the same unbridled feelings filtered into her 2020 RCA Records debut EP, *5 A.M.*

In each track, the Oakland-born and Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter, and producer invites an unparalleled level of intimacy.

"Shut the blinds, get under the covers, and fall into the music," the songstress urges. "This is a new chapter for me as an artist. I've structured everything intently and gone deeper than ever. I'm getting more heartfelt, personal, and emotional all the time."

Audrey worked towards this revelation since the age of three when she stared singing and dancing. Music ran in the family as dad performed in a jazz band and often played trumpet right before his daughter went to sleep. During her formative years, she fondly recalls attending his rehearsals. With ambitions to dance as a prima ballerina for the Royal Ballet in London, Audrey devoted most of her childhood to an intense eight-hour daily practice regimen and countless classes and competitions.

However, January 2018 saw her make a crucial decision and alter course forever...

"I lost my passion for dance," she admits. "It became a really toxic atmosphere, and I stopped. You have to be perfect and technical all of the time. I so was depressed. Music was the only thing that would make me happy."

Inspired by the likes of H.E.R., Bryson Tiller, and Jhené Aiko, she wrote, recorded, and produced the independent *Are We There Yet* EP. As it stirred an organic buzz, Audrey uploaded covers on YouTube. Signature pink toy mic in hand, her take on Ariana Grande's "7 Rings" went viral in spring 2019. Maintaining a consistent stream of covers, she simultaneously wrote and produced her *Level Up* project on GarageBand.

Making waves, it accumulated 3 million-plus total Spotify streams within a few months. Inking a deal with RCA Records, the rising artist moved to Los Angeles alongside chief collaborator and co-writer Amisha Mallick Sarkar and got to work on what would become *5 A.M.*

Together, they primarily crafted songs between 2am and 5am, breathing in peaceful late-night energy and exhaling a calming style of her own. She introduced the project via "Fake Heartbreak." Receiving praise right out of the gate, *Idolator* applauded her "*powerful pipes and emotional delivery*" on the track. Meanwhile, the follow-up "Change Your Heart" illuminated her impressive range over a throwback nineties R&B beat, nocturnal synths, and sparse guitar.

"It's about a guy who doesn't do relationships or love in general," she says. "I'm saying, '*Maybe I can change your mind or change your heart*'."

With more releases on the horizon, Audrey makes a lasting emotional connection.

Once you fall into her embrace, you might never want to leave.

"When you listen to me, I want you to know you're going to be okay," she leaves off. "Things always get better. The songs offer hope. My music is your music too. That's the truth."