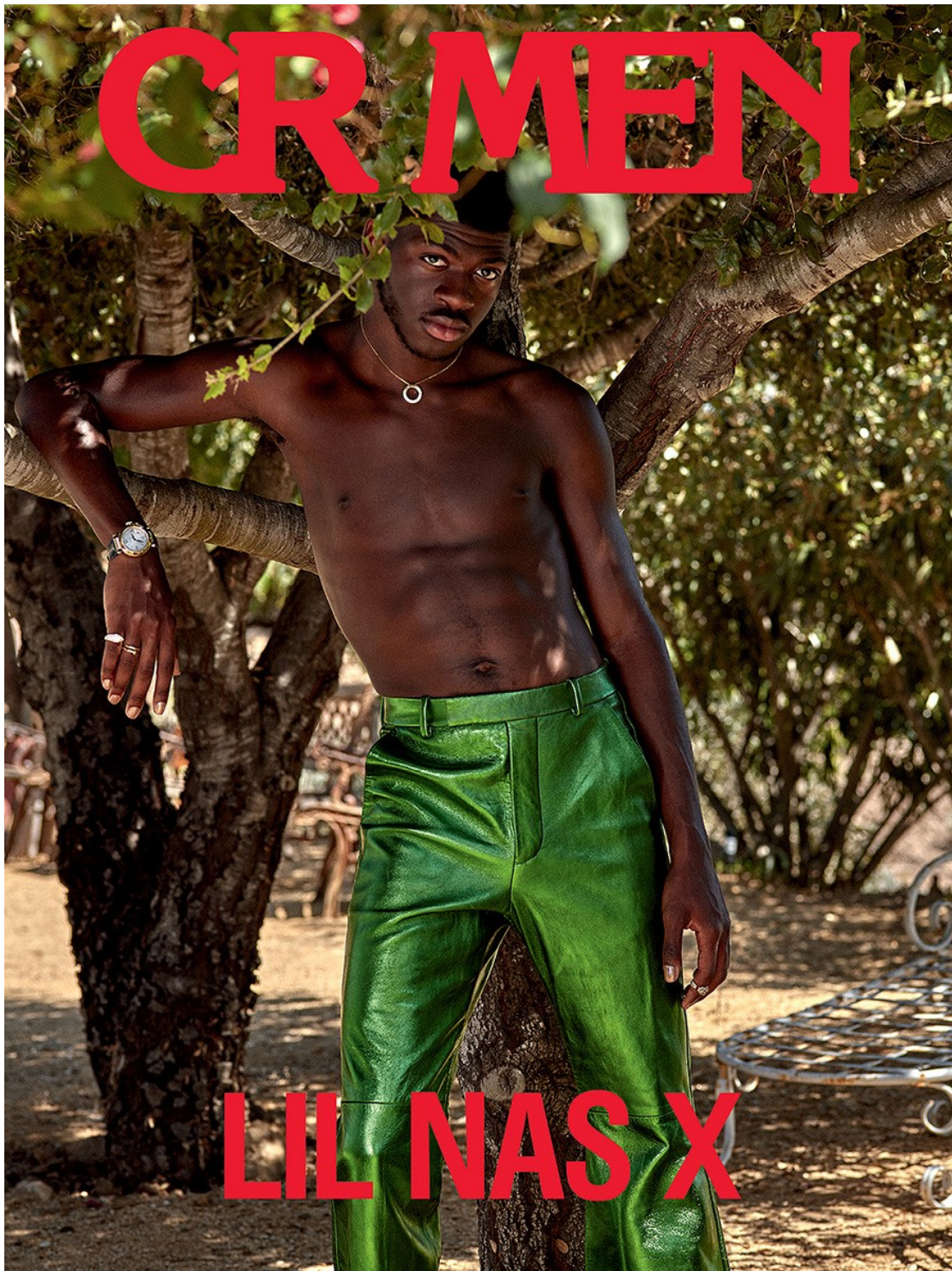


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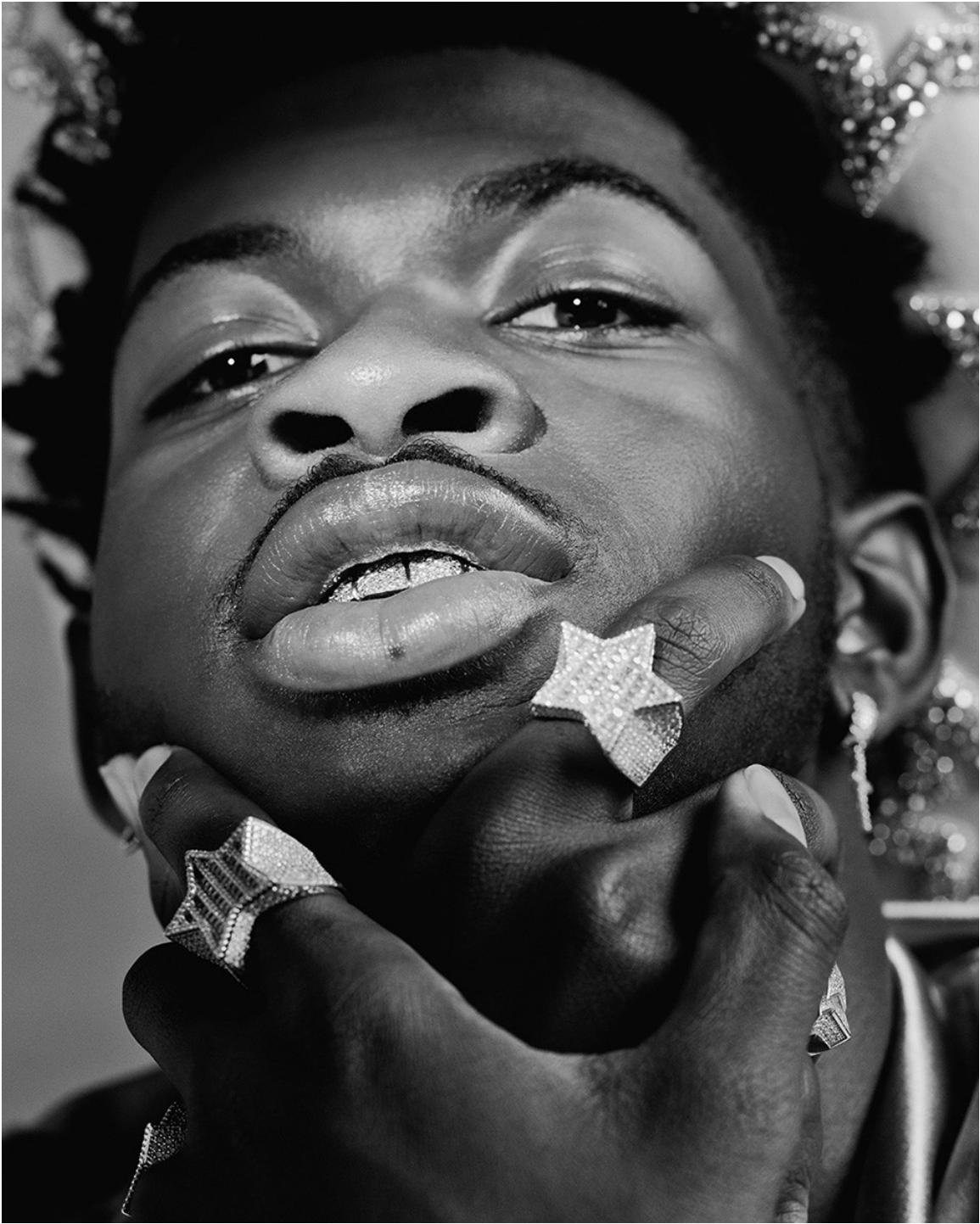
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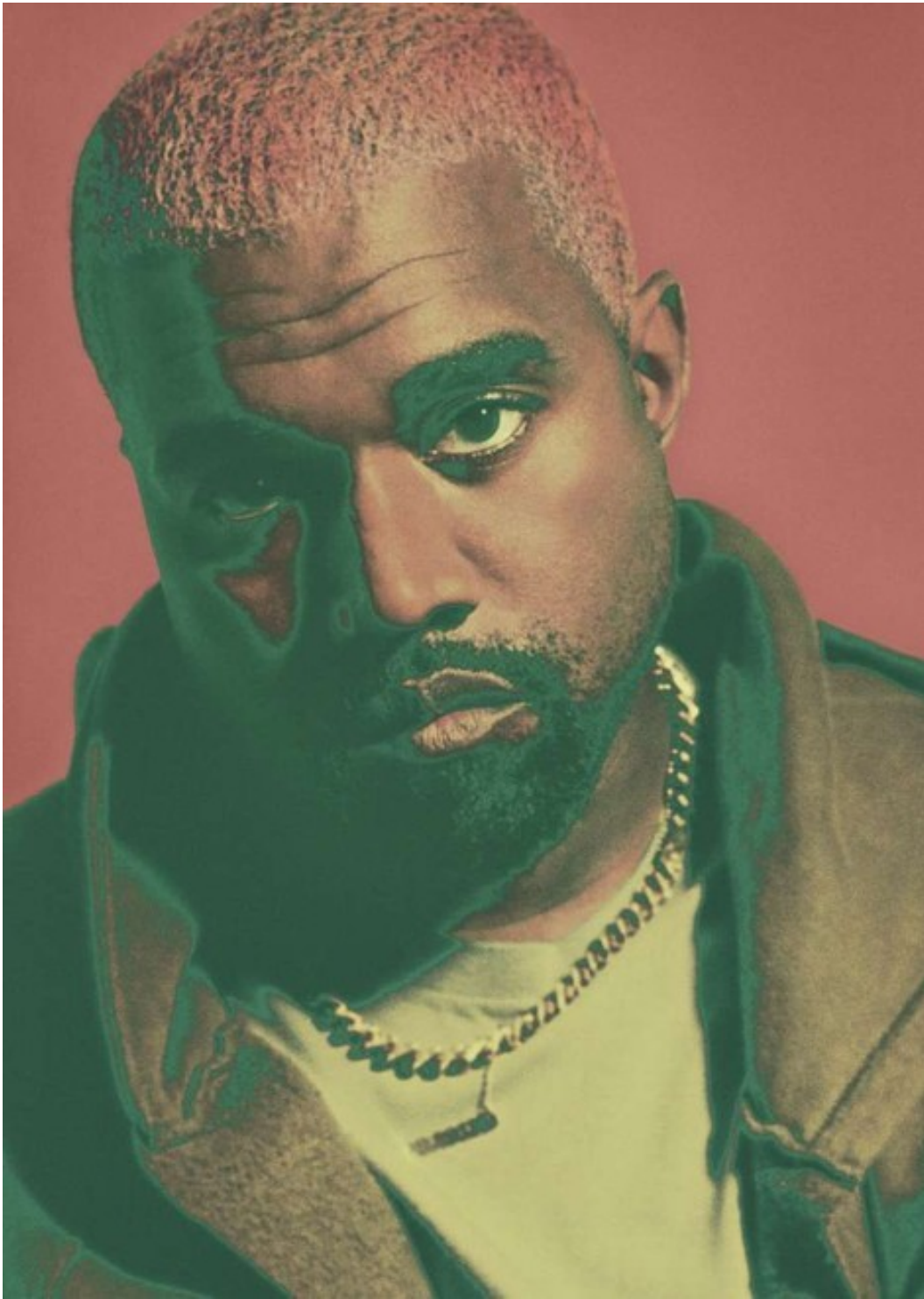
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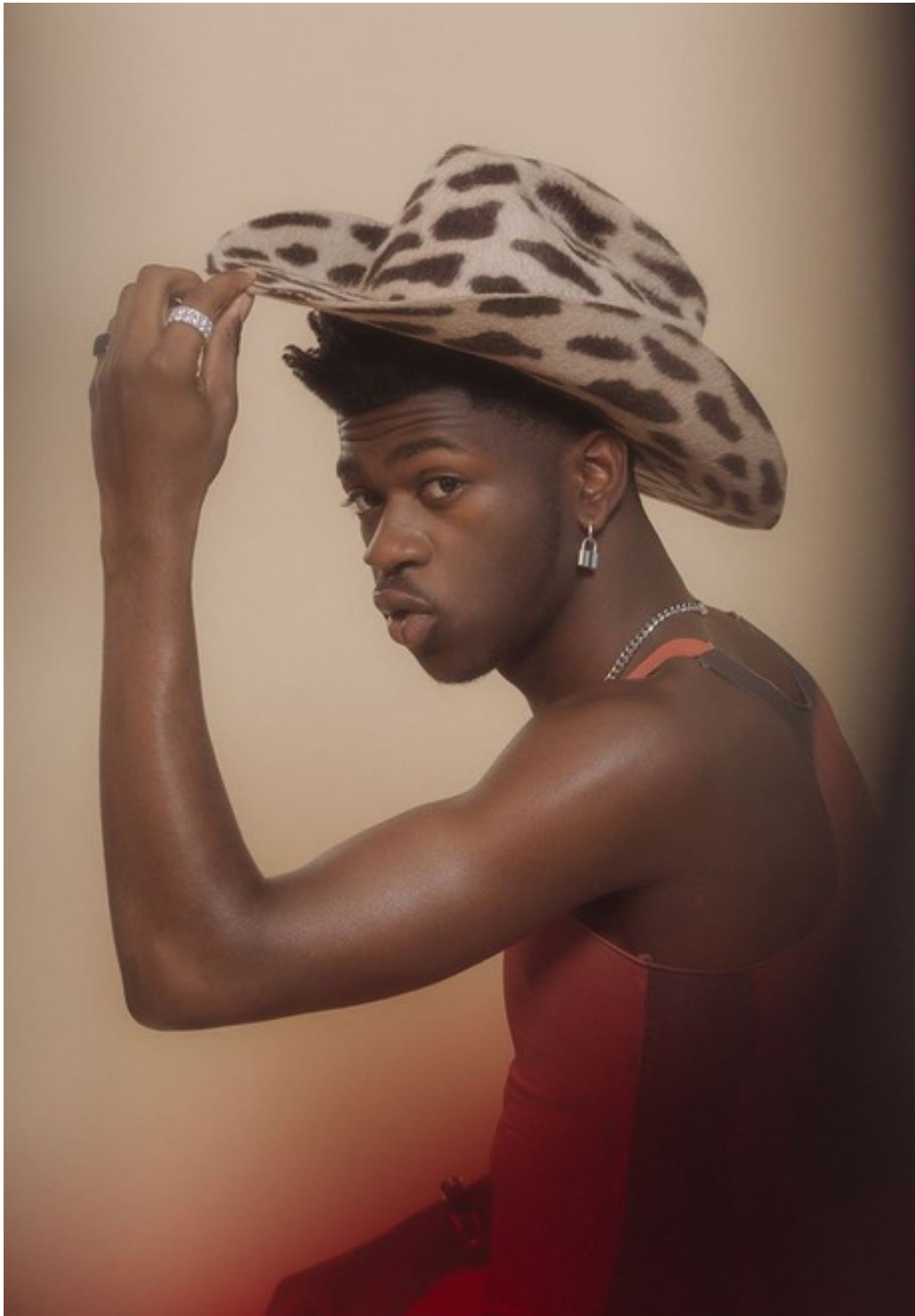
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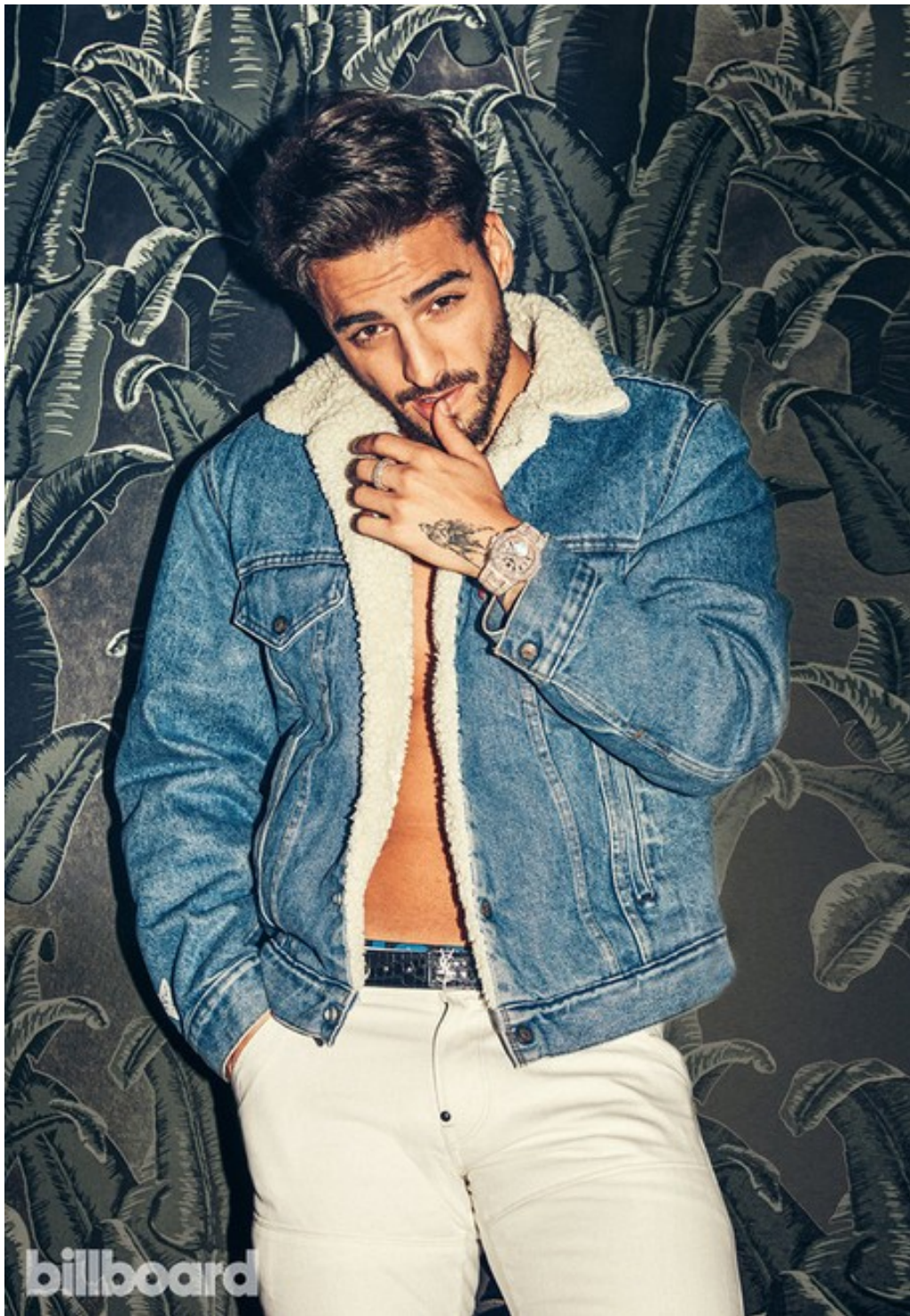
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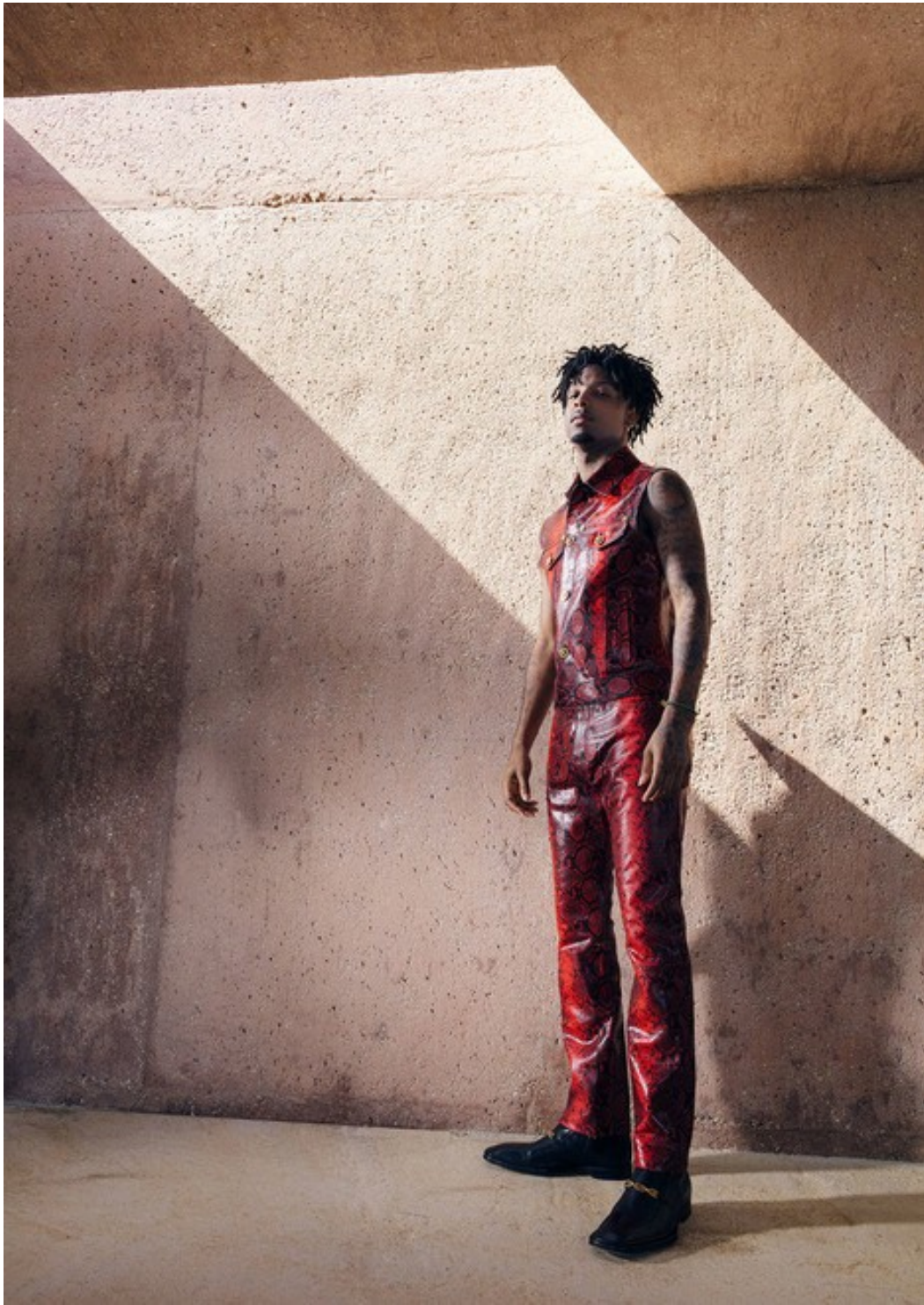
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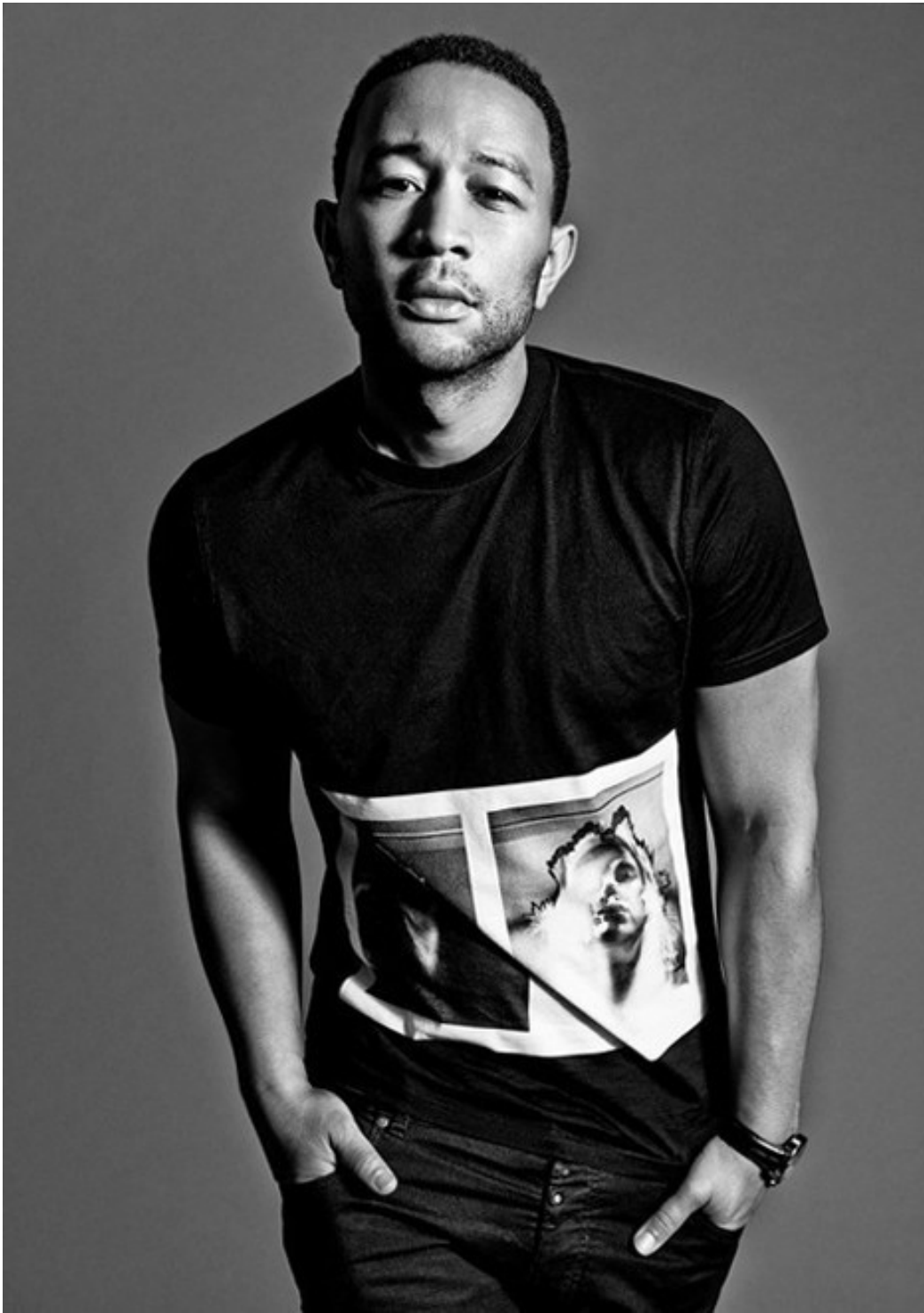
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From left:
Lowe, Iovine
and Jackson

**TRL: THE ORAL
HISTORY**
Boy-band vets,
execs and VJs revisit
the pandemonium

**LUIS FONSI ON
PUERTO RICO**
"This will take
years to rebuild"

APPLE MUSIC'S LONG GAME

Jimmy Iovine, Zane Lowe and
Larry Jackson promise to give
artists — and fans — the streaming
experience they deserve. But,
Iovine admits, "We're not even close"

October 7, 2017 | billboard.com

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The image is a cover for Billboard magazine. It features four people standing in a row against a light blue background. From left to right: a woman with long dark hair wearing an orange hoodie and dark pants; a woman with long dark hair wearing a light green blazer over a dark bra; a man with a beard wearing a patterned shirt; and a man with dark hair wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. The word 'billboard' is written vertically in large, bold, grey letters on the left side. Below the people, there is text about songwriters and a large orange headline. At the bottom right, there are several smaller headlines and a 'PLUS' icon. The date and website are at the bottom left.

June 15, 2019 | billboard.com

Songwriters **Starrah**, **Victoria Monét**, **Louis Bell** and **Frank Dukes** lead the Hot 100 into a diverse, collaborative and intensely personal era

HOW TO MAKE A HIT

+

INTRODUCING
THE WEEKLY
SONGWRITER
& PRODUCER
CHARTS

PLUS

HOW MANAGERS
GET CREDITS

WHY PROs ARE PAYING UP

LINDA MORAN:
THE 'GODMOTHER' SPEAKS

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No.50
on Billboard's
Hot 100 chart

**CHART
BREAKER**
DISCOVERING NEW TALENT SINCE 1894

BRYCE VINE

With breakout hit "Drew Barrymore," the Los Angeles native finally feels comfortable in his skin
By Taylor Weatherby
Photographed by Djeneba Aduayom

School of rock
After getting a guitar for his 13th birthday, Bryce Vine, now 30, taught himself how to use it by mimicking chords from Blink-182 and Third Eye Blind songs. Vine (born Bryce Ross-Johnson) always envisioned himself in a band — only not as a singer. After forming a punk group called Goodsell in high school, he became the band's frontman on account of his songwriting skills: "I [always thought] if you were going to make music, then you had to write it yourself."

Meeting his match
Vine attended Boston's esteemed Berklee College of Music on a scholarship but says, "I felt totally out of my league." Toying with everything from jazz to gospel in classes, he came to a conclusion: "I just had to find a niche and mold my own genre."

because I never fit into any one." While at school, Vine met producer Nolan Lambroza, now known as Sir Nolan — he's behind singles for Shawn Mendes and Selena Gomez — and started exploring what his voice could do over pop and rap beats.

Failed Project
At the request of his mother, Vine tried out for the Glee-scouting reality series *The Glee Project* during his second year at Berklee. He made it to the final 12 but immediately knew it wasn't the right path. "They wanted me to fit a character that I wasn't, [who's] a dick to everybody," he recalls. "I wasn't trying to be an actor on a reality show; I wanted to be a musician." Instead of becoming discouraged when he was the first of the 12 booted off, he saw it as an opportunity: "Everyone's going to see me on national television," says Vine, who used it as inspiration to write more songs.

Revolving mythology
Six years after leaving the show in 2011 and returning home to Los Angeles, Vine was in need of a hook for a love song he was working on. He scrolled through old audio recordings on his phone, finding an idea that Jello Michaels, who dated Lambroza in 2015, had given him to use. He adapted it for the sultry breakout "Drew Barrymore," independently released last November and now climbing the Billboard Hot 100. Suddenly, Vine had multiple labels vying for him, but the clear choice was Sire Records, thanks to label head Rami Hancock: "I loved the idea of signing to a female president. I knew that the sensitivity of my project was going to be handled a certain way." His debut album, *Carnival*, is already underway, with plans to release it in early 2019. 🎵

Vine photographed Sept. 4 at Optimist Studios in Los Angeles. Watch him talk about how he got his start in music and more at Billboard.com/video.

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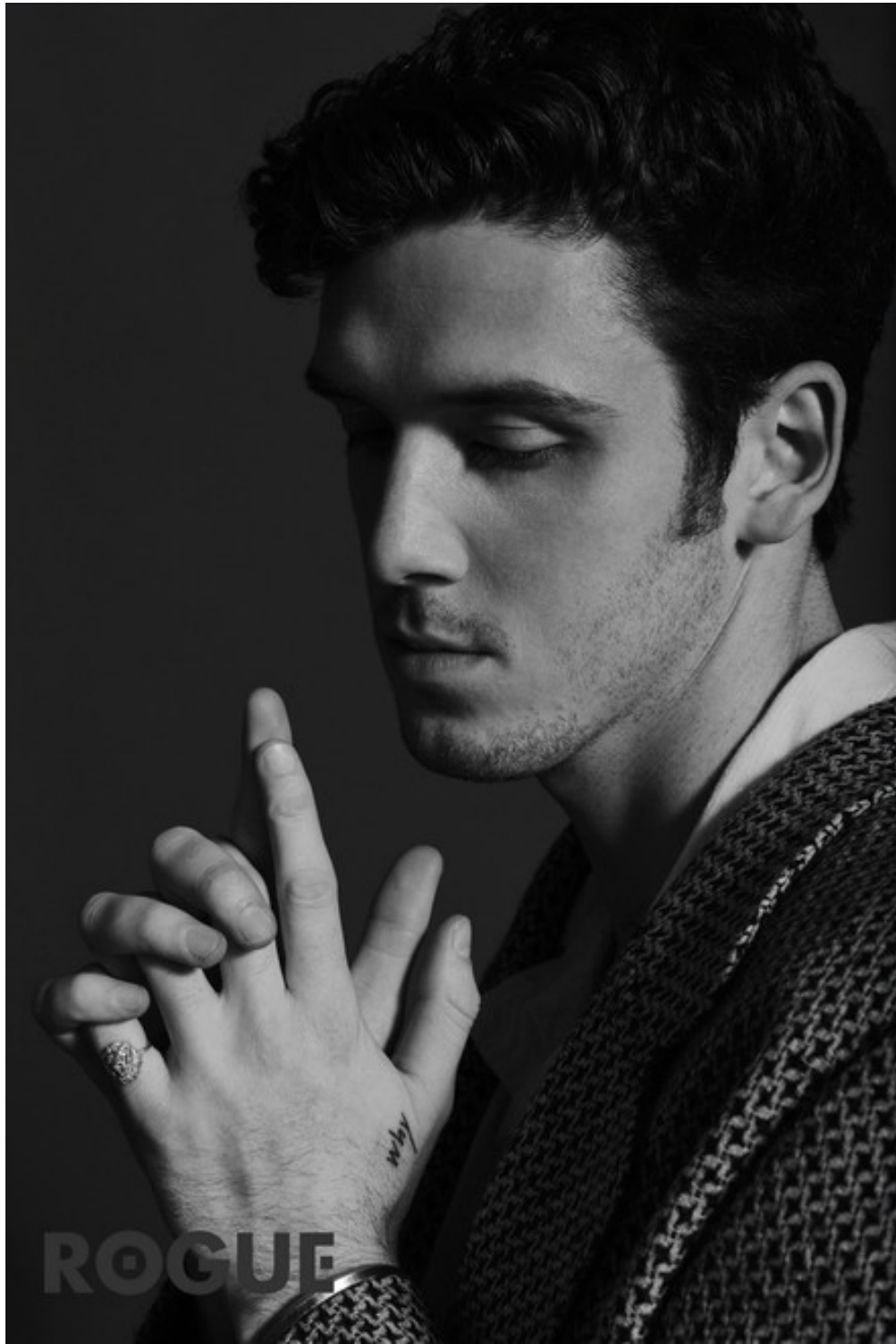
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the heart

THE PULSE OF MUSIC RIGHT NOW

How mental illness destroyed rapper Charles Hamilton's career — and what he plans to do to revive it

BY ANDY GENSLER
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIGITTE SIRE

REDEMPTION SEASON IS UPON US," says Charles Hamilton, sitting at a piano inside Los Angeles' Sayers Club on Feb. 18, the rapper's first public performance in three years. The crowd — filled with record executives and fans, including one in a "Charles Hamilton Saved My Life" T-shirt — is excited, and so is Hamilton. "Thanks for all the love," he adds. "I just feel so good."

To hear Hamilton, 27, utter those last five words was unimaginable a few years ago, when the prodigiously talented rapper, producer and multi-instrumentalist hit bottom after one of the most massive flame-outs music has ever seen, one that took him from stardom to homelessness, incarceration and institutionalization in little more than year.

In 2008 Hamilton blew up the blogosphere with a prolific series of dozens of out-there mixtapes that led to a seven-figure deal with Interscope, personally brokered by Jimmy Iovine. During the months that followed, the Harlem native would record with *Eminem*; grace the cover of *XXL* magazine's "Freshmen" issue with *Wale*, *B.o.B* and *Kid Cudi*; and land a management contract with late power-broker *Chris Lighty*. But behind it all, things were unraveling. Hamilton suffered from an

"I was depressed, paranoid and confused," says Hamilton, photographed Feb. 24 in Los Angeles. For an exclusive interview and behind-the-scenes video, go to billboard.com/gad.

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