

ROKSKE BIO

Despite how turbulent life is in 2020, the horizon has never looked clearer or more promising for Auckland-based R&B act, Rokske. Inspired by the rap success of his brother and business partner Chubby Fly, Rokske (born Muraad Sterras) is shifting his artistry from part-time hobby to fully-fledged career.

After recording with rap group EMG for eight years plus featuring on hits for prolific New Zealand rappers like David Dallas (2013's "Gotta Know") and PNC (2016's "Mrs. Wallace"), the smooth vocalist surprisingly decided to leave the spotlight and work on himself.

"Being an artist from my early teens into my mid-20s took its toll," Rokske says. "I stopped making music the past few years to live a little and get some life experience. I wanted to be inspired by the simple things around me."

Earlier this year, the South-African born singer took that inspiration straight into the studio with Chubby and their in-house producer, Neverbeats. The trio recorded a stack of radio-ready solo and group material for various upcoming projects. First up for Rokske? Buzz single "She's Not Yours", guaranteed to reintroduce the 27-year-old to his old fans and score him many new ones.

With an interpolation of Brandy & Monica's 1998 classic "The Boy Is Mine", "She's Not Yours" sees Rokske — a self-admitted "one woman man" — fight (and sing) for the lady he loves.

"'She's Not Yours' is like getting into a time capsule that takes you back to when things were more simple, when there were fewer distractions from sharing your real feelings," Rokske says. "When I'm in a relationship, I'm quite protective and never hesitant to show how much I care about someone. I'm grateful my mother taught me how to respect and treat women."

Unlike a number of today's R&B artists, Rokske writes all his music. He describes the chemistry he shares in the booth with producer Neverbeats as "interesting".

"We create a space where we can brainstorm ideas and bounce them back and forth until we get a certain vibe. It's weird because we don't really need to talk — our communication through getting a reaction out of one another is enough to know we got something good!"

Rokske credits his unbreakable bond with older brother Chubby — their household growing up filled with sounds from soulful artists like Earth Wind & Fire, Michael Jackson, The Bee Gees and Barry White — to their ability to openly and willingly share personal and professional lives.

"We've always been super close. It kinda helps that we always dreamed big and always talked about how we were going to do this together one day," Rokske says. "I'm just glad I share the same career passions as my brother, who's pretty much my best friend."

The world may feel more chaotic than ever, but a revitalised Rokske knows exactly what he wants to accomplish as a solo artist. "My main goal is to inspire as many people as I can to find their special thing like I have, and really tap into their full potential."