

AUGUST

IN EVERY ISSUE

CONTRIBUTORS

The late on Clohel/ag c

016

ED LETTER

Megan Purtomeal talks summer trends and the new issue.

017

SHOP CLICHÉ

Shop some of our favorite products from our partners.

018

WE HEAR YA!

Here's what everyone s saying about us on octal media.

STREET STYLE

Fashion bloggers from around the globe share their blogs with as

FASHION **EDITORIALS**

056 THE SENSE OF BEAUTY

102

MONACO

126

TRAINING DAY

Clicke

nww.clichemag.com



ife isn't always the easiest thing to figure out, including who we turn out to be and when we grow up. For the lucky few, there's an innate security in knowing what works, what's possible, and what's within reach. It could be picking the best college to go to, the right company to work for, and for those like artist, actor, and entertainer Jorge Blanco, it could be just waking up and going to that particular audition. This year, the 25-year-old Mexican star has fully immersed himself in the music

just waking up and going to that particular audition. This year, the 25-year-old Mexican star has fully immersed himself in the music world and is ready to showcase his efforts with his debut album, set for release this year. Alongside Hollywood Records, Blanco will come full circle revealing his experiences and joy for music for listeners who came to know him as someone else, and those who stay to know him as himself.

Sometimes it's the little things that matter; Blanco's journey down his path so far has shown that patience is key. He took the Disney way, participating in the reality show High School Musical: The Selection, choosing the main participants for the Mexican version of HSM, High School Musical: El Desafio Mexico, with a plot specific for its audience. Although Blanco did not win any of the main spots, he starred in a small role and participated in the movie's soundtrack.

Blanco says trying out for a school festival, despite being shy and inexperienced, solidified his decision to choose the arts. "I gave it a shot and loved it. I sang [in the school festival]," he

says. "I was always a very shy person, so I had some of my friends join me on stage. None of my classmates knew I sang. It took me a while to lose the fear and do it, but once I did...! have not stopped since that day."

Blanco says this first experience continues to influence his creative process to this day. "I already loved music," he explains. "That experience made me love it even more."

There's a custom where if a child chooses a particular object, it foretells his or her future; perhaps a royal, a doctor, or a writer. For Blanco, he knew his future because of a hidden desire. "Summe "I grabbed a guitar when I was 5 years old because I always wanted to learn and I haven't put it down since," he says.

Blanco continued in music as much as he could, even when stanting in the Disney Channel Latin America hit series Woletra, an Argentine telenovela about reunion, self-discovery, and music. Because the show used original music, Blanco sang and toured with the cast for the show's concert series. He starred as Violetta Castillo's love interest, Leon Vargas, and won the hearts of many, thus contributing to the soundtrack's success. It went four times platinum and won a premier music award, the Premios Gardel for Best Album Soundtrack of Film and Television, in Argentina, and certified gold and platinum in other countries. Blanco took a break from the series to continue his music interests but returned for the show's feature film Tini: The Movie in 2016. He also released his first solo work in a feature film Light Your Heart with

his co-star Martina Stoessel.

After performing and releasing "Beautiful Mistake," Blanco's minor setback regarding his original timeline for debut in late 2016 only seems like a blip in his extensive and continuous drive for the here and now. He performed on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve before ringing in 2017, his song "Drive My Car" appears in Disney/Pixar's Cars 3 official soundtrack, he boasts over 6 million followers across all his social platforms, and really appreciates the love he gets from his fans. With a lot happening so quickly, Blanco maintains his sanity and reality by making his goals clear and to the point. No matter what you do, Blanco understands that practice always makes perfect—or at least you'll retain your skills longer.

When it comes to maintaining his affinity for languages, Blanco says full immersion is important, "Go there and be immersed in the language and culture," he says, "Practice as much as you can and do not be afraid to try."

The latter can also be said about Blanco's mindset towards his musical career and his goals for the future. "First, [I want to] share my music with as many people as I can everywhere," he says. "Second, I want to workout more and stay healthy, and third, I want to perform live concerts as much as possible." Tour life is definitely an adjustment for Blanco, who plans on using the stage as a way to complete his goals in health, music, and soul-searching. This fall, he will be joining RS on tour in Europe and can't wait to meet his fans.

Despite any setbacks, plenty of ideas, and a multitude of

directions, Blanco's journey as an artist involved an internal reflection. "I have been writing music for the past two years to understand and find the right sound for me—a sound that is really defining of me as an artist," he explains. "That process has been wonderful."

On songwriting, Blanco continues, "Being able to sit and co-write with so many talented writers has been an amazing way to learn and improve my writing skills. It definitely changes as I'm growing up and evolving as an artist."

In light of his album and second single

"Summer Soul," he emphasizes the importance of connection and praises his supportive fans who have grown with him over the years. He also shares the value of supporting one another. "I love when my fans ask me for counseling and tell me that I inspire them somehow," he says. "[Performing] is a great opportunity to inspire and help my fans with my art."

While citing musical influences like James Brown, Elvis Presley, and Michael Jackson who helped develop his personal style, Blanco admits that his debut album will be "the first time I have an opportunity to express myself with my own music." With a growing fan base and more opportunities to showcase his ever-growing falent than ever before, Jorge Blanco will continue to push forward and be an example of the phrase "if you believe you can, you will."

For news on Jurge Blanco's debut album and European tour, visit thejorgeblanco.com.

86 Clicke

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