**BIO**

Many artists change the game. However, Rico Nasty reinvents, recharges, and reimagines it with every move. She never follows. She never obeys. She never *(ever)* gives a fuck. Instead, the Washington, D.C.-born and Maryland-raised sonic sorceress shapeshifts at the speed of the culture, infusing airtight rap with uncontainable punk energy, hyperpop unpredictability, industrial intensity, and just the right amount of heavy metal attitude. With an inimitable and influential signature style, she has reached multiplatinum status, posted up nearly 1 billion streams, and sold out countless shows.

However, she unleashes unfiltered truth with the force of a tornado through a tidal wave on her 2022 project, *Las Ruinas,* and much more to come.

“I got a weight off of my chest,” she admits. “I spoke about things I thought I couldn’t talk about. I didn’t care. I cleansed my palette, and I’m able to start fresh. A lot of ideas were weighing on me, so I put all of those experiments into one project. If you like, you like it. If you hate it, you hate it. I just wanted to make music I would listen to. It makes me want to dance, and it makes me happy. I’m still angry about shit, but you have to kill it with kindness—which is what I’m doing.”

Back in high school, she made waves with a series of independent projects before reaching critical mass with 2017’s *Sugar Trap* *2*. On its heels, she maintained this momentum with the fan favorite *Nasty* in 2018. The collaborative mixtape *Anger Management* with Kenny Beats closed out 2019 on over a dozen year-end lists, including *Complex*, *Dazed*, *Fact*, *The FADER*, *GQ*, *NME*, *Pitchfork*, *Rolling Stone*, *Stereogum*, and *Vice*. During 2020, her full-length debut, *Nightmare Vacation*, boasted the gold-certified hit “Smack A Bitch.” Peers sought her out for high-profile collaborations, including the platinum “Tia Tamera” with Doja Cat, “#PROUDCATOWNERREMIX” with the late XXXTentacion, “¡aquí yo mando!” with Kali Uchis, and more. Rico’s’s the rare outlier who can grace the cover of *Alternative Press* *and* the *XXL* Freshman issue or light up Rihanna’s Savage X Fenty Show as an ambassador *and* ignite a mosh pit. Not to mention, she has toured with Kehlani, Khalid, and Playboi Carti.

At the top of 2022, an eye-opening trip to Mexico inspired what would become *Las Ruinas*. She visited the home of Frida Kahlo, experienced the Ruins, and flew in a hot air balloon. However, she got COVID-19 upon returning home.

“I couldn’t do anything for two weeks,” she recalls. “I took quarantining very seriously. I locked myself in a room, because I didn’t want to get my son sick, but I listened to music the entire time. Once I tested negative, I spent three months in the studio.”

She religiously listened to a personally curated playlist highlighted by Prodigy’s “Smack My Bitch Up,” Basement Jaxx’s “Where’s Your Head At?,” and Death Grips’s “You Might Think He Loves You For Your Money, but I Know What He Really Loves You for It’s Your Brand New Leopard Skin Pillbox Hat,” among others. She also played Ye’s *808s & Heartbreaks* and *Yeezus* on repeat in addition to Baby Metal, Atari Teenage Riot, Rabbit Junk, and more.

Meanwhile, she emphasized original production as she worked with AMON, Danes Blood, Ben10K, Tank God, and Avedon. Rico teased out *Las Ruinas* with the glitchy barrage of opener “Intrusive” and riot-starting “Black Punk” before spitting without compromise on the vibrantly vitriolic “Blow Me.”

“*‘Blow Me’* definitely tells you where I am in life,” she notes. “It takes you back tothe idea, *‘She does a bunch of cool stuff production-wise, but she can still rap’*.”

“Messy” [feat. Teezo Touchdown & Bktherula] opens with a theatrical call-and-response before turning on a dime into a lyrical flurry underlined by a manic synth and vocal sample freakout. *“It’s a beautiful mess*,*”* she grins.

Then, there’s “Watch Your Man” [feat. Marshmello]. Otherworldly transmissions give way to bass-boosted verses as her flow switches from chaotic to catchy. On the rapid-fire refrain, she urges, *“Don’t watch me, better watch your man”* at a dizzying pace.

“Marshmello has always been a favorite of mine,” she says.“I was initially nervous, but he’s so regular and chill. He wanted me to do my thing. When I heard the beat, it made me feel like I was speeding somewhere in *Tokyo Drift*. It’s hair-blowing-in-the-wind bad bitch energy. We were talking about how people are so worried about what you do on the road, but they need to worry about what they’re doing.”

On “Into The Dark,” she confronts the loss of a friend, while “Chicken Nugget” serves as a sentimental closer.

“It’s about my son,” she reveals. “I never make songs about him. The older he gets, the more involved he is in my writing process. When I was in Mexico, I got stranded in the airport, because I got lost. So, he sent me the voice note on the song. He wanted me to come home. It’s a song for me to stay grounded and reminds me what I do this for.”

In the end, Rico continues to lead without compromise.

“There is beauty in everyone not understanding you,” she leaves off. “There’s beauty in yourself. When you see ruins, they look rundown. You can’t imagine how glorious they once were. There’s beauty in the shit that gets fucked up though. There’s beauty in going left from the way you want to go. A lot of people are hopeless right now. Life has been negative for many of us. A lot of bad shit has happened back-to-back. It makes the comeback and victory story even harder, so I just want you to know you’re beautiful and I love you.”

**BOILER**

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