

After a successful project tour, a collaboration with **Mike Skinner** and shows lined up for the next few months across the country, **Master Peace** now sits down with **LOOP Magazine** to talk about an upcoming EP, his experience as a black artist in the indie music scene and some gems from his time on tour.

**RA** - Congratulations on 1,000,000 streams **"Wrong Answers Only"** with **Mike Skinner**!

*MP - "It's another brick, in what I'm doing here. You know, it feels good and it pushes me towards the next steps."*

**RA** - I know it was a milestone of yours to collaborate with **Mike Skinner**, how does it feel now that it's a reality?

*MP - "I've completed music now!"* He jokingly replied, expressing the complete joy his hard work has accomplished. *"You know, there is not much else I wanna do anymore, of course I wanna drop an album, but not much else. For my career, I wanted to do a song with Mike Skinner, drop an album and I would be happy then we're nearly there."*

I continue to ask about the **PDA** Tour, which saw **Master Peace** perform in various locations across the UK including, Manchester, Leeds, Brighton, and his hometown London. On the back of his recent EP **"Public Display of Affection"** which saw him collaborate with Mae Muller and Kasien. With fan favourite **"Overdrive"** being part of the track-list. It's an exciting EP for the young Indie-star and shows his musical characteristic to its near purest form.

*MP - "A lot of artist don't want to test their importance in other cities, cause they are worried that people are not gonna turn up." "I feel like the reason, upcoming artists, or even developing artists, find it hard to breakthrough is because they don't want to risk it. You have to risk it to get a reward." "I sold out my tour, without even having an album out yet, you've got to risk it, cause then at least you will know within yourself that you have work to do if it fails." "There is this false economy of everybody thinking they've gone clear, because of a few Instagram followers, but that doesn't mean you could sell out a show outside your own city."*

**RA** - What cities surprised you with the reception you had on the tour?

*MP - "I'm gonna keep it real with you, I thought Leeds and Manchester would be absolutely empty, for me they were the true test of my importance as an artist. I was so worried, my manager told me two months before the shows that we had 200 capacities, and only 40 tickets had been sold. So I had to push on the marketing side, and they both ended up selling out on the night. The tour allowed me to understand that I was doing something right. People were coming to watch me perform in various regions of the UK. It allowed me to say that I am an established artist here in the UK."*

**Master Peace** then divulges into a discussion about his upcoming and final EP in the current trilogy. *“The EP is finished, and is a complete level up from anything I’ve released so far.”*

RA - *“Is it going to be the same sound we’ve heard from you, or would this be something new?”*

Which he replies with inquisition, as if reminiscing on the countless hours spent in the studio.

MP- *“It’s the same sound, but it’s very British”* going on to elaborate it’s regional fidelity and wanting to cement himself to the roots of his home *“If an American heard this, they would be like WTF is this?! It’s very **“Bloc Party” British Indie-Rock**, this EP is going to be very Indie.”*

We then go on to discuss the potential for the first single to be released in June, and the plans for the accompanying music video.

MP- *“The reason this music is so home-grown and embedded in Indie, is because I’ve been placed in the **“Rapper”** box my whole career. As a black artist, coming out as an indie artist – Which I have been, as all my music is indie – Publications and social media have been using that stereotypical musical cliché, placing me under headlines of being a rapper that does indie music, rather than just an indie artist. Calling me a rapper is disrespecting those who are talented at what they do like **Knucks** and **Sam Wise**. This EP is to end all misrepresentation of my artistry, and to stop me from being labelled something I am not. If a white artist went and released the same music as me, they would not call him a rapper. So why do I get placed under that label? For example, an article was written about my single with **Mike Skinner** and said that the “two rappers went back and forth”. Hang on a minute, I wasn’t even rapping on the track I was singing.”*

RA - What has it been like for you battling this cultural/stereotypical box?

MP - *“It has been difficult. I have tried for so long not to take offense to it, but it’s come to the point where I am taking offense to it. It’s like they are not even listening to the music, they just see an artist with a durag and automatically label me a rapper. You wouldn’t call **The 1975** rappers, you wouldn’t call **Kings of Leon** rappers, you wouldn’t call **Arctic Monkeys** rappers but you would call me a rapper because I’m black. It just doesn’t make sense.”*

RA - Would you say the reception to your music differed, due to your abstaining from the status quo?

MP - *“I feel like sticking with Indie, saved my music career.”* Sounding surprised I exclaimed quite sheepishly *“Really?”*, he continued *“Yeah, I felt lost, I didn’t know what I wanted to be as an artist, I just knew I could make Indie music. Growing up, I listened to a lot of Indie music, so for me, taking it all in I knew if I ever wanted to be an artist that is the music I would be making. However, the thing with Indie is, especially being a black artist, there isn’t a lot of us and the handful of people that do what we do, don’t own it. So, I don’t really feel like I have a scene, I feel like it’s just me. I want to make this a Peace thing. From such a young age, people would keep telling me to stick to the rapping, and I would keep having to*

*say no, I don't want to be a rapper. Fighting tooth and nail, there would be line-ups of Indie artist at shows and we wouldn't be put on cause they think I'm a rapper. Saying all of this, the Indie sound saved my music career. If I had listened to everyone who told me to be a rapper, my music career would have been over a long time ago. With underground UK rap especially, there is a ceiling to it, meaning there is only so far you can go with it. If you are not a mainstream rapper like a **Central Cee** or **Aitch**, there is a limit. There are only a handful of people who make it out with an alternative rap sound, to mind I can only think of **Slowthai** and **Kojoy Radical**. Another artist who is in the handful of us that are trying to push the stereotype as black artists, is **Rachel Chinouriri**, she wrote a tweet a while ago that kinda puts everything I've said into perspective. Her music is indie and pop, yet because she is black, they would put her in RnB or Neo-soul playlists. It just doesn't make sense."*

RA - In 2018, you performed what we now know as "**Eyes on You**" (Which now has over 2 million streams on Spotify) for the first time at an underground event by Keep Hush. How come you didn't release a recorded version until 2020?

*MP - "At the time **Master Peace** was an enigma, nobody knew what it was, I had no music out, but I was performing all these songs that no one knew the name of but liked the sound of. I feel like I have always been like that, I would make a record in the studio and then I'll go to a show and perform the song. Even if I never release the song, I would just perform the song to get a feeler from the crowd, instead of dropping it and having an instant negative reaction. It's good to gauge what people think."*

RA - Where did you get this method from? Did you see other artists in the scene doing it?

*MP - "Back in the day, if you wanted to listen to your favourite artist you had to go and see them live. For me, I want people to hear me live and make a judgment based on that, rather than from **Spotify**."*