

Coming off the back of her Mercury-award winning album 'Sometimes I Might be Introvert', and following the critically acclaimed 'GREY Area' Little Simz seemed to be under pressure to continue her streak of cohesive album releasing frenzy.

With no warning 'NO THANK YOU' dropped on Monday, destroying conventional release formulas and promising to prove itself as one of the strongest albums to release in 2022 with only two weeks left in the year.

The ten-track project features vocals from long-time collaborator and equally musically intuitive Cleo Sol, production from veteran Inflo, who, encapsulates Little Simz vision with such precise distinctions and nuances that you often forget he is the sole producer of the entire project. As each track is closely related to each other through the themes of lyrical continuity and often in drum patterns, yet rhythmically and melodically each song produces a varying dimension to the world being explored through Little Simz poetic dissection of her state of affairs.

'Angel' is the opening track that sets the standard to be expected throughout 'NO THANK YOU'. A track that delves into the young star's career and the challenges she has encountered. It is heavy lyrically, and minimalistic instrumentally.

A gentle rhythm that symbolises a heavenly choir that cannot quite be distinguished, is looped creating an atmosphere of prayerful contemplation. Juxtaposed by a punching kick-drum that pushes a retaliation to the systematic corporate ideology that dominates musical creation, in-turn affecting the life of the artist with no regards to the consequences. *'I can see how an artist can get tainted, frustrated/They don't care if your mental is on the brink of somethin' dark/As long as you're cuttin' somebody's payslip'*.

The themes explored are of upmost depth, yet with a delicate flow that seemingly carries the weight of her words effortlessly, as Little Simz highlights the death of her childhood friend Harry Uzoka, manipulation within the industry and navigating a system the is seemingly built to keep her down. Cleo Sol offers a brief moment of rest bite in-between the heavy verses, singing gently as she beacons a prayer for an angel to come alongside Simz and guide her through her struggles. Unaware, that she provides the services of an angel, as Little Simz delves into her thoughts with us. It's a track that embodies the entire album, as it opens the listening journey in such a vulnerable and honest expression.

'NO THANK YOU' sets you on a course to sail into the storms of Little Simz mind, 'Heart on Fire', 'No Merci' and 'Broken' all highlight her incredible lyrical talent as a deep-philosopher, poet and a genuine powerhouse story-teller in British music. Reminiscent of a young Lauryn Hill. These tracks also highlight Inflo's dexterity as a producer, as he creates a symbiosis of gospel, hip-hop and soul through carefully placed choirs, emphasised orchestral strings and drum samples that could stand as tracks in their own right. You are aboard a ship with an experienced captain who guides you safely to shore with 'Control' a soft close that reminds the listener that Little Simz, through all the success and strength, still needs love.

'NO THANK YOU' is a staple album, one that see's a woman come into her own as she faces the challenges of her life, community and environment head-on. She is not afraid and she will not back-down. This is a genuine contender for album of the year, it's time for Little Simz to take the global stage as she stands as Britain's brightest star.