

Dylan Red releases new album: *First Take*

 By [Martin Myers](#)

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Dylan Red is a Cape Town-born singer-songwriter who plays multiple instruments and has been performing professionally since 2016. He cut his musical teeth at the V&A Waterfront; he opened for Jazzathon 2019 at the V&A Waterfront.

His original music leans towards a combination of funk, blues, folk and pop. Recently, he has also incorporated a loop station, which allows him to perform as a one-man-band.

Red's 12-track album *First Take* is out now with the first single, "Toxic".

His performance – at a sold-out Youngblood Gallery in Cape Town – was electric two weeks ago. This could be his breakout year after a four-year journey to become a household name.

I spoke to him last week.

The new decade means:

More virtual performance spaces and online collaborations.

■ ***Fame is about:***

Being known by both fans and 'haters'.

■ ***Retirement will happen when:***

Well, to me, music will always be part of my life so I don't really see myself retiring.

■ ***I don't do:***

I don't like to 'pander' and suck up to people.



■ ***What does music mean to you?***

The constant in my life, even when I'm lost or uncertain, music will be there, rain or shine.

■ ***My music is about:***

My expression of my creativity and emotions. When I write original music, I can fully lose myself in the process and just see what comes out at the end

■ ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

I sit down with my guitar in an open space.

■ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

Seeing how the music I perform affects people.

■ ***The song you must do in every show:***

"Thinking Out Loud" – Ed Sheeran.

■ ***Any funny moments on stage:***

Seeing a middle-aged lady running to tip me with a whole bag of coins, whilst playing at the Waterfront.



■ ***My style icon:***

Bruno Mars.

■ ***Which living person do you admire most and why:***

Ed Sheeran. He has shown that it is possible to have a 'public persona' and still have a personal life that isn't surrounded by drama.

■ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

Tanglewood acoustic guitar.

■ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

Double vodka and lemonade.

■ ***What makes you stand out?***

I think it's my ability to connect to the music I perform, every song 'gets' a piece of me when I sing.

■ ***Nicknames:***

D, Red or Mr Red

■ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

A lawyer

■ ***Who would play you in a Hollywood blockbuster and why?***

Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, if I were to ever work out at the gym properly I'd look like him.

■ ***Pick five words to describe yourself:***

Proud, empathetic, passionate, level-headed, dreamer.

■ ***Five favourite SA albums of all time:***

Nomvula – Freshlyground

Jekyll & Hyde – Prime Circle

Civil Twilight – Civil Twilight

The Hanging Gardens of Beatenberg – Beatenberg

3T – YoungstaCPT

■ ***What song changed your life?***

“Someone Like You” – Adele; it was the first song I sang in front of a crowd when I was in grade eight.

■ ***What is your favourite word?***

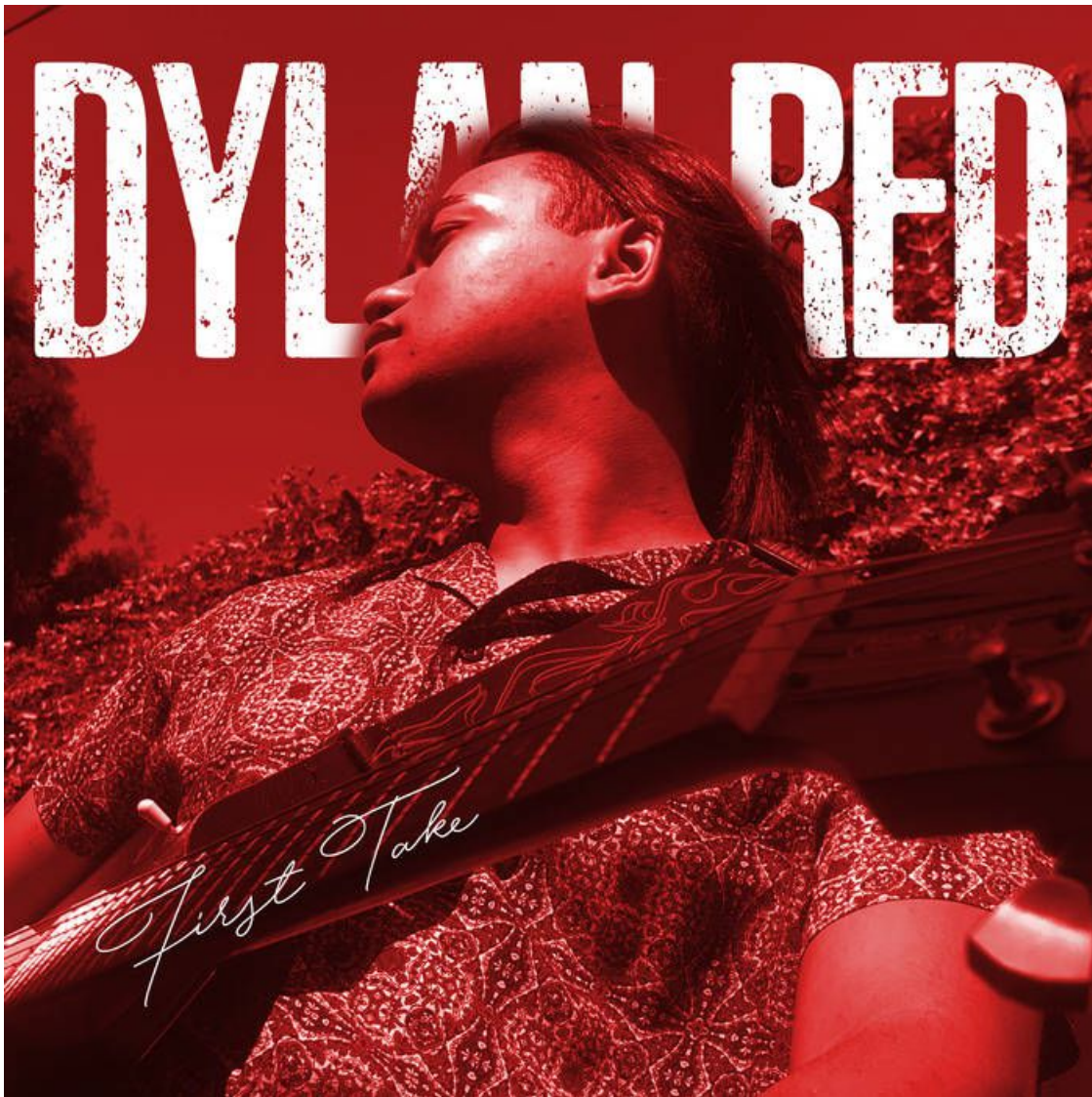
Sonder - the realisation that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.

■ ***Favourite fashion garment:***

An old-school overcoat.

■ ***Your greatest achievement:***

To release an album of original music.



■ ***What do you complain about most often?***

There is no job security in the music industry and the lack of rules and enforcers for the industry in South Africa especially.

■ ***What is your fear?***

Having to give up music and do a nine-to-five desk job.

■ ***Happiness is:***

For me, it would be being able to do and focus on music full-time without having to worry about anything

■ ***On stage, I tend to:***

Avoid talking as much as I can. I have a weird sort of stage-fright that only hits me when I have to talk to the audience.

■ ***Where would you like to be right now?***

A jam session with like-minded musicians.

■ ***Wishes and dreams:***

For music to be recognised as a respectable profession and have it regulated so that it can actually be a respectable

profession and that musicians can get adequately compensated for their work.

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