

JOHNNY YUKON

FLIGHT PLAN 001

Much like the recordings of an airplane's black box, the music of Johnny Yukon chronicles a cloud-scraping personal journey. Spun through a jet stream of lo-fi beatcraft, vintage world-building, hip-hop malleability, and alternative pop eloquence, the Pennsylvania-born and Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter, and producer navigates through raw emotions with acute storytelling, head-nodding rhymes, and fits of cathartic falsetto. Even though the ideas often gestate from an intimate personal studio, he projects his vision on the big screen with ambitious scope—bringing D.I.Y. pop back out of the bedroom and charting a new course forward on his 2021 project, *Flight Plan 001*.

"I'm just an earthly human being exploring the planet in sounds," he observes. "I've learned a ton about myself in the past twelve months. It's like I'm on a plane traveling around and figuring out what my purpose is."

That purpose has crystallized over the years. After making waves from behind the scenes with placements for Lil Wayne, Young Thug, Ty Dolla \$ign, Camila Cabello, and Leon Bridges, he made his formal debut with *Installation I*, and throughout the global pandemic, his influence only amplified. He co-wrote Internet Money's multiplatinum mega-smash "Lemonade" feat. Gunna, Don Toliver, & NAV and co-produced "Trauma" from PARTYNEXTDOOR's *Partymobile*, which bowed in the Top 10 of the *Billboard* Top 200. He also co-wrote the Skepta & Pop Smoke *F9* soundtrack standout "Lane Switcha" feat. A\$AP Rocky, Juicy J, & Project Pat.

Signing to Elektra in early 2021, Johnny continued to write and record out of his home studio in addition to working with frequent collaborator Burns [Lady Gaga, Kacy Hill]. Eventually, he retreated to a cabin in Frazier Park—which he refers to as "a little ghost town with a cowboy feel an hour from L.A."

As the films of Christopher Nolan and Quentin Tarantino played on repeat, he immersed himself in a wave of inspiration.

"I love going places by myself to start ideas, watch movies, and get inspired," he explains. "It was a dream to work on building out this space. It took me so long to get here mentally, but it's super exciting to be free creatively. Why go small? I wanted to create something bigger."

Doubling as an offshoot of his *Installation* concept, *Flight Plan 001* both spoke to his lifelong fascination with aviation and opened a different channel for his endless creativity. As such, it captured every side of Johnny. Following fan demand for proper release, he integrated Soundcloud favorites—"Grow," "81 Nights" "Climate," "Yes," and "Night Like This"—into the tracklisting alongside seven new tracks.

Distilling post-breakup feelings, isolation, and hope into the sonic architecture, he's constructed a hub where his emotions and songs may launch from.

"This project is like my airport," he says. "Last year, I went through a lot of relationship issues. Sitting in one place isn't ever good for me mentally or creatively. I need to escape. So, I'm escaping isolation with these tunes. Every song is like a plane, and there's a flight for everyone."

Produced by Nami and Rhys, the first track “Mystery” hinges on an off-kilter music box-style sample punctuated by 808s. As the pace picks up, his nimble rhymes melt into a hypnotic hook, “*And I’m really trying get to you, tell me what’s the move, baby.*”

“I was still thinking about this girl,” he states. “She confused me because she wanted to run away from this thing I thought we had. I’d be around her house for a hike, and I’d want to reach out...but I wouldn’t. It was very personal. It’s a blend of energetic rap and melodic vocals. ‘Mystery’ definitely set the tone for *Flight Plan 001*.”

On the other end of the spectrum, the single “Soon” glides over a glitchy beat towards a vulnerable hook uplifted by his high register crooning. “It stems from the mental paths I go down,” he elaborates. “It’s a story of how things happened with me and that same girl. I was heartbroken. There was a small chance she would come back, so I still kept hoping.”

Meanwhile, Burns incorporated an old school Roland MC-101 into “Don’t Blame Me,” giving it an eighties bounce that wouldn’t be out of place on a Phil Collins record. During the intro “FP001,” words of Walt Whitman’s poem, “Song of Myself, 46” echo over dreamy chords as Johnny reminds, “You must travel it for yourself. It is not far; it is within reach.”

In the end, he’s grasping his full potential on *Flight Plan 001* and much more to come.

“When you listen to this, I hope you enjoy the whole soundscape, and it’s not what you were expecting,” he leaves off. “Maybe you’ll want to take this journey with me.”

BOILER

Much like the recordings of an airplane’s black box, the music of Johnny Yukon chronicles a cloud-scraping personal journey. Spun through a jet stream of lo-fi beatcraft, vintage world-building, hip-hop malleability, and alternative pop eloquence, the Pennsylvania-born and Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter, and producer navigates through raw emotions with acute storytelling, head-nodding rhymes, and fits of cathartic falsetto. Even though the ideas often gestate from an intimate personal studio, he projects his vision on the big screen with ambitious scope. After making waves from behind the scenes with songwriting placements for Young Thug, Ty Dolla \$ign, Camila Cabello, and Leon Bridges, he made his formal debut with *Installation I* in 2018. Johnny’s influence only amplified throughout the global pandemic, co-writing Internet Money’s multiplatinum mega-smash “Lemonade” [feat. Gunna, Don Toliver, & NAV], Skepta & Pop Smoke’s *F9* soundtrack standout “Lane Switcha” [feat. A\$AP Rocky, Juicy J, & Project Pat], and co-producing “Trauma” from PARTYNEXTDOOR’s *Partymobile*, which bowed in the Top 10 of the *Billboard* Top 200. Signing to Elektra in early 2021, Johnny continued to write and record at a prolific pace, distilling post-breakup feelings, isolation, and hope into the sonic architecture. Constructing a hub where his emotions and songs may launch from, Johnny Yukon charts a new course forward on his 2021 project, *Flight Plan 001*.

