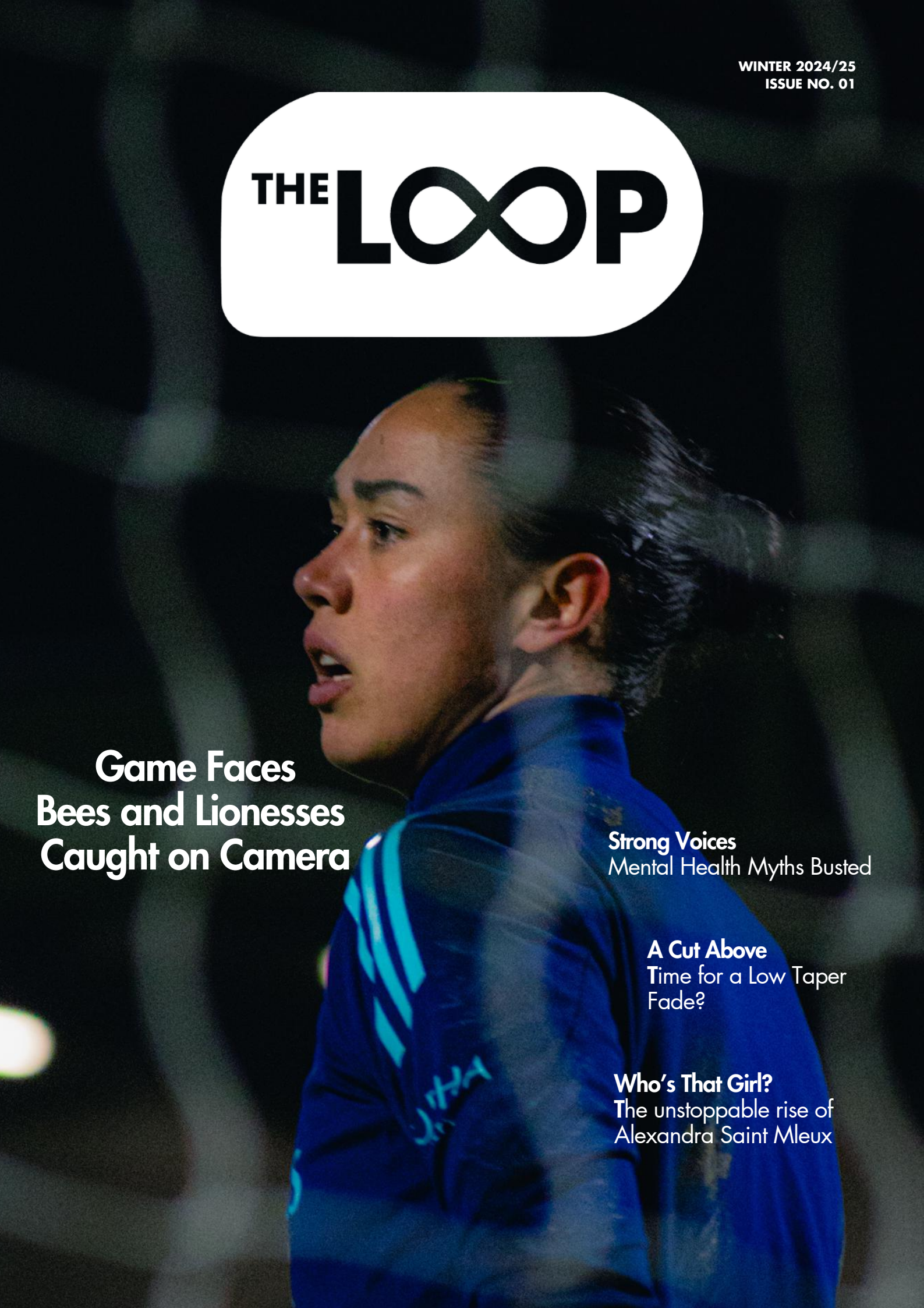
WINTER 2024/25
ISSUE NO. 01

THE LOOP



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Bees and Lionesses Caught on Camera

Strong Voices
Mental Health Myths Busted

A Cut Above
Time for a Low Taper Fade?

Who's That Girl?
The unstoppable rise of Alexandra Saint Mleux

Who's Who?

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From Us xx

We might be a school magazine but we are much more. Each quarterly will bring you the latest in music, fashion, culture and more with stories researched and written by our very own students. It's our way of sharing the talent of Global Academy by showcasing the work of each up and coming creative.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed making it.

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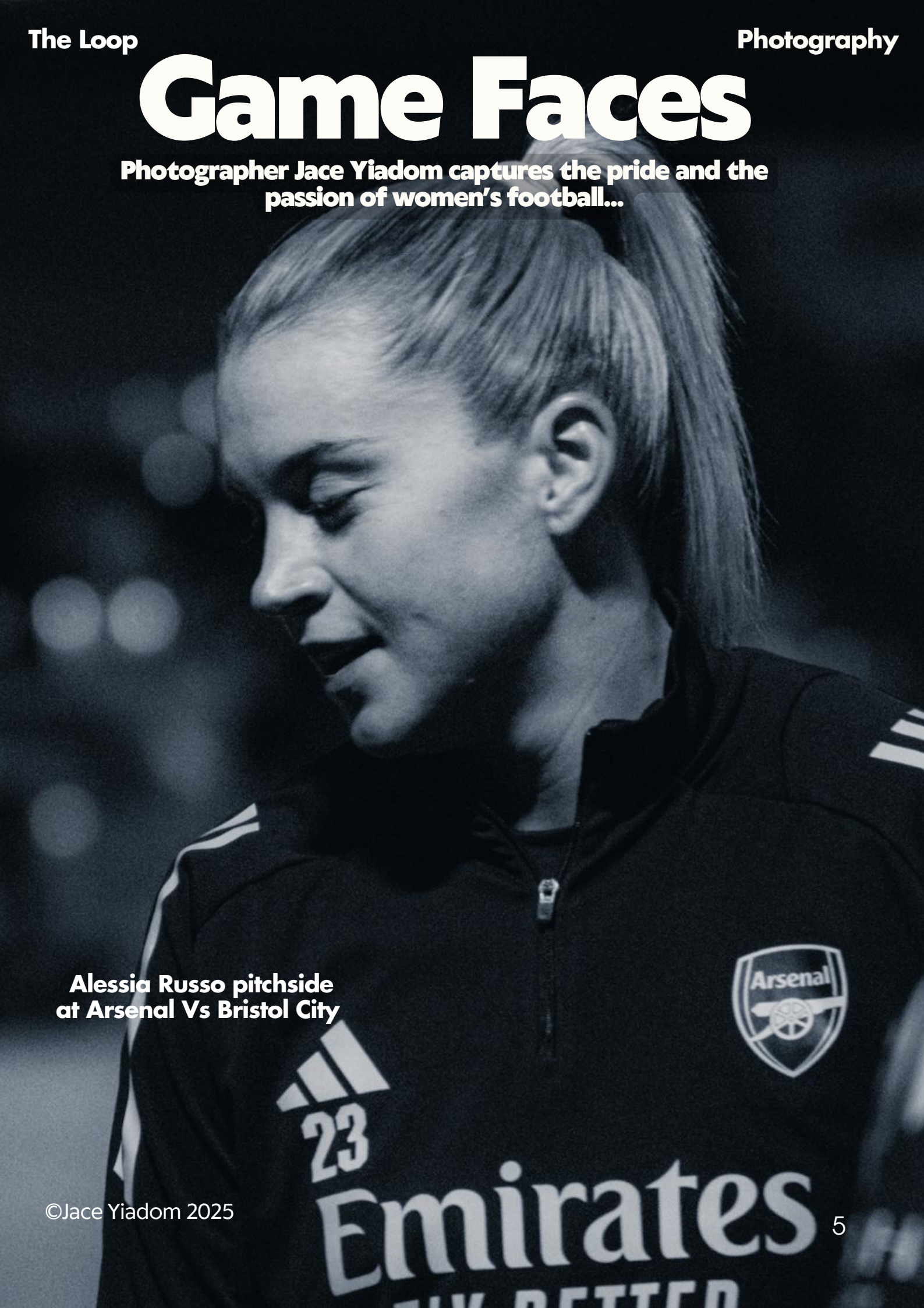
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Game Faces

Photographer Jace Yiadom captures the pride and the passion of women's football...



Alessia Russo pitchside at Arsenal Vs Bristol City

©Jace Yiadom 2025



London City Lionesses' Chantelle Boye-Hlorkah signals a hattrick against Fulham.

©Jace Yiadom 2025



Former player, tv pundit and Bristol City coach, Anita Asante, keeps score at Spurs Vs Liverpool

©Jace Yiadom 2025



A goal celebration for Brentford's Alicia Henry and Chelsie Berry

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Arsenal Women's Goalkeeper Manuela Zinsberger keeps an eye on the action

©Jace Yiadom 2025



London City Lioness, Kosovare Asllani

©Jace Yiadom 2025

Kosovare Asllani battles Birmingham City's Tegan McGowan

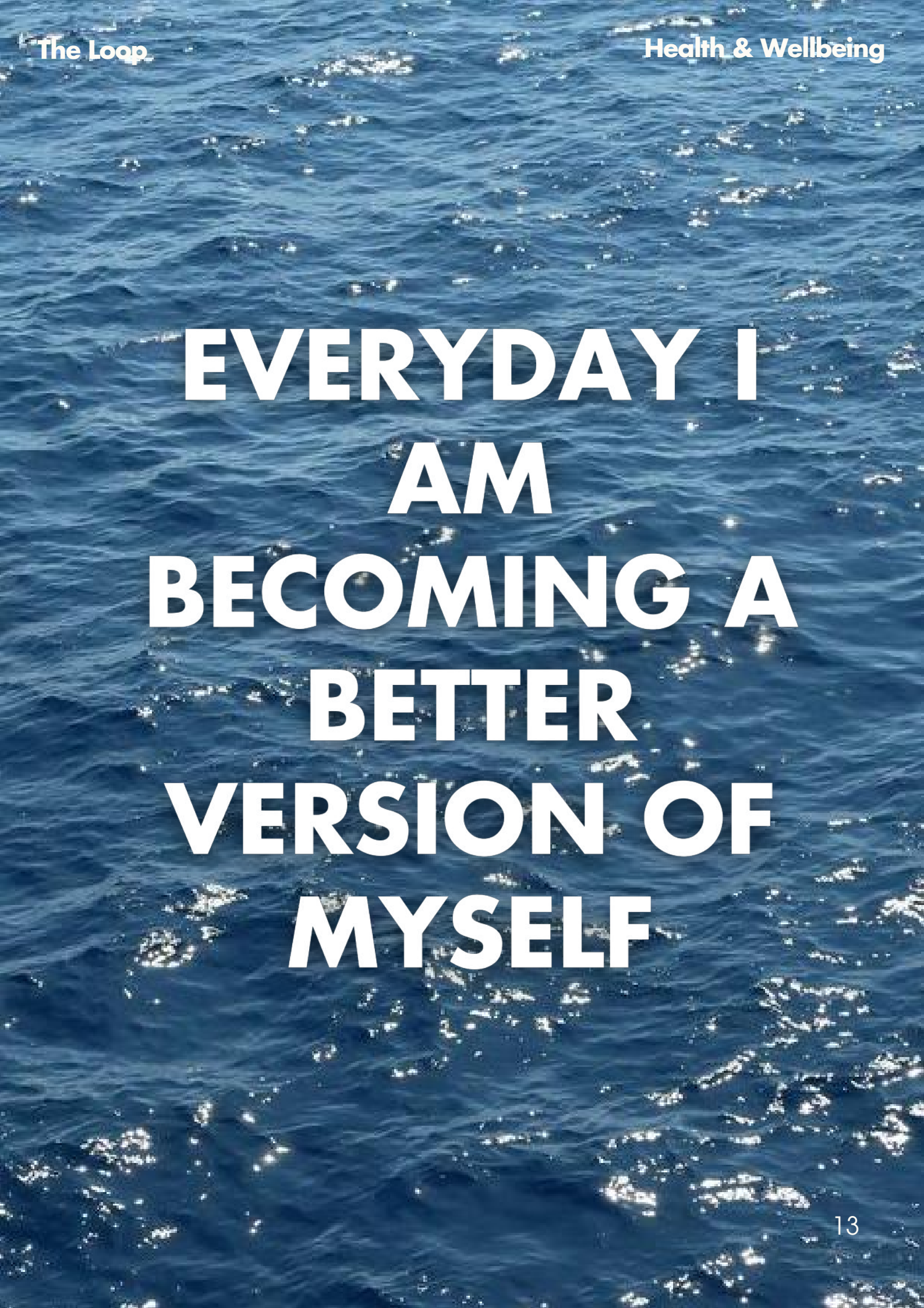


©Jace Yiadom 2025



Brentford's Nia Bowman gets her game face on

©Jace Yiadom 2025


EVERYDAY I AM BECOMING A BETTER VERSION OF MYSELF



Strong Voices

How Male Celebrities Are Shaping the Conversation Around Men's Mental Health

By Oliver Moore

Men's mental health is something that has always been a topic of discussion due to many men around the world feeling judged. As society's expectation of men is that they shouldn't cry, be provider for their family and generally 'man up'. As a result, male suicide rates have increased in the UK. So how do we smash the stereotype, and encourage men to express emotion?

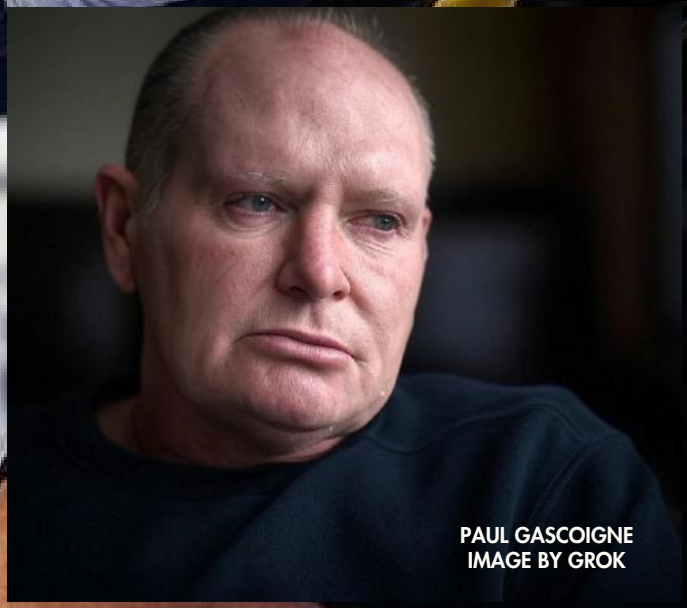
TYSON FURY
IMAGE BY GROK

Tyson Fury and Paul Gascoigne have publicly discussed their struggles with mental health and addiction.

KLITSCHKO VS. FURY
IMAGE BY GROK

After reaching the peak of their careers, both men sank into a lengthy battle with addiction that pushed them to their limit.

Fury fell into a dark, prolonged depression, seeing no worth in his life or his achievements, despite having a devoted wife and three children.



PAUL GASCOIGNE
IMAGE BY GROK

Now after working on his mental health and addiction issues, he's encouraging men around the country to open up.



Even tough guys need help...

According to Fury, communication is key. He hopes that sharing his story will go some way towards busting the myth that strong men don't struggle.

Public response suggests his words and warnings that silence can kill shouldn't be underestimated. He also seems to have taken his own advice and sought help, enabling him to get back in the ring to make an inspirational comeback. After becoming a world champion and setting up the first heavyweight unification in over 25 years, Fury is leading by example, showing even tough guys need help sometimes.

Image by Grok


Image by Grok

Paul Gascoigne was one of the most talented and naturally gifted footballers England has ever had. However, he faced many demons off the pitch with alcohol problems and being diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

It almost killed him and ended his career...

The 54-year-old soon became recognized as one of the best footballers and played for the England team for ten years and delivered many iconic goals that England fans will remember forever.

Off the pitch, however, Gascoigne was slowly falling into alcoholism, to the point it almost killed him and ended his career.

Speaking of his problems, Gazza says he tries to take each day as it is and does not beat himself up as "...there are enough people who do that already."

n recent years he has had anti-alcohol pellets implanted into his body but unfortunately, he has relapsed several times. He believes that he will always be an alcoholic.

As these experiences show, mental illness and addiction can happen to anyone, no matter how privileged, successful and charmed their lives may seem from the outside. So what can we mere mortals do when we feel things spinning out of control?

The problem is complicated, but the advice from Fury and Gascoigne is simple... talk.

Lean on your friends

Asking your mates how they feel and helping them see how much they matter may lead to a lifesaving conversation.

If you're the one feeling anxious or low, and are lucky enough to have a friend or family member you can talk to, don't be afraid to reach out - I guarantee they will already suspect something's up.

There are also lots of ways to talk to someone anonymously about your situation. Many helplines also have an online options.

Whichever you choose, please don't suffer in silence.

You are not alone.

UK Mental Health Helplines

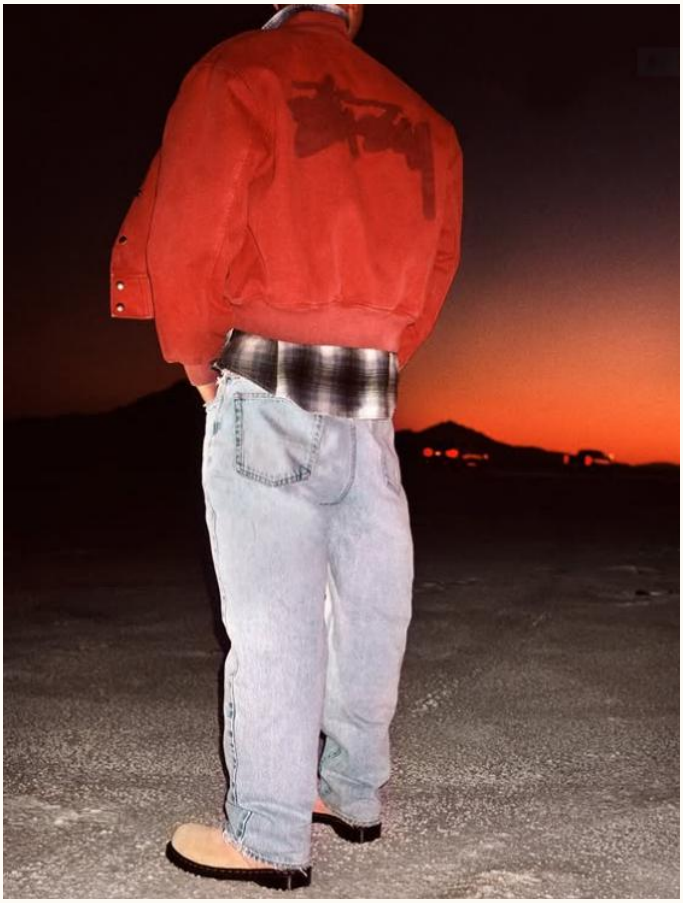
Young Minds
0808 802 5544

Samaritans
116 123

Childline
0800 1111

Mind
0300 123 339

COSY COLLABS by Lois Molema

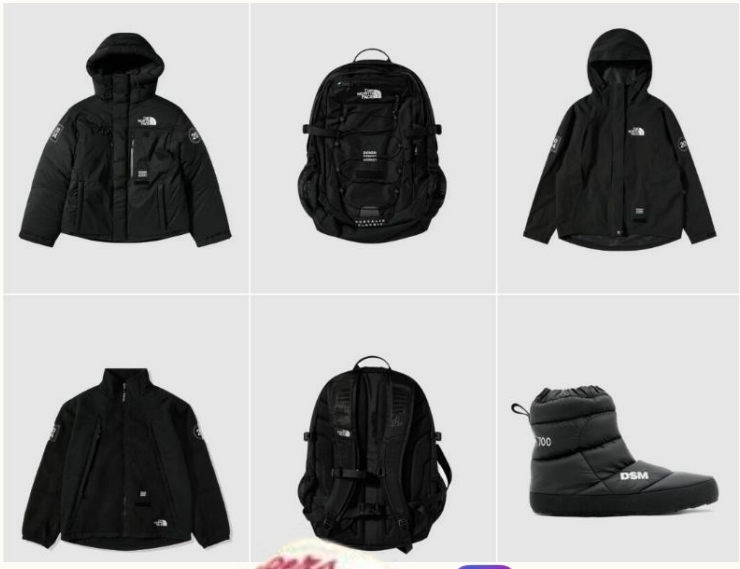


drmartensofficial

WINTER WARMTH

DSM X NORTH FACE

Dover street market and north face collab for a whopping 20th anniversary surprise. They rework pieces from 20 years ago like the mens Himalayan down jacket in sleek black and features both logos.



fullresscom

STÜSSY SHOES??

DR.MARTENS X STÜSSY

Stüssy and Dr.Martens have dropped two boots for Winter/Sring ‘25. They come in a black and sand colourways,with DM’s iconic yellow stitching and the Stüssy logo on the buckle.



superlinenetwork

TYLER CANT STOP

GOLF WANG X NFL

Tyler the creator didn’t just drop a sick album this year but has been linking up with NFL to bring us varsity jackets to Hawaiian shirts.

The New European Football Format

BY HARRY HENNINGS

The beloved competition of European Football, including the Champions, Europa and Conference league campaigns, have been turned on their heads, in a new 36 team 'league stage', sparking controversy among passionate fans.

This new 36 team league will ensure each club within their respective competition will play eight different clubs, four home fixtures and four away fixtures.

However, in previous years, clubs would be placed into a group with only 3 other clubs, playing each side once home and once away.

Now, when referring to the new structure, the top eight clubs that finish out of the 36 will advance automatically into the round of 16, and the teams that finish from 9th – 24th will compete against eachother to decide the last 8 clubs that progress.

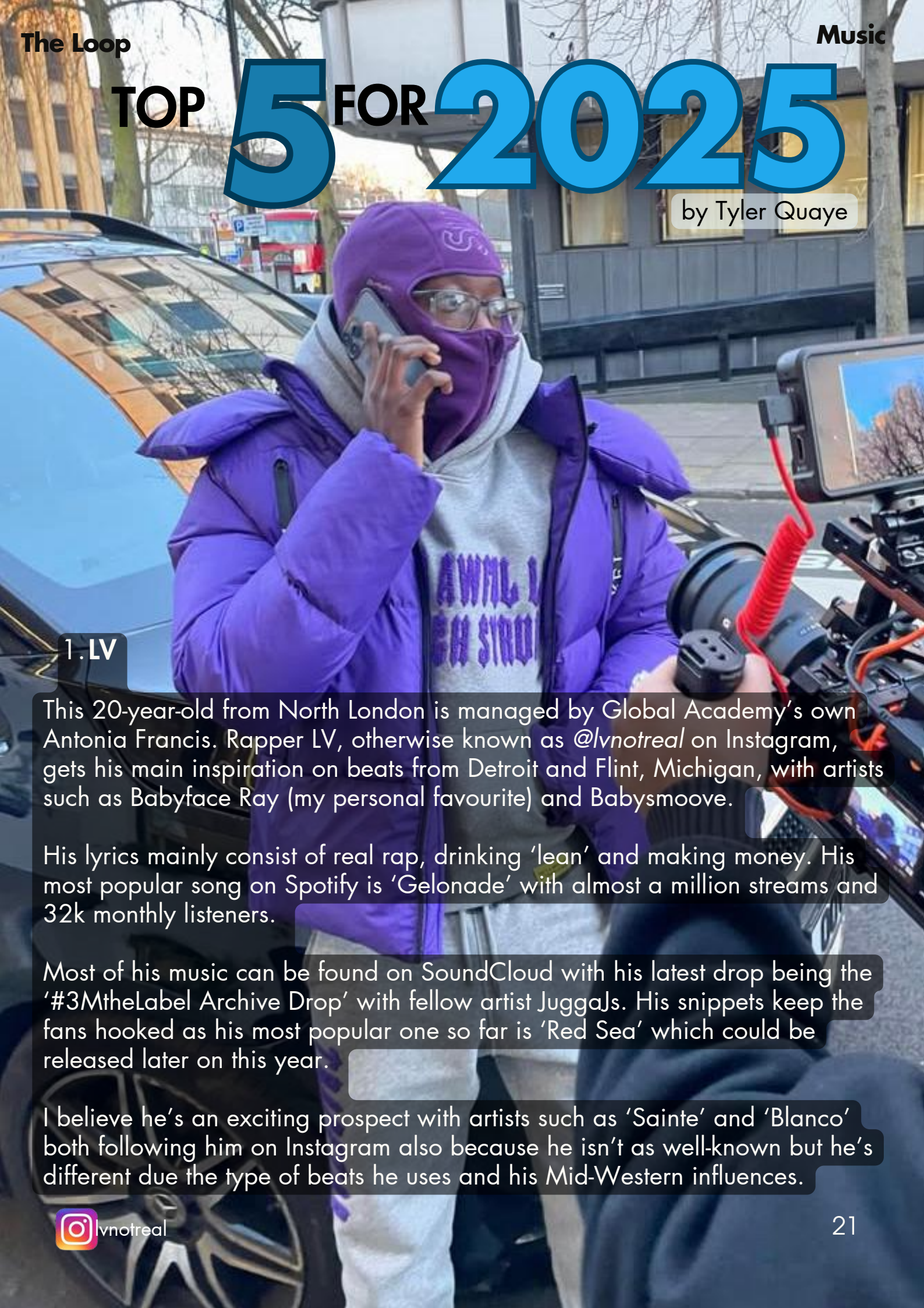
The bottom twelve clubs will be eliminated from the competition as a whole. This whole process refers to the Champions League, Europa League and Europa Conference League. However, this had sparked major controversy, with huge uproar from fans complaining that it would 'lose the magic of the competition'.

However, some fans have argued they'd be willing and excited to see a change, and for them, hopefully one that can better the competition as a whole.

Image by Grok

TOP 5 FOR 2025

by Tyler Quaye



1. LV

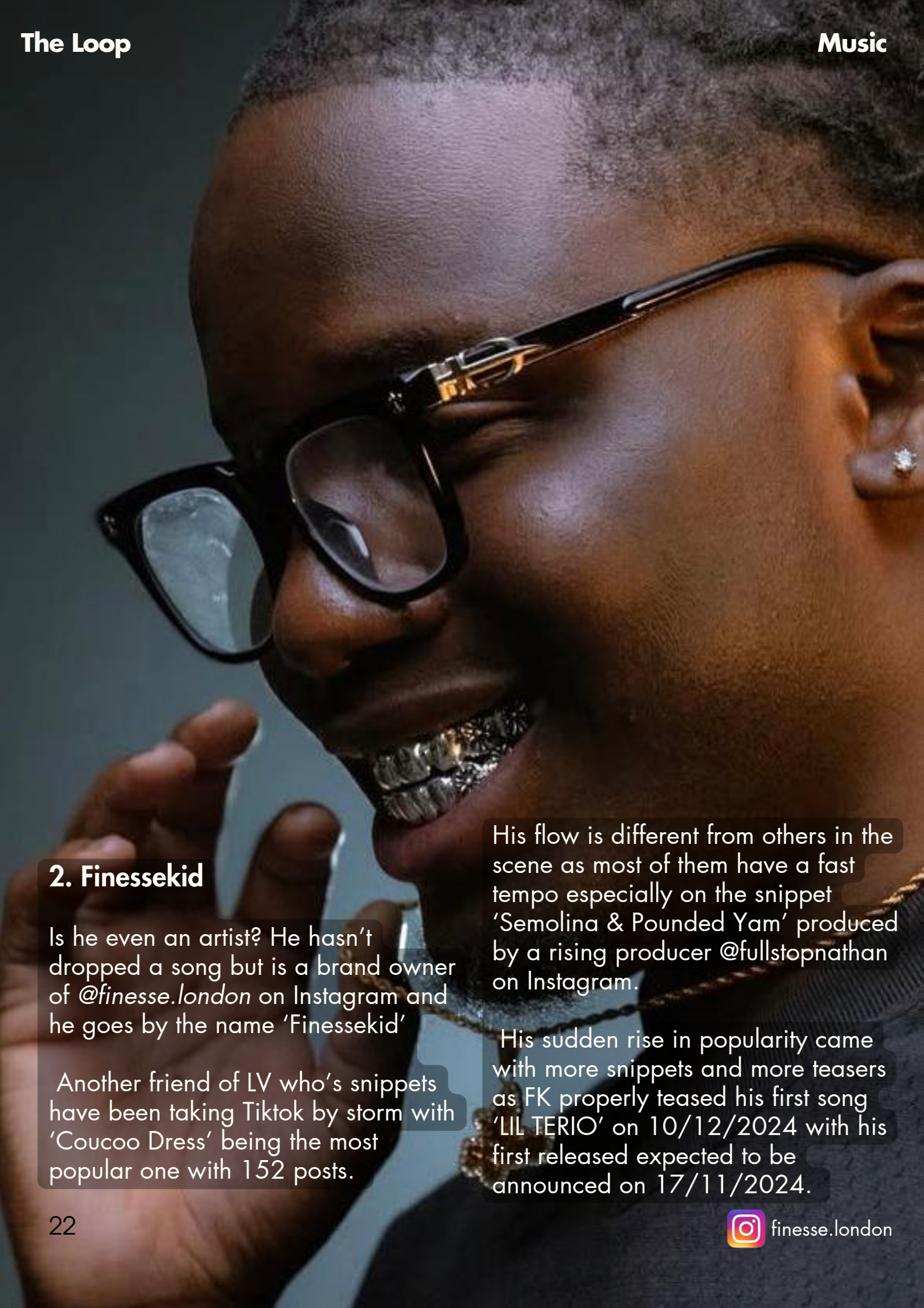
This 20-year-old from North London is managed by Global Academy's own Antonia Francis. Rapper LV, otherwise known as *@lvnotreal* on Instagram, gets his main inspiration on beats from Detroit and Flint, Michigan, with artists such as Babyface Ray (my personal favourite) and Babysmoove.

His lyrics mainly consist of real rap, drinking 'lean' and making money. His most popular song on Spotify is 'Gelonade' with almost a million streams and 32k monthly listeners.

Most of his music can be found on SoundCloud with his latest drop being the '#3MtheLabel Archive Drop' with fellow artist JuggaJs. His snippets keep the fans hooked as his most popular one so far is 'Red Sea' which could be released later on this year.

I believe he's an exciting prospect with artists such as 'Sainte' and 'Blanco' both following him on Instagram also because he isn't as well-known but he's different due the type of beats he uses and his Mid-Western influences.

lvnotreal



2. Finessekid

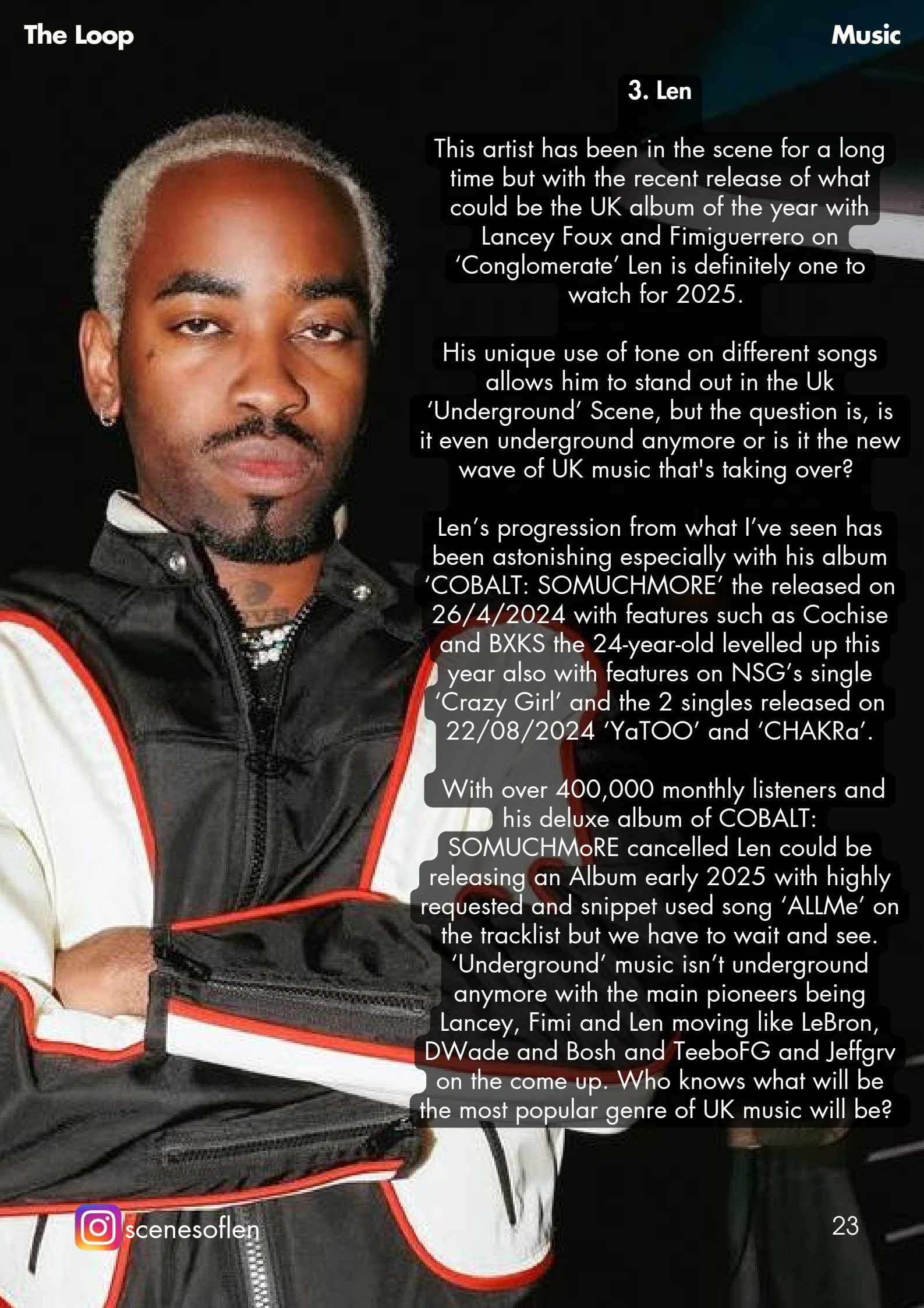
Is he even an artist? He hasn't dropped a song but is a brand owner of *@finesse.london* on Instagram and he goes by the name 'Finessekid'

Another friend of LV who's snippets have been taking Tiktok by storm with 'Coucoo Dress' being the most popular one with 152 posts.

His flow is different from others in the scene as most of them have a fast tempo especially on the snippet 'Semolina & Pounded Yam' produced by a rising producer @fullstopnathan on Instagram.

His sudden rise in popularity came with more snippets and more teasers as FK properly teased his first song 'LIL TERIO' on 10/12/2024 with his first released expected to be announced on 17/11/2024.

finesse.london



3. Len

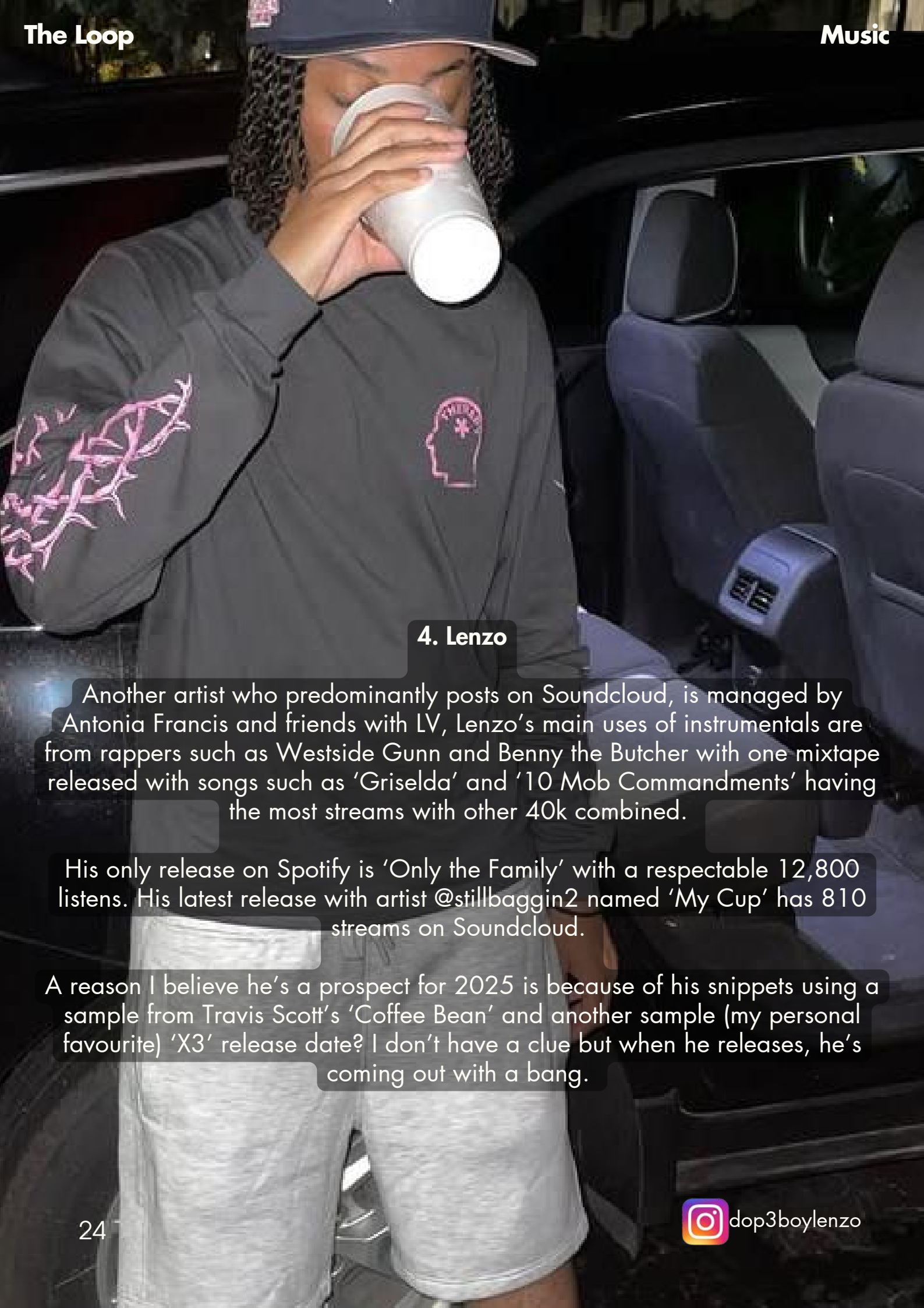
This artist has been in the scene for a long time but with the recent release of what could be the UK album of the year with Lancey Foux and Fimiguerrero on 'Conglomerate' Len is definitely one to watch for 2025.

His unique use of tone on different songs allows him to stand out in the Uk 'Underground' Scene, but the question is, is it even underground anymore or is it the new wave of UK music that's taking over?

Len's progression from what I've seen has been astonishing especially with his album 'COBALT: SOMUCHMORE' the released on 26/4/2024 with features such as Cochise and BXKS the 24-year-old levelled up this year also with features on NSG's single 'Crazy Girl' and the 2 singles released on 22/08/2024 'YaTOO' and 'CHAKRa'.

With over 400,000 monthly listeners and his deluxe album of COBALT: SOMUCHMoRE cancelled Len could be releasing an Album early 2025 with highly requested and snippet used song 'ALLMe' on the tracklist but we have to wait and see. 'Underground' music isn't underground anymore with the main pioneers being Lancey, Fimi and Len moving like LeBron, DWade and Bosh and TeeboFG and Jeffgrv on the come up. Who knows what will be the most popular genre of UK music will be?

scenesoflen



4. Lenzo

Another artist who predominantly posts on Soundcloud, is managed by Antonia Francis and friends with LV, Lenzo's main uses of instrumentals are from rappers such as Westside Gunn and Benny the Butcher with one mixtape released with songs such as 'Griselda' and '10 Mob Commandments' having the most streams with other 40k combined.

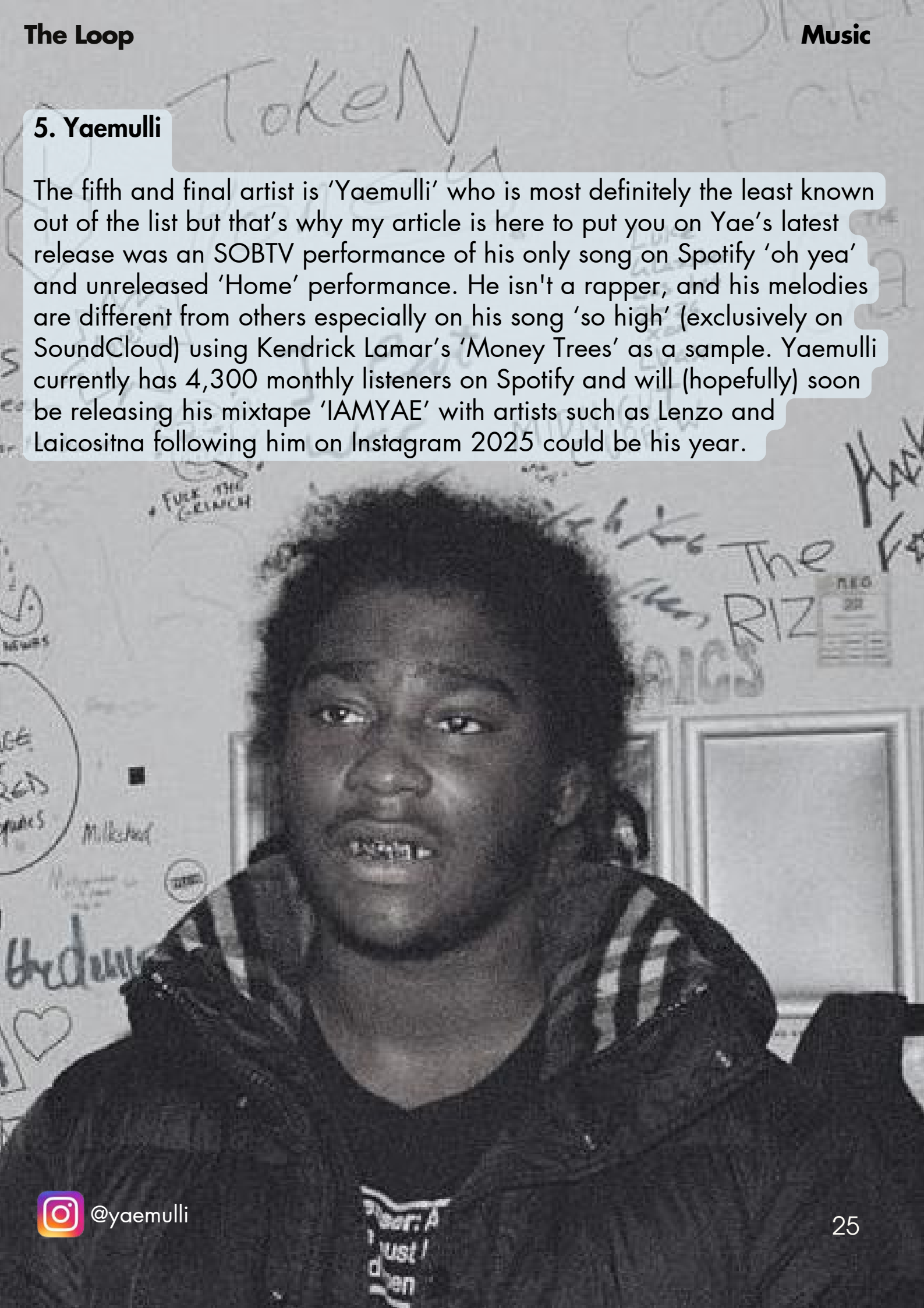
His only release on Spotify is 'Only the Family' with a respectable 12,800 listens. His latest release with artist @stillbaggin2 named 'My Cup' has 810 streams on Soundcloud.

A reason I believe he's a prospect for 2025 is because of his snippets using a sample from Travis Scott's 'Coffee Bean' and another sample (my personal favourite) 'X3' release date? I don't have a clue but when he releases, he's coming out with a bang.

dop3boylenzo

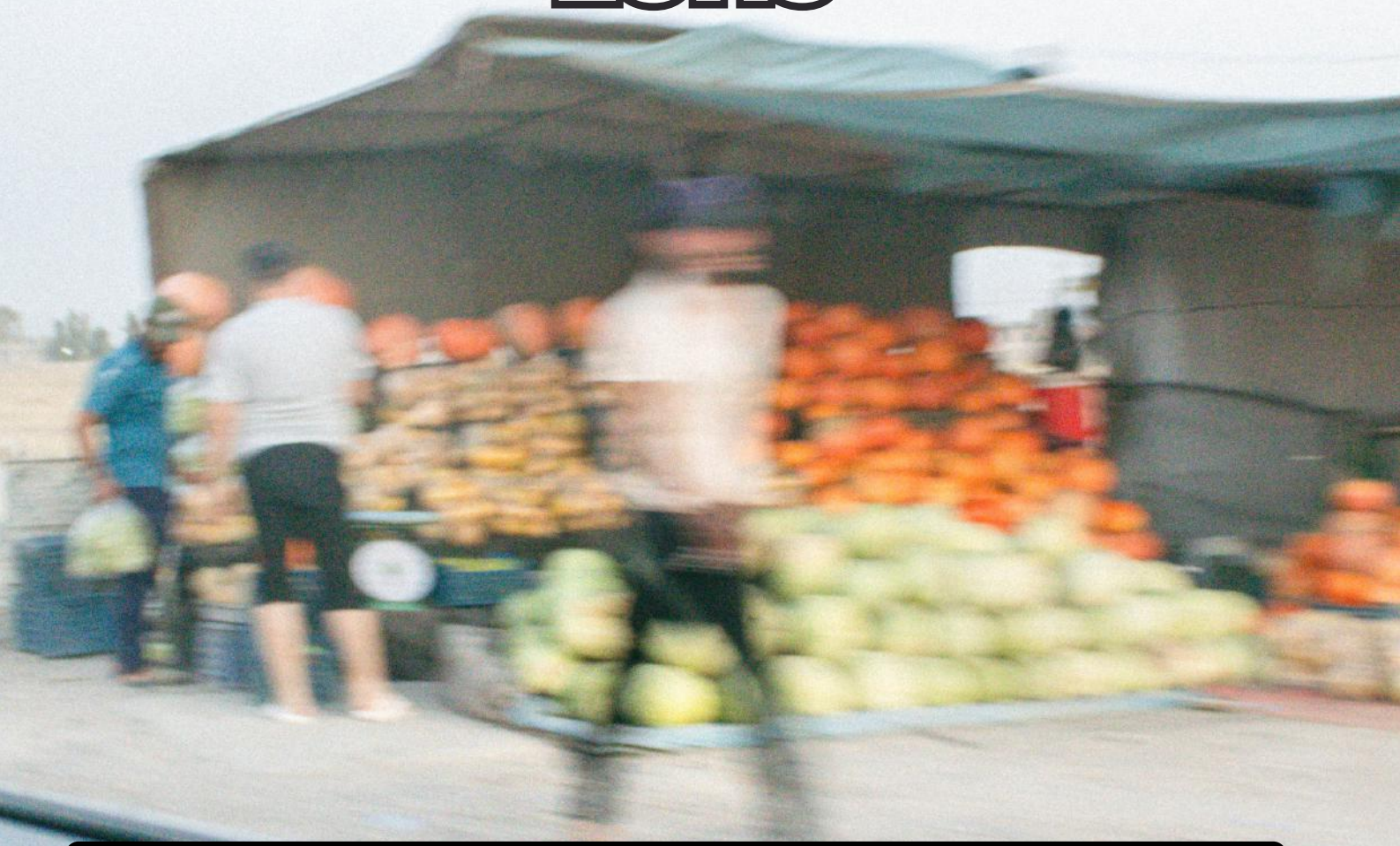
5. Yaemulli

The fifth and final artist is 'Yaemulli' who is most definitely the least known out of the list but that's why my article is here to put you on Yae's latest release was an SOBTV performance of his only song on Spotify 'oh yea' and unreleased 'Home' performance. He isn't a rapper, and his melodies are different from others especially on his song 'so high' (exclusively on SoundCloud) using Kendrick Lamar's 'Money Trees' as a sample. Yaemulli currently has 4,300 monthly listeners on Spotify and will (hopefully) soon be releasing his mixtape 'IAMYAE' with artists such as Lenzo and Laicositna following him on Instagram 2025 could be his year.



@yaemulli

Life Through A Lens



Esraa Mohammed is an Iraqi London-based photographer with a passion for capturing art and playing with colours through her lens.

These images, taken during a recent trip to her home country of Iraq, document a truly transformative experience for Esraa. Each is an attempt to capture and highlight the stark contrast between life in the Middle East and the Western world. These portraits of of daily life are infused with the humour and humanity of those living in a place often portrayed as a war-torn wasteland.

These are beautiful, intimate illustrations of the people and land she loves.

©Esraa Mohammed 2024



Fatimah and Nabaa at Samawah

©Esraa Mohammed 2024



©Esraa Mohammed 2024



Road trip to Samawah

©Esraa Mohammed 2024



©Esraa Mohammed 2024



Roadside goatherd

©Esraa Mohammed 2024



LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN

BY LATOYA JOSEPH

Image by Grok

As we are progressing through the first chapter of 2025, it's crazy to think that the COVID pandemic was five whole years ago.

In March 2020, this global outbreak meant that everyone and their loved ones had to isolate from the world and all of our lives were turned upside down.

Ever yday there was a new terrifying number or statistic and all we could do was hope for a vaccine or a cure to put an end to it all. We were all forced to get used this bizarre way of living.

Five years on, the nation is still affected by the damage that Covid caused, with a particular emphasis on young people and he reality of life for them, post pandemic. The majority of adolescents were considered a low health risk during the pandemic but the disruption to schools, prolonged social isolation, heath anxiety and difficulty that this period of time caused many families were bound to have an impact.

Pre-lockdown, England's Mental Health Of Children and Young people, reported that one in nine young people were affected by a mental health condition. By October 2020, this figure had risen to one in six. Now young people were reporting high levels of loneliness, disrupted sleep and anxiety about leaving the house due to fear of catching or spreading the virus.



Image by Grok

Despite lockdown ending and everyone trying to return to normal, lockdown has left a lasting effect on young people's mental health, with that figure showing no signs of declining.

In classrooms, teachers have reported that since the pandemic it has been an additional challenge to keep students' attention. Several studies indicate that an increase in distraction and difficulty with schoolwork characterised children's cognitive development after the COVID-19 period.

One year five and six teacher working at a Derbyshire primary school said: "Behaviour in class is very different post-Covid...

'We had to teach the children through a screen during the pandemic but taking screen during the pandemic but taking the screen away now has had a massive impact.

Daydreaming is a big issue for us, as is helping children relearn some of their social skills...little things like turn-taking got lost...

'We also have to do a lot more movement breaks to avoid the children from tuning out."

There have clearly been lasting negative effects caused by lockdown, with crucial parts of young people's development affected, but while the pandemic may have been detrimental to mental health and development, the boom in technology it encouraged shouldn't be underestimated.



People and organisations all over the world had to adjust to new ways of work and life.

It was reported that UK internet use more than doubled in 2020 as people stayed home during the coronavirus pandemic. Although the virus is no longer a threat and there are no limitations on social interactions, working from home is now a really common practice and many companies have even expanded online operations.

This period during which we could no longer work face-to-face forced employers to rely on staff working from home.

This led to a surge in the use and development of technology - one survey found that technological responses to Covid-19 actually sped up the adoption of digital technologies by several years.

As we reflect on the lasting effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, it is clear that it has shaped our modern world in numerous ways. From mental health challenges faced by young people to the rapid advancements in technology, this period of time left a mark that continues to affect our lives. As we continue on post pandemic it's important to remember all that COVID took from us whilst embracing the innovations and lessons learnt to build a brighter future for us all.

How to be CONFIDENT

In a world full of haters and fakes, it's hard to find authenticity, even in yourself. I believe this has led there to be a major deficit in the number of confident people in our society. As an ex-insecure 'nice girl', and newly confident 'mean girl', who's better to teach you the ways to being confident other than me?

Stop trying to control the narrative...

This is an imperative step in your journey to being confident, why? Because you can never make everybody happy.

As a confident person, your entire existence, your beliefs and personality will make people mad. This is just a consequence of other people's internal repression – if I was an insecure person with no real, solid persona and interests, I would project my insecurity onto other people too.

Let them talk!

People who lack self-confidence will always try to spread rumors and defame your character, but as a confident person you should know that society will always be your biggest enemy, so don't let the gossip get to you. Like the wise words of Love Island USA Star, Leah Kateb, "Whatever you've heard about me, times it by a million and if you think it's bad – make it worse."

If you can't keep it cute, keep it mute!

Gossip makes the soul sour. Have you ever accidentally drunk spoiled milk or poured it into your cereal? I have, and it tasted rancid – that's the same energy as gossip. It's SUCH a bad trait, and only proves that you're insecure and compensate by judging others. A confident person doesn't need to knock someone else down to make themselves feel better!

Don't be a doormat!

I used to always people-please and agree with things I didn't agree with to save face and be viewed as 'nice' but then I realised: If you don't speak your mind, say it how it is, or express your true opinions then how will you ever be internally at peace with yourself?

This world will never be accepting, so stop kneeling at it's feet to give it a five-star massage and rather seize control of your life and opinions! So what if someone thinks you're mean? What they think is not your reality, what you think determines your life.

Stop saying sorry when you have nothing to apologise for.

Be confident that you're not the problem and stop feeling like you owe people. Be self-serving at times (not excessively, of course) because you live for yourself only!

Lead your life the way you want to, be unapologetically yourself and watch your self-esteem and confidence blossom; That's true confidence.

Words: Atena Ghaibi
Image: Canva Magic Media



A CUT ABOVE

Image by Grok

Hairstyles have continuously changed with eras for popular styles ending, seen with pride in mens self-care. And what many now refer to as a 'mans makeup'. But what are the best choices for you to impress and look your best as we head into the new year? CHARLIE GRAINGER has a few ideas...

The 'Modern' mullet

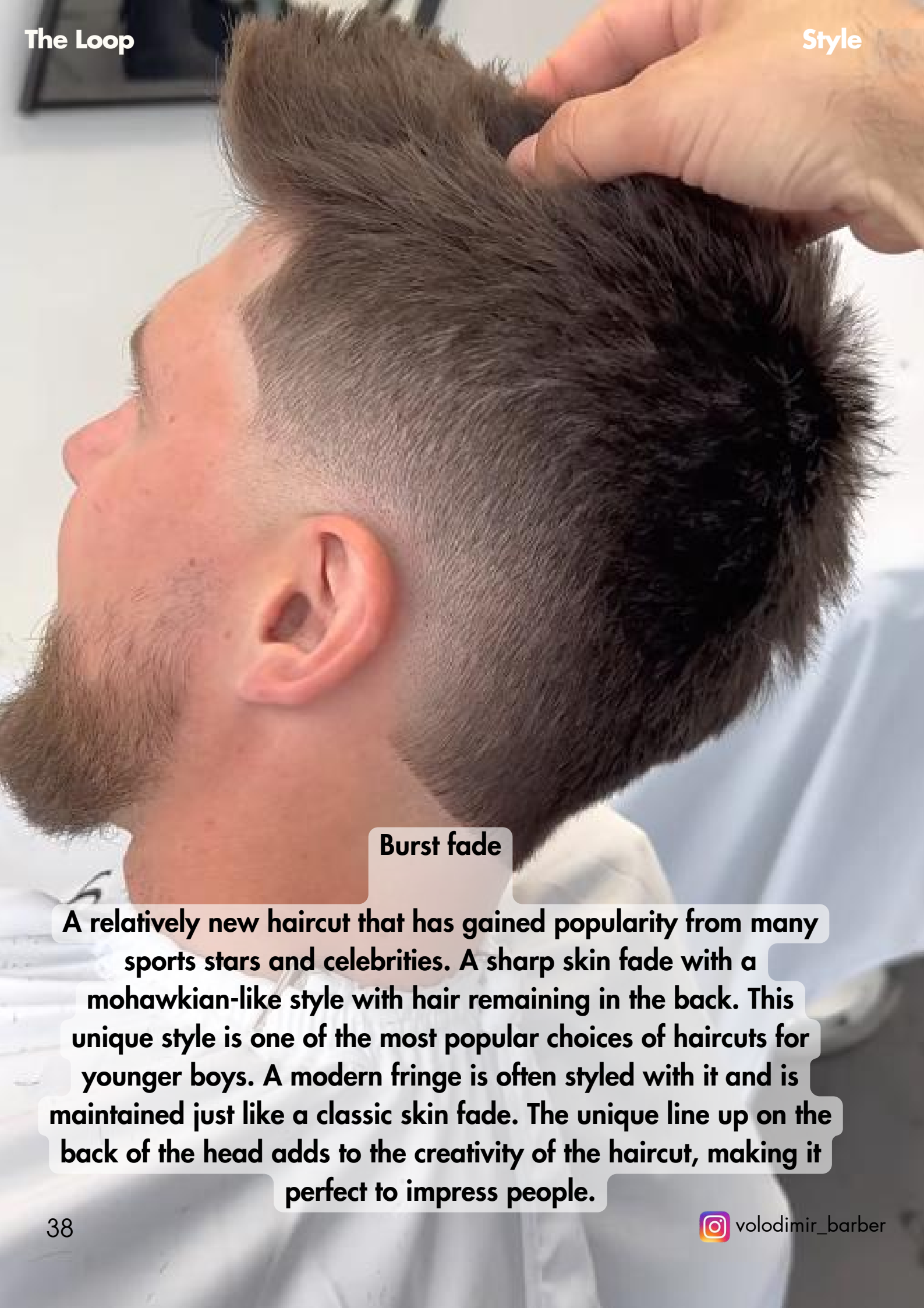
This classic's been brought back and given some 21st century flavour.

Worn by the likes of YouTube's Italian Bach with the addition of a fluff fringe and skin fade.

Downsides include a lot of maintenance...

With all that hair, getting the perfect style for both the mullet and the fringe can be difficult though when pulled off, you can walk with finesse.

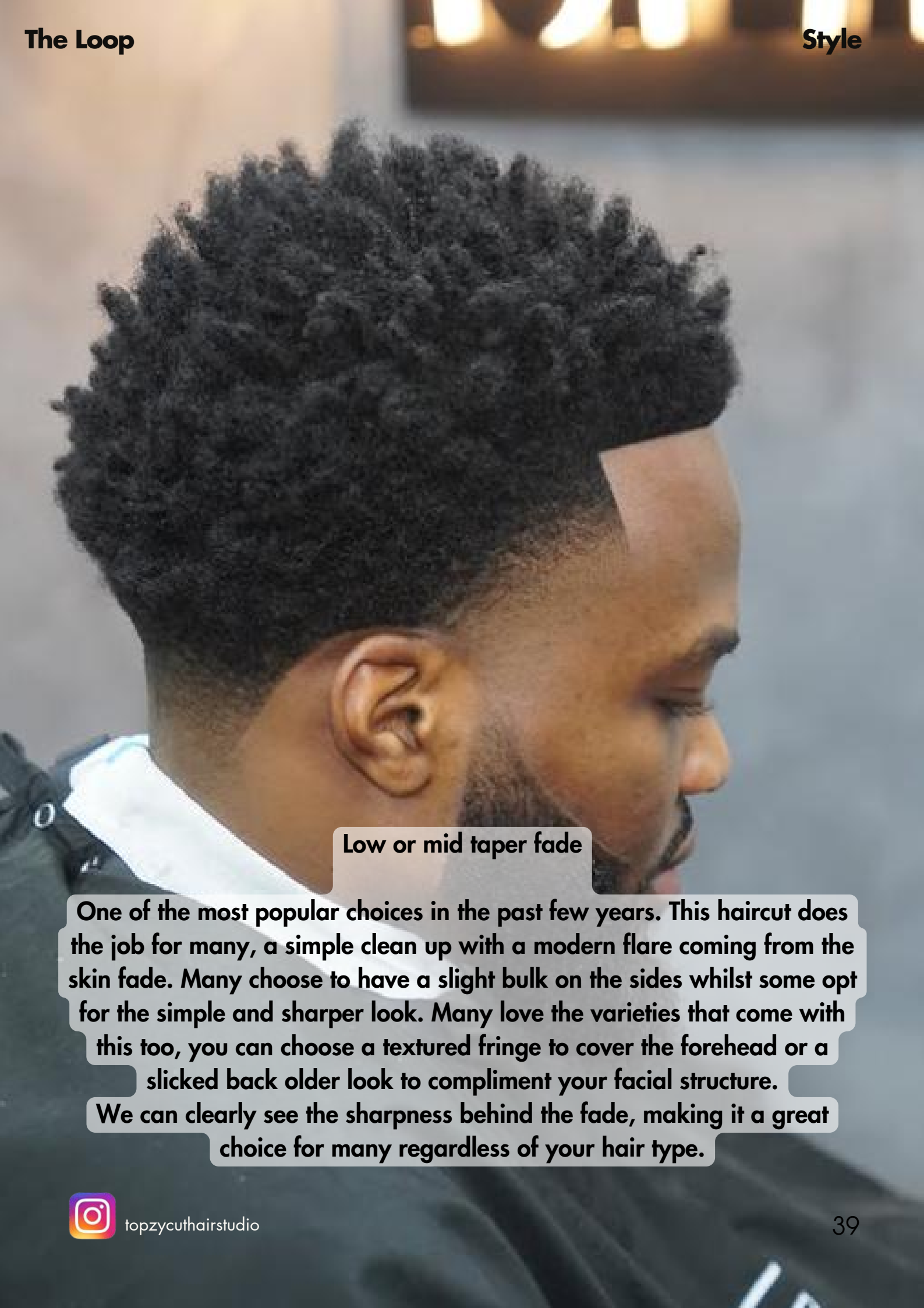




Burst fade

A relatively new haircut that has gained popularity from many sports stars and celebrities. A sharp skin fade with a mohawkian-like style with hair remaining in the back. This unique style is one of the most popular choices of haircuts for younger boys. A modern fringe is often styled with it and is maintained just like a classic skin fade. The unique line up on the back of the head adds to the creativity of the haircut, making it perfect to impress people.

volodimir_barber

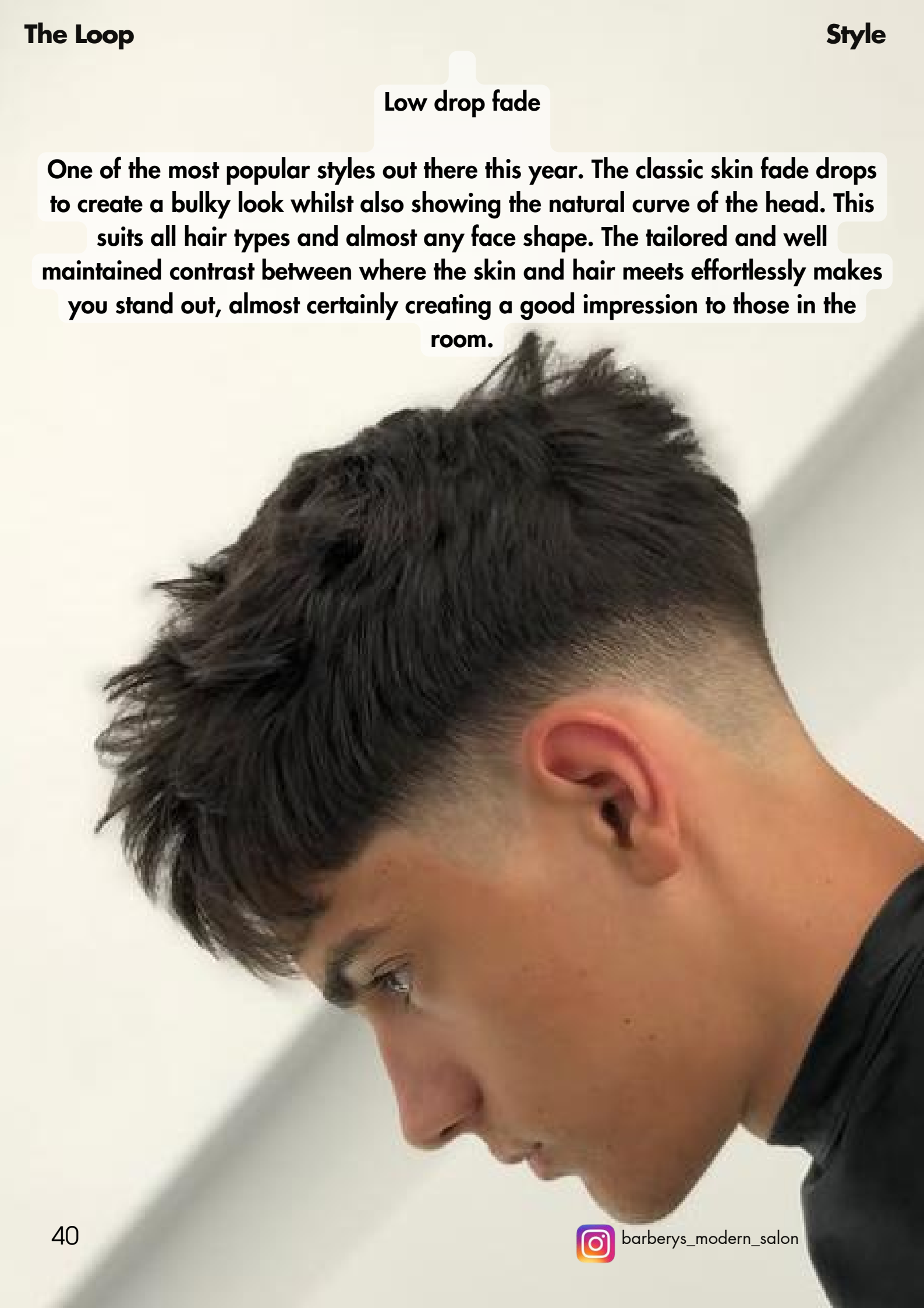


Low or mid taper fade

One of the most popular choices in the past few years. This haircut does the job for many, a simple clean up with a modern flare coming from the skin fade. Many choose to have a slight bulk on the sides whilst some opt for the simple and sharper look. Many love the varieties that come with this too, you can choose a textured fringe to cover the forehead or a slicked back older look to compliment your facial structure.
We can clearly see the sharpness behind the fade, making it a great choice for many regardless of your hair type.

Low drop fade

One of the most popular styles out there this year. The classic skin fade drops to create a bulky look whilst also showing the natural curve of the head. This suits all hair types and almost any face shape. The tailored and well maintained contrast between where the skin and hair meets effortlessly makes you stand out, almost certainly creating a good impression to those in the room.



barberys_modern_salon

Darts Gets A Magic Bullet

by Jaezon Franklin

Could 2025 be the Year of The Bullet?

Stephen 'The Bullet' Bunting will certainly be looking to win his first ranking major title in his PDC career.

With his roots in the Merseyside town of St Helens, Bunting now sits 5th in the world on the PDC Order of Merit only bettered by Rob Cross, Michael van Gerwen, Luke Littler and Luke Humphries.

PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

Over the years, Bunting has developed a reputation as the 'People's Champion' for his down to Earth TikToks and rousing walk-on song, Titanium, by David Guetta (ft. Sia).

Having won the 2014 BDO World Championship, he moved over to the PDC the following year and made it to the quarter-finals, losing to Raymond Van Barneveld.

Stephen 'The Bullet' Bunting
Image by Grok

The Dutchman's post-match tribute, hailing his opponent as 'the Best of the Best', brought a tear to Bunting's eye.

A BRILLIANT YEAR

2024 was a brilliant year for the Bullet, even though he lost six Pro Tour finals and only finished lower than Chris Dobey on the Pro Tour Order of Merit.

He finally clinched victory in the Masters, getting the better of Luke Humphries in the final.

Bunting's performance in 2024 secured a spot in the 2025 Premier League of Darts.

He'll be competing against the top four players in the World as one of four wildcards, but make no mistake, he's by no means an underdog.

IN WITH A CHANCE

2024 yielded a series of unexpected wins; Van den Bergh at the UK Open, Ritchie Edhouse at the European Championships and Mike De Decker at the World Grand Prix.

So with everyone in with a chance, keep your eye on the man from Merseyside; British Darts' magic bullet.

Stephen 'The Bullet' Bunting

Raymond Van Barneveld
Image by Grok

Your Time to Shine

BY MOLLY DAVIES

2025 will be the year for you to shine through and show the world your style.

Throughout the years, we have worked through a number of trends and made them our whole personality.

NOBODY LOOKED UNIQUE

From the 2019 tie dye era, cow print in 2020, the 2023 'star girl aesthetic' and most recently bringing back the leopard print in 2024, there has always been a popular print or style that was in trend.

However, no matter how cool or stylish everyone looked, nobody looked unique and stood out from the rest. Simply because every wardrobe incorporated more or less the same thing.

A new season offers a chance to make changes to our lifestyles and become a better version of you. Scrolling through social media, there is a common question being thrown around: "What is the trend/style we are going for in 2025?". And there seems to be a popular answer.

2025 is the year to be who you are. This means step away from the rule book and wear what you want. Mix colours, wear your favourite style jeans and chunky jewellery. Can't decide between silver or gold jewellery? Wear both. Yes, at the same time!

This year, don't follow the crowd. Wear your own style and put your stamp on the world. Be unique and show everyone who you are. You never know, you may even start your own trend. 2025 is your year.

Image by Grok



THE BEDROOM RETREAT

by Sagal Ali

Image by Grok

Recent studies show teenagers who spend time cooped up in their bedrooms may be more prone to feeling threatened...

...this links to the increase of teens relying on social media for communication and entertainment, with many finding comfort in online interactions. This has led to fears that they're increasingly avoiding socialising face-to-face.

Recent reports suggest this isolation can lead to a rise in mental health issues; teens who spend majority of their time alone are more prone to experience depression and anxiety. For this reason, parents and teachers are being encouraged to monitor and manage screen time.

Schools are also increasing focus on mental health awareness and peer support, in a bid to provide a more supportive environment for students.



Image by Grok

Without ignoring the negatives, there are some positives. Teens spending time in their rooms can provide a space for relaxation and personal reflection allowing them to recharge.

It can also be a good environment for focusing on homework and hobbies without having any distractions allowing them to embrace their creative sides, as well as that it gives teens a sense of control over their space which can make them feel comfortable.

t's a place where they can hang out with friends and play online games away from everyone and in a peaceful space.

Overall, teens spending time in their room can be both positive and negative as it offers a relaxation and independence but also excessive time in their alone can make them feel lonely and therefore impact their mental health and that is why it's crucial to make sure there is a balance between staying alone in their bedroom and socialising whether with family or friends to keep their mindset healthy.

THE CABINET

THE HEART OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT – INFLUENCE, POWER, AND CHALLENGES

BY KYLA ST JOHN AUGUSTIN

The Cabinet, often referred to as the heart of the UK government, is composed of senior ministers appointed by the Prime Minister (PM).

These ministers oversee essential government departments such as Health, Treasury, Foreign Affairs, and Education. They are responsible for shaping government policies, crafting national strategies, and ultimately deciding the direction of the country. Yet, despite the Cabinet's powerful role, its influence has evolved significantly over time, reflecting both shifts in leadership styles and wider political changes.

PURPOSE

At its core, the Cabinet's purpose is to provide a collective decision-making forum, where ministers meet regularly to discuss the most pressing national issues. They consider policies, approve critical decisions, and ensure the smooth functioning of government operations.

However, a defining principle that guides this process is "collective responsibility." This means that once a policy is agreed upon, all ministers must publicly support it, regardless of any private disagreements. This ensures a unified front to maintain government stability and public confidence.

While the PM certainly holds a dominant position, it is the Cabinet that forms the backbone of the government, with each minister contributing their expertise in shaping national policy.

Yet, despite its importance, the Cabinet's influence has been increasingly questioned in recent years.

CRITICISM

Some critics argue that the power of the PM has eclipsed the Cabinet's role, leading to a more centralized and less democratic system. The PM's ability to sideline ministers and dominate decision-making processes has led to claims that Cabinet discussions have become less meaningful.

Critics suggest that the rise of the PM's inner circle and special advisers has diminished the influence of the wider Cabinet.

The prominent role of figures like Dominic Cummings under PM Boris Johnson, for example, has raised concerns that key decisions are

Image by Grok

increasingly made outside of the Cabinet room, reducing transparency and accountability.

One of the most significant points of contention has been the erosion of collective responsibility.

COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

In the past, the principle meant that ministers, regardless of their personal opinions, were required to publicly support government decisions. This fostered unity within the Cabinet and across the government.

However, in recent years, this tradition has come under scrutiny. Ministers have been increasingly willing to challenge policies, both in public and in private. This has led some to argue that collective responsibility is now more of a constraint on ministers, forcing them to support policies they may personally disagree with, instead of allowing for meaningful dissent and debate.

CONSENSUS

The PM wields substantial power in Cabinet affairs, from appointing ministers to setting the agenda for meetings. The PM's leadership role is pivotal, but the Cabinet operates on consensus.

Ministers are expected to voice their opinions on proposed policies, with debates often reflecting the complex realities of balancing priorities from various departments.

For example, the Treasury may advocate for fiscal restraint, while the Health Department might call for increased spending on healthcare.

TENSIONS

These tensions are negotiated within the Cabinet, where the final policy decisions are made.

Cabinet discussions are not always straightforward. In many instances, ministers must balance competing interests and perspectives. This is particularly true in times of national crisis when the Cabinet's ability to reach a consensus is tested.

CRISIS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, Cabinet discussions were critical in determining the national response to the crisis.

Decisions on lockdowns, economic support packages, and health measures were shaped by ongoing Cabinet deliberations, with each minister representing their department's view on the best course of action.

IMPACT

The decisions made during this time had a profound impact on public health and the national economy, highlighting the significant role the Cabinet plays in shaping the country's future.

Image by Grok

Moreover, supporters of a stronger Cabinet argue that a more collaborative approach would strengthen democratic accountability. By enabling ministers to have more influence on policy and publicly voice their positions, they would be able to hold the PM to account in a more transparent and constructive way.

TRUST

This, in turn, could restore public trust in the decision-making process and ensure that policies better reflect the needs and priorities of the people. Ultimately, the future of the Cabinet's influence rests on striking a balance between the power of the PM and the role of Cabinet ministers.

ACCOUNTABILITY

While the PM will always retain a significant role in shaping national policy, it is crucial that the Cabinet's collective decision-making function is respected and strengthened. By ensuring that all ministers are given a platform to contribute their expertise and voice their opinions, the government can foster a more democratic and effective decision-making process that is accountable to the public.

The Cabinet has been a cornerstone of British governance for centuries, and its role remains vital in the shaping of national policy.

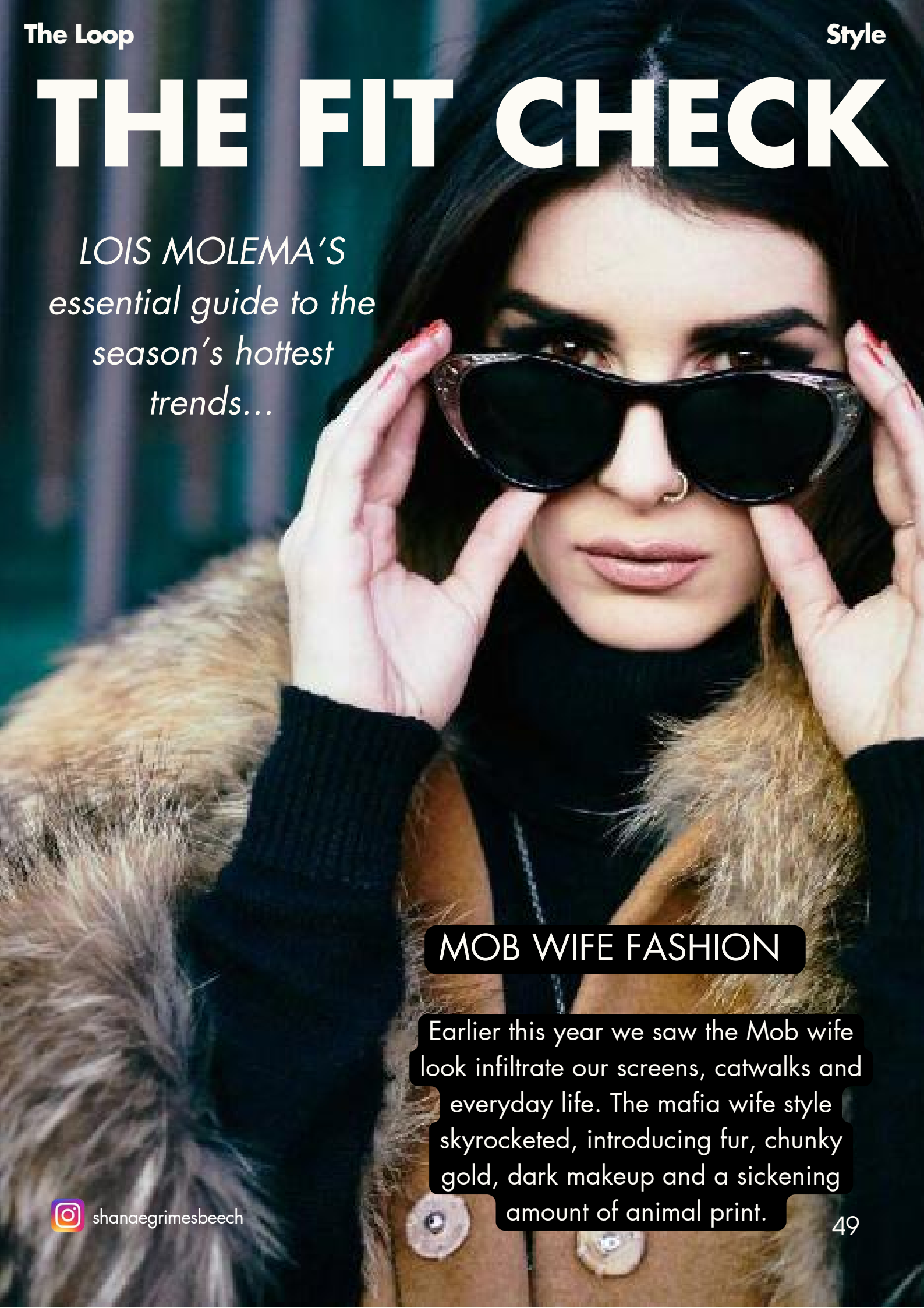
EVOLUTION

As the political landscape evolves, so too must the relationship between the PM and the Cabinet. Whether through restoring the Cabinet's influence or embracing a more collaborative approach, one thing is clear: the Cabinet remains essential in guiding the UK through its most pressing challenges

Image by Grok

THE FIT CHECK

LOIS MOLEMA'S essential guide to the season's hottest trends...



MOB WIFE FASHION

Earlier this year we saw the Mob wife look infiltrate our screens, catwalks and everyday life. The mafia wife style skyrocketed, introducing fur, chunky gold, dark makeup and a sickening amount of animal print.

shanaegrimesbeech

TESTING THE WESTERN

COUNTRY GIRLS

Beyonce's Texas Hold 'em brought country to the city. She got our toes tapping and mouse clicking to snag ourselves a little cowgirl style with boots, belts, hella denim and whole lotta fringing.

Thank you kindly, Queen Bee!





BUILDER BABES

TIMBS ARE BACK!

Timberland boots were a 90s footwear staple. Are they having a comeback?

Well, we've seen them in collaboration with Louis Vuitton, on Rihanna, Kanye West, Pharrell and Tyga. So I think its pretty fair to say, they're back! Will they continue their popularity to 2025?



GAME CHANGERS

FROM NEWSPAPERS TO LIVESTREAMS: THE EVOLUTION OF SPORTS MEDIA

BY GENEVIEVE HOGAN

Ian Wright and Roy Keane
Image by Grok

The way we follow sports has changed significantly over hundreds of years. The rapid development of the internet and media has massively impacted how we access sports media and news.

From match reports in newspapers being the only way to follow sport to radio commentary and following that, the instant access to livestreams whether that be on TV or accessed through the internet on smart devices.

The way sports coverage consumption has changed reflects the development of technology and demand.

As always with sport, nothing is more important than the community and connection between the club and the fans – something that has changed since the introduction of social media.

Let's take a look at how sports media has changed , how people follow sport, and how the business has shifted from national to global production thanks to social media and the globalisation of streaming services.

It should also be noted that the decline in consumption of print media makes sport more accessible for people all over the world.



Image by Grok

While all this is true, it is important to remember that the monetisation of sport media will not take away from the love of the game and sports fans are supporters regardless of how they follow it.

SPREADING THE WORD

776 BC was the year when the first documented Olympics took place in Olympia, Greece. As there were very few ways to get the word out about the games, messengers known as spondophoroi were sent out to spread the word and to make sure people could travel safely.

Whilst the earliest known newspaper was printed in Rome in the 1600's, it was not until the early 1800's that newspapers began sports reporting.

The first sport articles covered horse racing and boxing.

In the 1860's, newspapers began writing match reports with The Times writing the very first.

This was revolutionary at the time as it was a new way for people who could not access the games to follow the sports they enjoyed with a detailed explanation of the game.

AN HISTORIC YEAR

1908 was an historic year for Britain as it was the first Olympics hosted in London. It attracted high public interest and newspapers worked hard to cover every event.

The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News covered the games.


Image by Grok

The 1920's was an amazing time for the growth of sports media as there was a rise in the popularity of household radios. Radio stations began broadcasting live sports commentary for people who were not at the game.

The first broadcasts were of boxing matches but in 1927, the BBC broadcast its first live football commentary of a match between Arsenal and Sheffield United.

VISUALISING THE GAME

There was a concern that listeners would not be able to visualise the game from commentary alone, so Radio Times published a diagram of the pitch which was divided into 8 parts with numbers called out that explained where the action on the field was happening.

Since 1937, sport in the UK has been widely televised showing a range of sports. In the 1960s a 'blackout' was introduced in the UK meaning no football was allowed to be broadcast on Saturdays between 2.45pm and 5.15pm. After this, sports such as hockey and American football introduced a similar blackout based on ticket sales.

Sport media companies have played a significant role in influencing how people follow and access sports.

One of the most influential is ESPN. Founded in 1979, it began with the broadcast of what is now known as Sportscenter, filmed in front of a small live audience.



Image by Grok

Whilst it started as a small channel with a small following, deals with the NBA and NFL meant it grew significantly and is now available to 70 million households in the US and accessible to 191 countries in total.

Whilst most ESPN subscribers are from the US, the ESPN website is easily accessible with 600m viewers per month.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographic of ESPN subscribers is typically 25-34-year-olds. In 2022, ESPN made a revenue of $16b with $2.9b made as profit. The media company makes money from its millions of subscribers, adverts and streaming services.

Another particularly successful streaming service is DAZN. Founded in 2015, its success comes from its unique services.

It primarily shows subscription-based sports such as boxing, wresting and MMA. It makes it easy for subscribers to access these sports easily and even on the move.

A POSITIVE IMPACT

More recently, DAZN started broadcasting live Women's football Champions League games for free on their website and on YouTube. This positively impacted the women's game by making it accessible without needing to pay. ESPN's app and DAZN's niche content keep them ranked highly in the world of sports as their production fulfils the needs of their viewers.

Both companies have made efforts to expand globally with DAZN expanding to other continents and ESPN's international partnerships reflecting their adaptability in a media world that is constantly changing and developing.



Mark Goldbridge
Image by Grok

Livestreaming services like YouTube and Twitch throughout the years have changed how different age demographics interact with online sports content. These services along with social media are the home of fan engagement and community. Some sports leagues now offer direct streaming services where fans can watch exclusive content and watch live games without needing a TV.

LIVE CONTENT

The unique feature of a livestream is the interactivity for fans – allowing them to take part in a live chat and voting through polls so they get say in the content they consume. Livestreaming promotes active viewership through fan participation instead of the traditional passive watching of sport.

There are a range of YouTube and Twitch streamers that share live watchalongs. Whilst these videos do not show the game, they keep viewers up to date with the live score and the streamers often are conversational and share their opinions.

One example is Mark Goldbridge who has 1.75 billion views combined across his YouTube accounts that brings fans together with online discussions about matches and latest news. Another similar example is a YouTube channel called 'For the Love of Rugby' – a channel that uploads regular podcasts of rugby opinions and latest news from two professional players.

Media companies cannot often keep up with these changes meaning their target audience is typically older as well as high prices for different services. In the UK, Sky Sports typically costs £20 a month with TNT Sports costing £30 a month.



Image by Grok

This is one of the reasons online streams on Twitch and YouTube are more favoured for young people as they are free to access and still gives them a way to be part of the sport community.

FREE ACCESS

This is one of the reasons online streams on Twitch and YouTube are more favoured for young people as they are free to access and still gives them a way to be part of the sport community.

Livestreaming has also risen in popularity because of how easily it can be accessed and while on the move. They can pause, rewind and watch highlights – helping to connect fans all over the world and it feels more personalised than watching mainstream TV.

Another big problem that the authorities are constantly investigating is illegal streaming of live sports.

Some people would argue the price of unauthorised sports broadcasting subscriptions is often much less than if it were mainstream companies like Sky Sports or DAZN.

ILLEGAL

However, it is illegal and with possible imprisonment if caught. When trying to tackle piracy, the price of legitimate sport subscriptions can increase which makes the problem harder to stop.

With constantly increasing prices, it becomes much harder for people to access sports content and there are fears that the modern media focuses too much on quick content over in-depth analysis.



Image by Grok

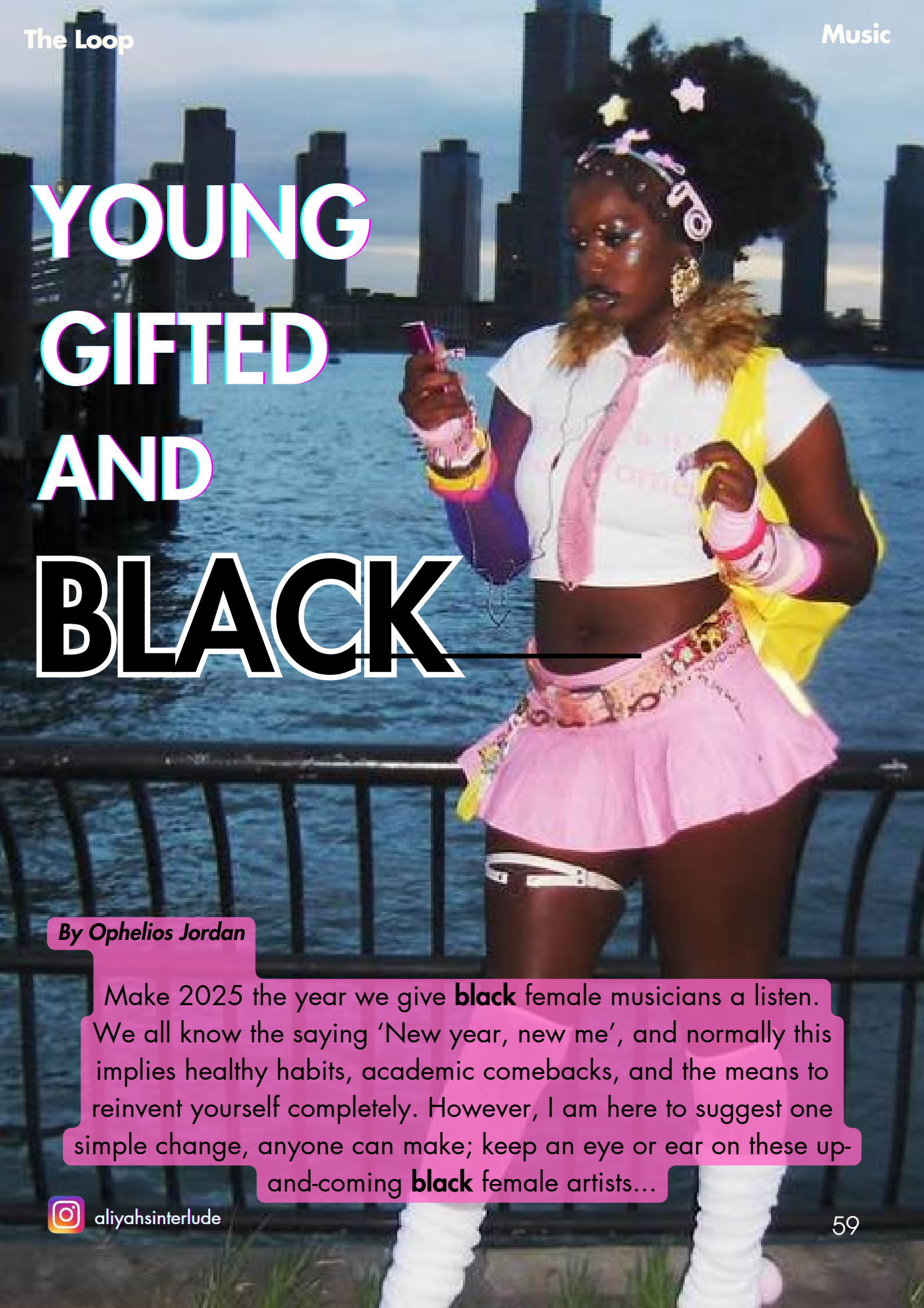
Questions are also raised about the quality of pundits, announcers and reporters but it gives people the opportunity to share their insights. The important thing for broadcasters is to find a good balance between modern and traditional styles of streaming, making it relevant to a wider audience.

THE FUTURE

For the future of sports media and coverage it should be considered that this content should have a fair chance to access the content they want, and this may mean a significant decrease in piracy.

The development of sports media through the years is a clear indication of how technology and internet has changed and shaped the society we live in today. From newspapers to radio commentary to live visual coverage, whilst nothing compares to watching sport in person, the shift in sports media has created a much more immersive, interactive experience for fans all over the world.

Better accessibility and social media engagement allows fans to watch sports whenever and wherever. Sports media will continue to change and develop but the heart and spirit of sport will never change.

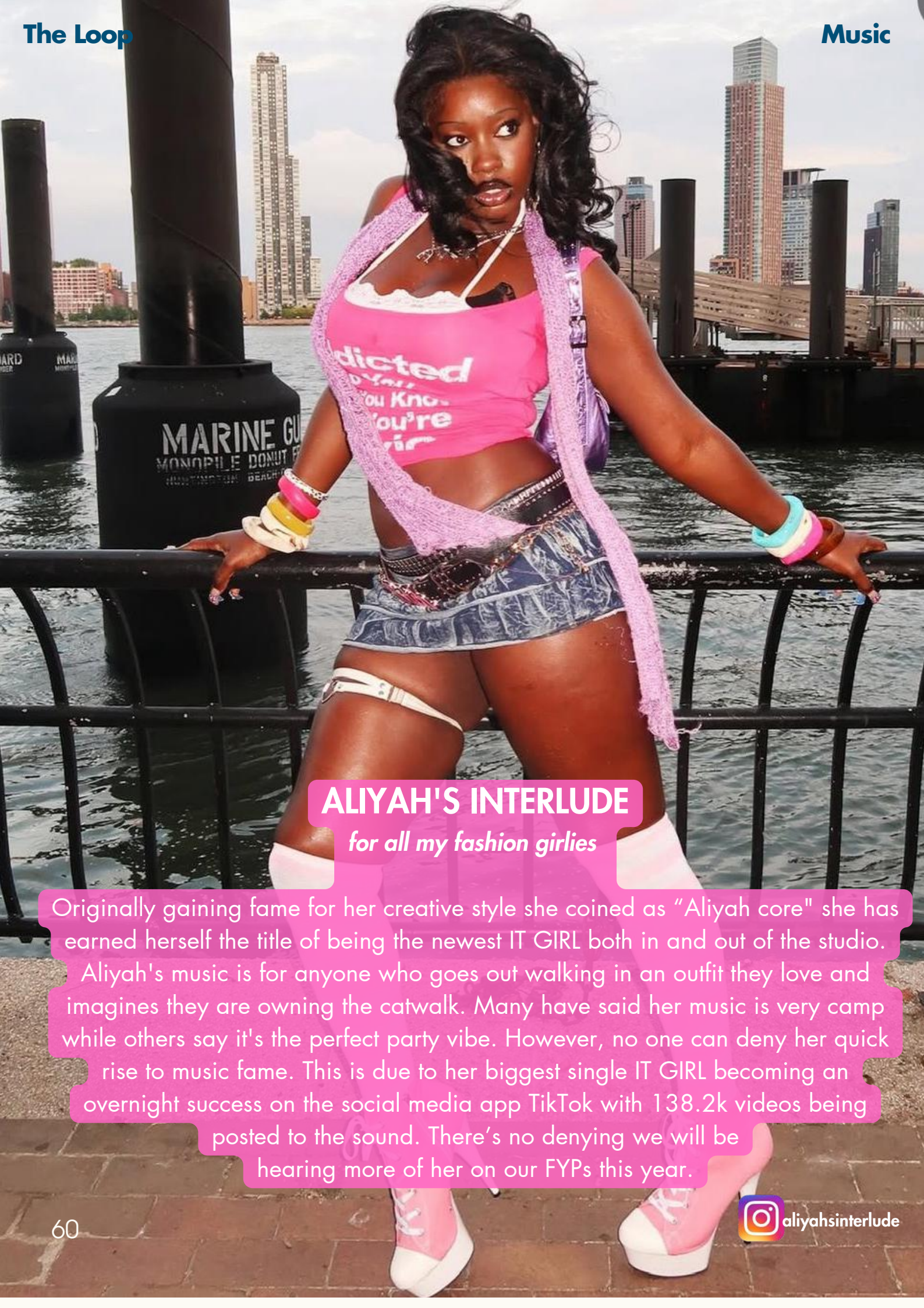


YOUNG GIFTED AND BLACK

By Ophelios Jordan

Make 2025 the year we give **black** female musicians a listen. We all know the saying 'New year, new me', and normally this implies healthy habits, academic comebacks, and the means to reinvent yourself completely. However, I am here to suggest one simple change, anyone can make; keep an eye or ear on these up-and-coming **black** female artists...

aliyahsinterlude



ALIYAH'S INTERLUDE

for all my fashion girlies

Originally gaining fame for her creative style she coined as “Aliyah core" she has earned herself the title of being the newest IT GIRL both in and out of the studio. Aliyah's music is for anyone who goes out walking in an outfit they love and imagines they are owning the catwalk. Many have said her music is very camp while others say it's the perfect party vibe. However, no one can deny her quick rise to music fame. This is due to her biggest single IT GIRL becoming an overnight success on the social media app TikTok with 138.2k videos being posted to the sound. There’s no denying we will be hearing more of her on our FYPs this year.

aliyahsinterlude



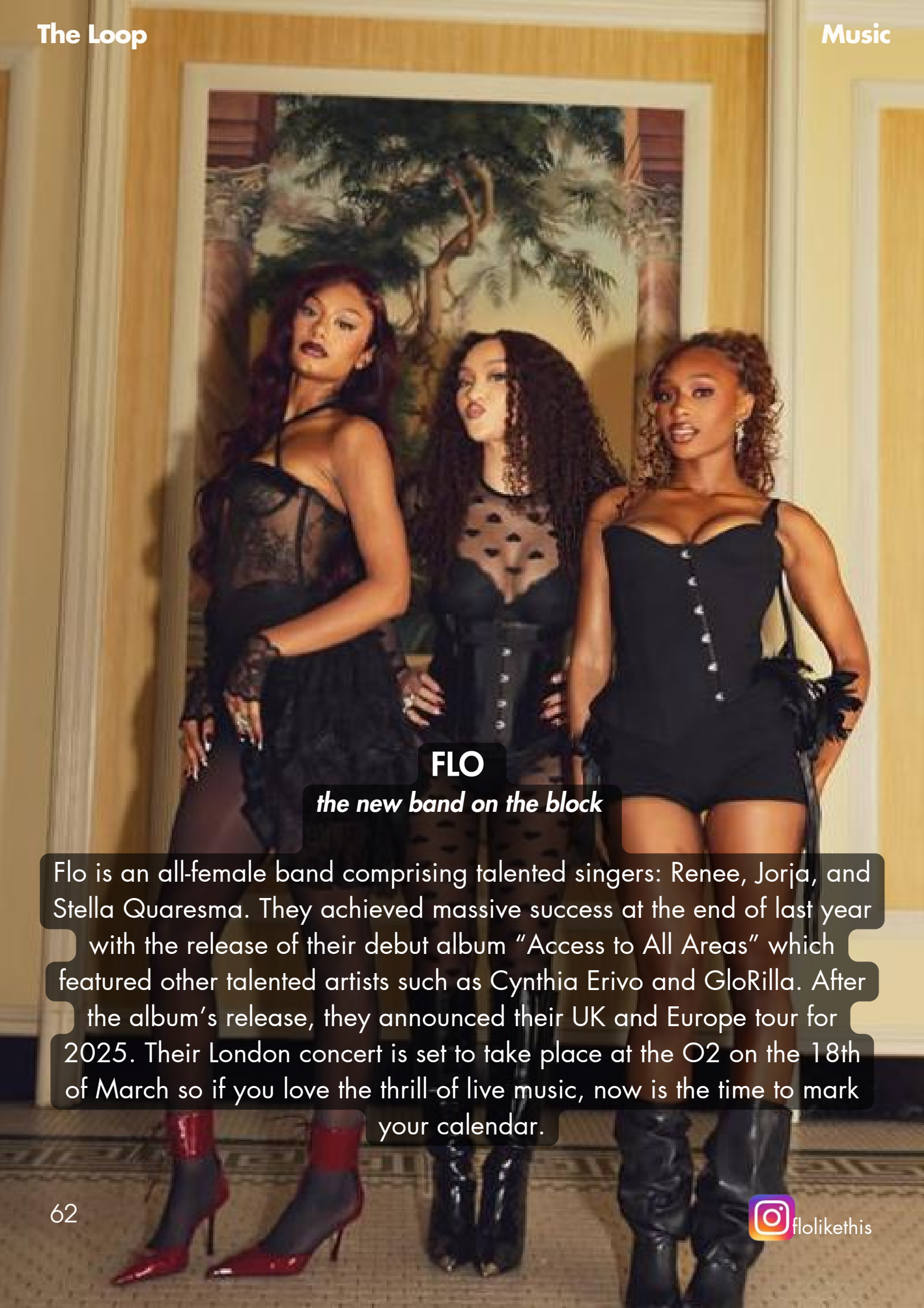
DOECHII
for all the rap lovers

Doechii is by no means new to the music scene. However, 2024 was the year she came back
and reminded everyone why she should be considered a big contender in rap.
When she released her album Alligators' Bites Never Heal, she became a name most people recognised in the rap genre. Songs like “Denial is a River” and “Nissan Altima” became definite repeats on some people's playlists.

It didn’t stop there...

Near the end of 2024, she featured on Tyler creator's album Chromakopia in a song titled “Balloon" and it easily became her second most listened song on Spotify with 62,690,263 plays.
You'd assume that would be the end of it but Doechii is currently being nominated for 3 Grammys and made history being the only woman nominated for best rap album of this decade. With a year like that, we can only wonder what waits for her this year.

doechii



FLO

the new band on the block

Flo is an all-female band comprising talented singers: Renee, Jorja, and Stella Quaresma. They achieved massive success at the end of last year with the release of their debut album "Access to All Areas" which featured other talented artists such as Cynthia Erivo and GloRilla. After the album's release, they announced their UK and Europe tour for 2025. Their London concert is set to take place at the O2 on the 18th of March so if you love the thrill of live music, now is the time to mark your calendar.

flolikethis



CYNTHIA ERIVO

She is defying gravity

Starring in Wicked as Elphaba, Cynthia Erivo is another artist who was able to quickly become a playlist staple. However, the songs in Wicked Part 2 should not be the only ones you look out for when it comes to her this year. The talented actor has been teasing her debut album which will be a mix of "eclectic, blending soul, country, and pop" Her co-star, Ariana Grande, has also said she's "...dying for it to come out" Release day can't come soon enough for us either, Ariana!

cynthiaerivo

Made In Chelsea

BY DARCEY SLATER

With the halfway mark already upon us for 24/25 season, Chelsea's unbeaten run continues.

After legend Emma Hayes departed the club at the end of last season, the future of Chelsea's success was in the air. But with French manager, Sonia Bompastor joining the team, they seem to be unstoppable.

SO CLOSE

Chelsea previously won major trophies, including the WSL, League Cup, FA Cup and Community Shield. The only trophy they haven't won is the Champions League.

They came close in the 20/21 season getting to the final for the first time, but ultimately being battered by European giants, Barcelona.

But Sonia's experience may give the blues a helping hand. She was the first person to win the Champions League as both a player and a manager, and previously won twice while playing for Lyon - once in the 2010/11 season and next in 2011/12.

Bompastor went on to win manager for the same club in he 21/22 season.

t

FRESH BLOOD

So with Chelsea's form on an all-time high and gaining fresh blood with successful experience, will it finally be the year the English Champions will become European Champions?

Sonia Bompastor

chelseafcw

Who's That Girl ?

ATENA GHAIBI's not the only one OBSESSED with F1s latest 'It Girl'...

Is it the way they do their hair? Wearing the latest designer? Or maybe the people they hang out with? No, no and no!

What makes someone It Girl worthy is how they carry themselves, and how they relate to their audience - which is why our It Girl of the Month is none other than Monaco's resident art princess: Alexandra Saint Mleux.

Effortlessly cool and chic, Alexandra is what every girl aspires to be. She never looks like she's trying too hard! Based in Monaco, the centre of old money and world-renowned billionaires, Miss Saint Mleux has stayed true to herself and never strayed far into completely unattainable designer materialism.

Alexandra is usually seen strutting her outfits in her partner's Formula 1 paddock wearing affordable brands like ZARA and Meshki, meaning everything she wears is usually sold out the moment she's been spotted wearing it.



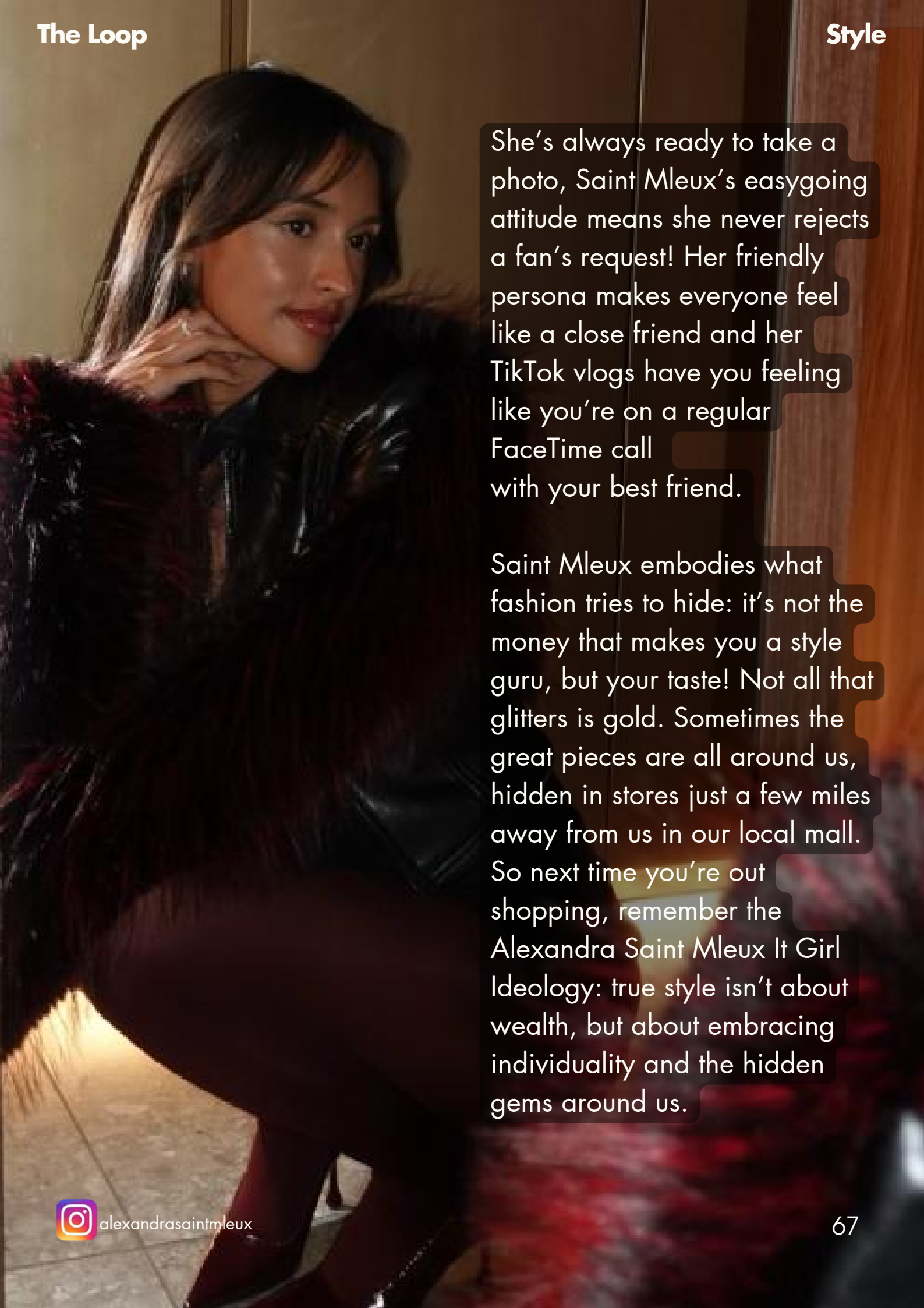
alexandrasaintmleux



Her elegant demeanour makes every brand look like luxury, so her fashionable taste reaches every girl, regardless of money. That's true It Girl behaviour, being able to feel like every girl's best friend regardless of where you're from.

Furthermore, Alex's attitude towards fans makes her all the more relatable and likeable.

alexandrasaintmleux



She's always ready to take a photo, Saint Mleux's easygoing attitude means she never rejects a fan's request! Her friendly persona makes everyone feel like a close friend and her TikTok vlogs have you feeling like you're on a regular FaceTime call with your best friend.

Saint Mleux embodies what fashion tries to hide: it's not the money that makes you a style guru, but your taste! Not all that glitters is gold. Sometimes the great pieces are all around us, hidden in stores just a few miles away from us in our local mall. So next time you're out shopping, remember the Alexandra Saint Mleux It Girl Ideology: true style isn't about wealth, but about embracing individuality and the hidden gems around us.

alexandrasaintmleux



LIVERPOOL WALKS ON

BY ZAID MENACER-GLOVER

Image by Grok

At the start of the 24/25 season Liverpool bid farewell to iconic manager Jurgen Klopp, and brought in Arne Slot.

The Dutchman started exceptionally well in his first games being top of the Champions League, League Phase and unbeaten.

Moreover, he's top of the Premier League winning 14 games so far.

It hasn't been all good for Liverpool though as they lost 1 game this season, 1-0 to Nottingham Forest in a massively underwhelming performance from the Reds in gameweek 4.

Despite this minor setback, Slot didn't doubt his system and kept the same 4-2-3-1 formation that he started with and that decision proved to be the correct one as Slot's side are yet to lose a game since.

HOPE

This now means Liverpool are the favourites to win the title for the first time since 1920.

That is massively down to their top performers, Mohamed Salah producing an astronomical output as usual. Ryan Gravenberch as well has been transformed under Slot starting every league game being a vital part of this well oiled machine Slot has formed.

WRITTEN OFF

Going into the season many wrote Liverpool and Arne Slot off, claiming it would be a "transitional period" at the club.

Some even said Slot would be a failure and be sacked before the end of the season. This may have been due to Liverpool's failure to have a big transfer window only signing Fedrico Chiesa who has not got off to good start at Anfield.

Many also pointed out the lack of defensive midfielder in the squad after the club's failure to sign Zubimendi, however as previously mentioned Gravenberch was transformed and has stepped up and become one of the best players so far this season.

CHAMPIONS

Given Liverpool's spectacular start and players in fine form it isn't crazy to predict that they'll be the eventual champions of England.

However there is still a long time to go and do not write off the likes of Mikel Arteta's Arsenal and even Nuno Espirito Santo's Nottingham Forest.

Image by Grok

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