



Creativity is innate, as the blood coursing through veins, the air that fills lungs, spilled upon the page as notes on a stave or the stroke of a paintbrush.

It is the unique ability of the artist to impart a piece of themselves, the singular truth and vision of their mind's eye, unto others. It is a means to connect using a language that is purely the artist's own. For Nilüfer Yanya, the outlet for her talents was always clear, manifesting itself in a heady cocktail of musical styles, infusing the core elements of rock, with hints of jazz and soul to create a unique, audibly identifiable sound that has fast cemented her as one of the most exciting artists to have emerged from the London music scene in quite some time.

Born into a rich lineage of creative artists, Yanya grew up in Chelsea before relocating with her family to Ladbroke Grove. It was during these early years that her musical education began, with her mother encouraging her to take up the piano at the tender age of 6. "My mum loved classical music, and she wanted me to learn the piano as she had when she was younger. Mum was never pushed to continue studying it, and so she pushed me to do classical music first". It was this initial introduction to the craft that led Nilüfer to continue her musical experimentation, gravitating toward rock music in her early teens and learning to play the guitar at the age of 12 under the tutelage of Dave Okumu of The Invisible. Despite her distinctive vocal style, singing was not the obvious choice for Yanya; "Singing was more on my own terms, I didn't do that till I was about 14/15. I always knew I liked writing songs, and I wanted to do that on the guitar. I think I knew ultimately that I was going to have to sing. I was a bit resistant at first, as I don't think I felt confident enough, and I never wanted to be that person on stage singing. But I knew that I was going to have to do it in order to be happy."

WORDS BY OLIVER MONAGHAN

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