

FUTURE 25

# TWS

Meet the rising K-pop group with retro vibes, a feel-good pop sound, tons of energy — and a megahit about young love

By JAE-HA KIM

TWS — pronounced “Two Us” — are one of the most exciting and energetic young K-pop groups today. They’ve won praise for their music, stage presence, and their model-like visuals. But they don’t take it for granted that anyone knows who they are. Which is why, when they log on to Zoom around lunchtime in Seoul to chat with *Rolling Stone*, Shinyu, Dohoon, Youngjae, Hanjin, Jihoon, and Kyungmin pepper their conversation with descriptors. Kyungmin, 18, introduces himself as the group’s *maknae* — or youngest — while several other members point out that Shinyu, 22, is TWS’ leader, as well as the eldest. Since debuting in January 2024 with their mini album, *Sparkling Blue*, the six-piece group has embraced a feel-good sound that leans into retro vibes, lush harmonies, and clever wordplay. “People have told us they are reminded of their own youth when they listen

to some of our songs,” Youngjae says. On their viral hit single “Overdrive” (17 million YouTube views and counting), they capture the newness of infatuation. Bolstered by fuzzy electric guitars, the song also provides the perfect moment for TWS to show off their *aegyo* — a quintessentially South Korean gesture of acting adorable that doesn’t always translate well overseas. For their version, TWS added an endearing shoulder shake to the choreography that enticed a slew of A-list Korean celebrities to imitate them. “We were hoping it would blow up,” Dohoon says. “But it didn’t really sink in until we saw all the singers and actors dancing along on awards shows.” Now, they’re looking forward to showing the world what else they can do. “We have packed in so many memories since our debut two years ago,” Kyungmin adds, “and we have many stories to tell through our songs.”



Youngjae, Kyungmin, Hanjin, Shinyu, Jihoon, and Dohoon (from left)

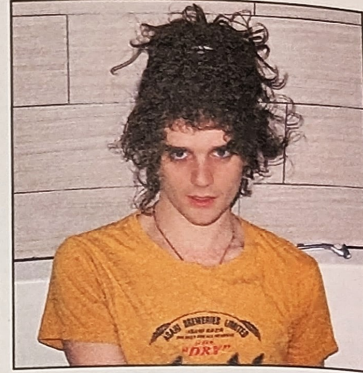
# WALLIE THE SENSEI

Built in Compton, co-signed by Travis Scott and Kendrick Lamar

By PREEZY BROWN

Raised on the west side of Compton, Wallie the Sensei walked the same blocks that bred giants like Kendrick Lamar and the Game. But it took years of hard work, including a stint on a fishing boat in Alaska, before he decided to take music seriously around 2021. Wallie got a major boost when Travis Scott signed him to his Cactus Jack imprint, an experience he likens to a lyrical boot camp. “I worked every

single day, 15 to 18 hours a day, and I just kept sharpening, sharpening, and sharpening,” says the rapper, 31. In 2024, he reached an even bigger audience when Lamar tapped him for a guest feature on *GNX*. And this spring, Wallie is sharing his defining statement with his mixtape, *Mad Dogg*. “It’s an expression about people where I’m from,” he says. “I feel like we come from a mad place.”

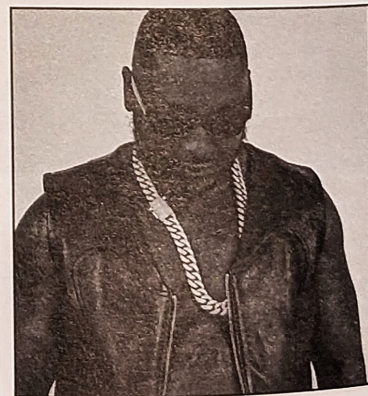


# ASHER WHITE

Wildly creative indie pop from a Bandcamp auteur

By ZACH SCHONFELD

“I’m the opposite of a perfectionist,” says Asher White, a multi-instrumentalist from the Chicago area whose intricate indie-pop concoctions reflect the textures of the odd, ramshackle instruments she collects. Born in 2000, White self-released a dozen home-recorded albums on Bandcamp before she graduated college and signed with a label. In 2024, after a decade of recording in obscurity, she drew acclaim for *Home Constellation Study*, an album of ornate folk-pop gems. (Its liner notes credit her with “fake mellotron, glitter, glockenspiel, granular synthesis, hand percussion,” and more.) Last year, she signed with the indie label Joyful Noise, played the trans-rights festival Liberation Weekend, and released her 16th album, *8 Tips for Full Catastrophe Living*, which swerves from tender melodies to pummeling doom metal and back. “It’s sort of nice to have put out a lot of music, fruitlessly, because I can trust the fact that I will do it no matter what,” White, who’s now based in Brooklyn, says. “I don’t feel that I deserve stardom for making music immediately. But I’ll take it! If it’s offered.”



# T BAI

A songwriter with an un...

By JONA

Tyler Perry's life at a bar. “I creat show at the Fab tavern in L.A.’s E became the cer 2020s. “We’d a That was a big around Ballgan nity are two cor in conversation whose *For the* 2026’s buzzie yielded a genu in Love”), an of and even a D! Robin Peckno he took to mu formed a Flee high school, t of depression talented pers it,” he says. Tl in a time-ho could becon Borrowing p England lege Perry fled his his operatic gotten lots Orbison. “Be way of expla be their ido



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