



Cesar Ruiz - At Your Best You Are Love







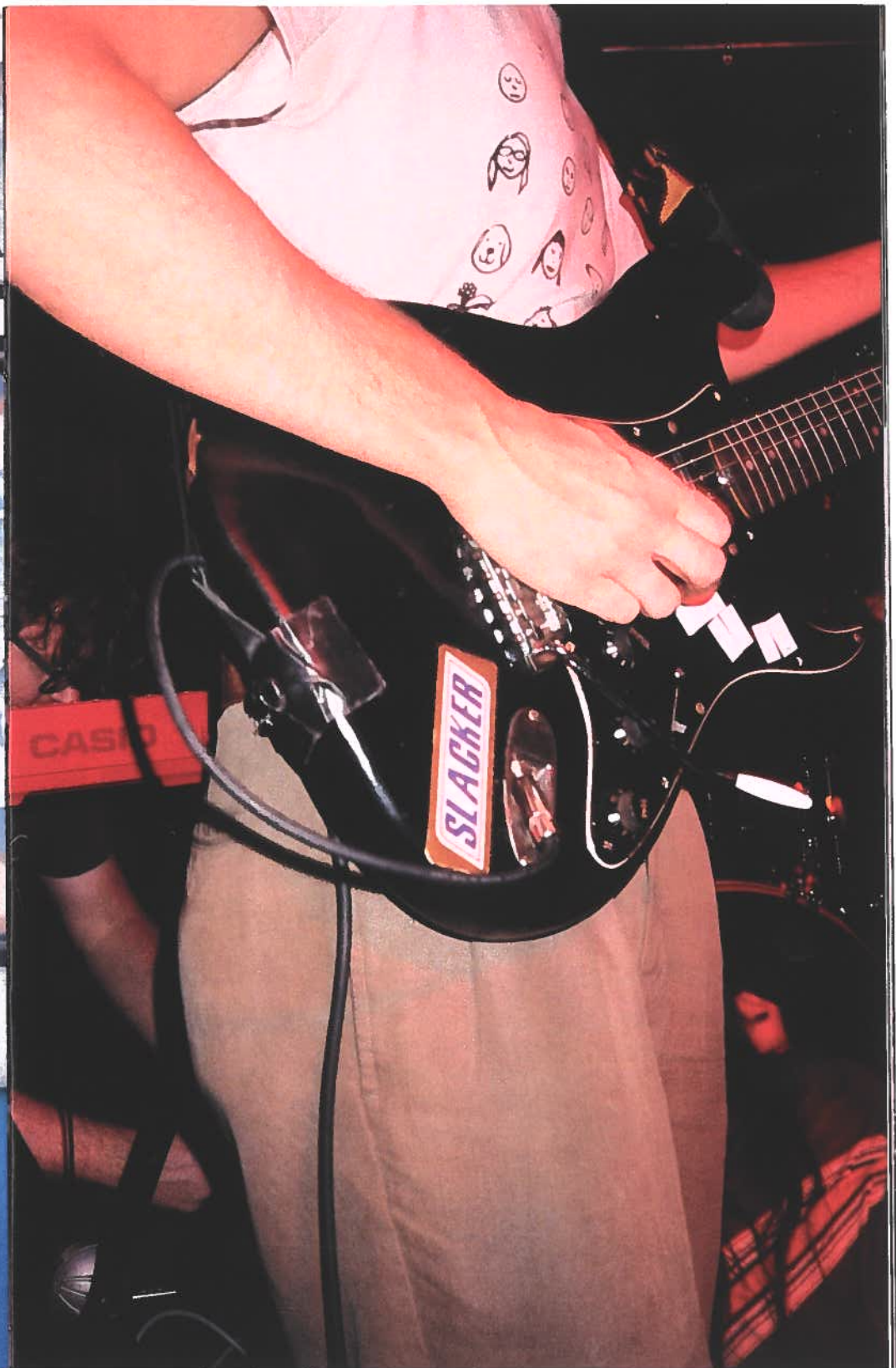
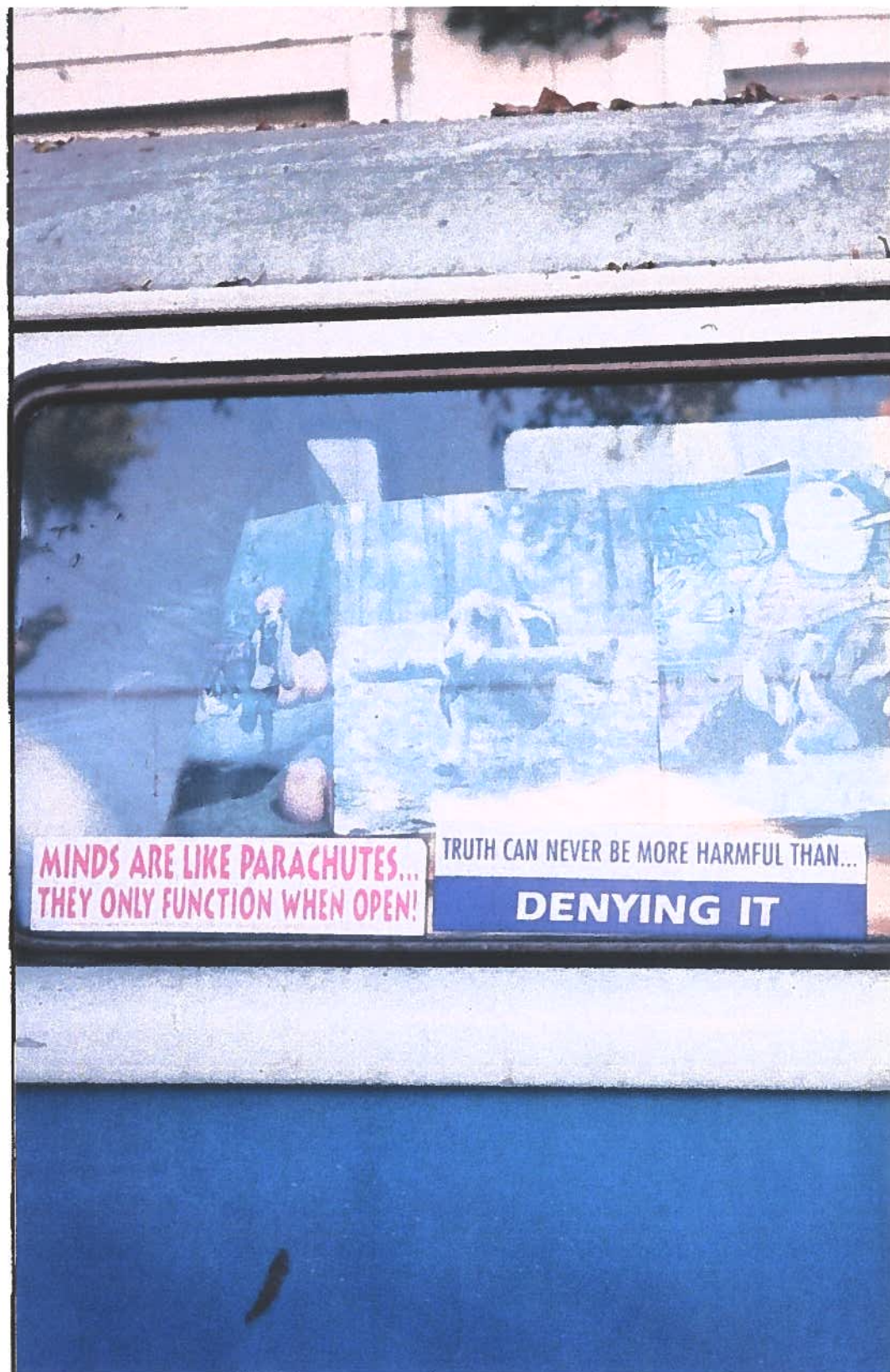




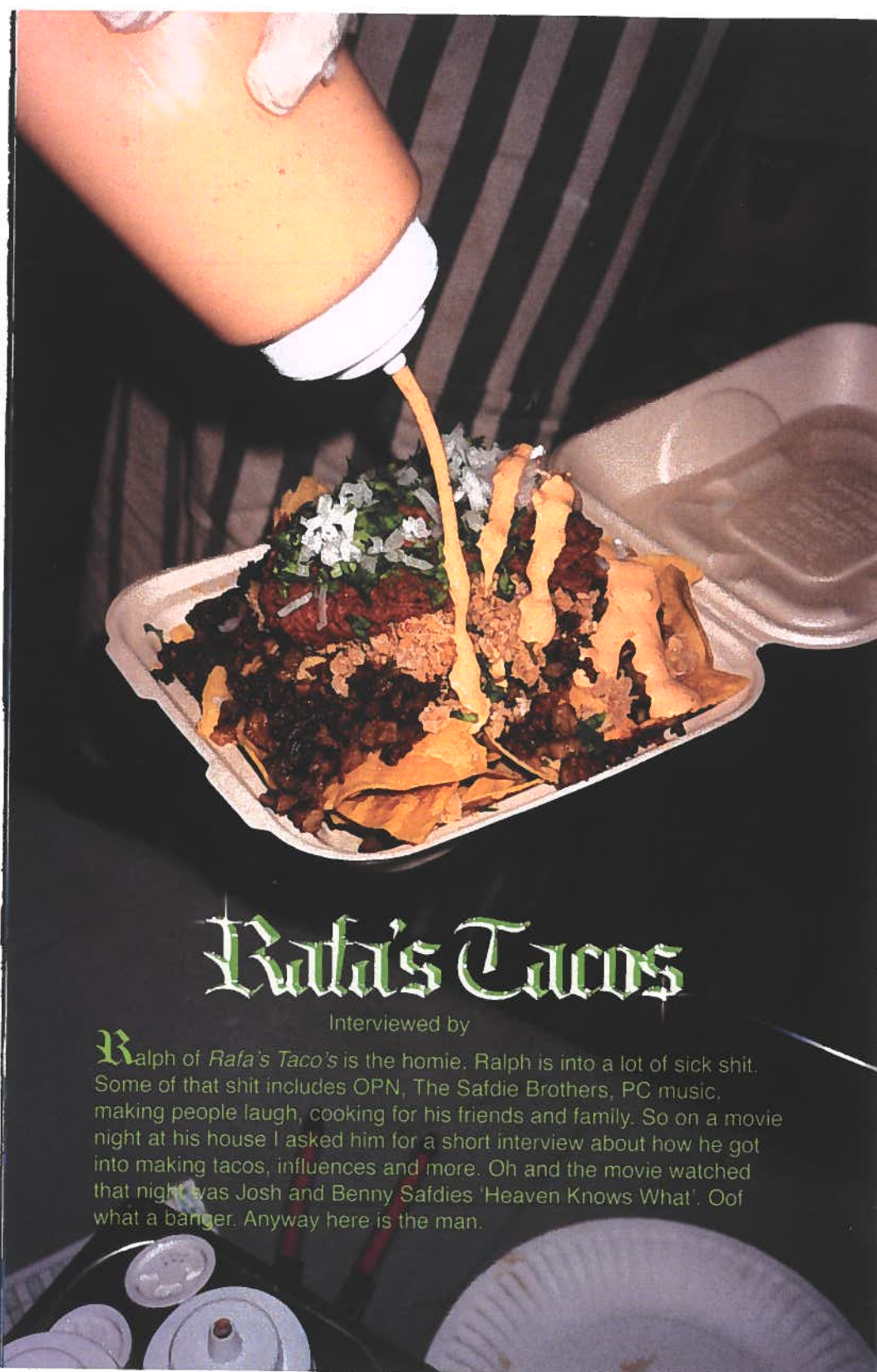












## Rafa's Tacos

Interviewed by

**R**alph of *Rafa's Taco's* is the homie. Ralph is into a lot of sick shit. Some of that shit includes OPN, The Safdie Brothers, PC music, making people laugh, cooking for his friends and family. So on a movie night at his house I asked him for a short interview about how he got into making tacos, influences and more. Oh and the movie watched that night was Josh and Benny Safdies 'Heaven Knows What'. Oof what a banger. Anyway here is the man.

*Whats good Ralph. How did you get into cooking?*

My mom taught me how to make my own food when I was little, but I think when I got older and I stopped eating meat I didn't want to put that on my mom everyday. Even though a lot of the food she made and makes is vegan by default. Rice, for the most part my mom never used chicken bouillon even before I was vegan. Tomato sauce, salt, and garlic salt. But still I didn't want to be an inconvenience so I said I had to teach myself. The more I taught myself how to cook, the more I made food for friends, I was happy people were excited on the food and I was also teaching myself how to cook. I think if I have kids, I don't want to make them food and they say "Dads food sucks!". Grow-

ing up my family had a nice balance between going out to eat and eating at home. Sometimes we would go, aye "trigger warning", to KFC. Shout out to KFC. My mom would go get a bucket of chicken and then slice up some lettuce and tomato make a little salad. Then she would cook up orange rice. So orange rice, salad and KFC chicken.

*That sounds fire.*

Sometimes I would ask for a small little mash potato and gravy.

*Damn. You know what's funny. I grew up going to Church's chicken. I got a little funny story about*

Church's Chicken. A little side quest. When I was in middle school this one fool that I knew, he was a skater fool, told me "I got a Toy Machine skateboard I'll sell you one." I wanted to learn so I saved up my money and went to this kids house to buy a full complete board. This mother fucker comes out with a little banana board thing. I was like dude you said you were going to sell me the other one. He was like "nah man this is the one!". Bro I can't do tricks on this shit. I went home all bummed out. When I was walking home though I saw a Church's Chicken so I took the money that I was going to use from the skateboard and bought a bunch of chicken for my family that night. My mom already made the rice.



*Dang she really had that rice on deck. Church's Chicken has that crisp where you can tell that chicken just sat under that light all day. Seems like you love to give people food, thats awesome. Bringing it back how did you get started selling your food as Rafa's Tacos?*

I saw this fool Matt Gomez, shoutout to Matt who played in those bands

*Summer Vacation and Winter Break.* He actually had done a pop up show at VLHS where he sold pizzas. He had a little stand where he was heating up little pizzas for kids at the show in a toaster oven. I was like dude that's fucking sickest thing ever.



*Kids want that at a show.*

Yeah for sure. When I saw him do that I was inspired to start doing my own. My first pop up was at the *Lauren Records, Growing Up is Dumb Volume 2* fest in Pomona at the veterans hall. Shout out to Aaron for my first gig. After that *VLHS* was home base in like 2014. That was the spot I was always at getting to feed the punks at shows. I think it was a cool thing because at that show space there wasn't really anything around there food wise so it was awesome to see people excited to see me there. The best part was when someone would say, "ah damn I don't eat meat" and I would be like "its vegan!". Everyone would eat it and it was dirt cheap. I remember this one person came by the show in their pajamas and I asked if they were going to the show. They said, "Nah I'm just getting food for me and my dad". That got me hyped.

*What is mud to you?*

A lot of rappers like to use the term mud, like I got mud in my lungs. I started hearing a lot of songs using the word mud and I was like oh shit. Then one time I was with my little cousin and I was mixing up diced onion, lime, salt and pepper and I looked at him and said that's the mud huh and it stuck. That's how I describe my food sometimes. It's mud. I think I am just trying to recreate that food that mom makes. You know, that's mud. Like that stuff you grew up on and start to miss. Like damn I miss my moms rice, I miss my moms soup. that's the mud for sure.

*Yeah that's so true. Its always crazy how they whip it out of no where too for like 5 kids.*

Definitely, it just feels like food thats not trying to be fancy with it, that's accessible, some good food that feels hearty ya know. Something that makes you feel good to be around friends.

*Okay last question. What is your favorite 311 song just for the record.*

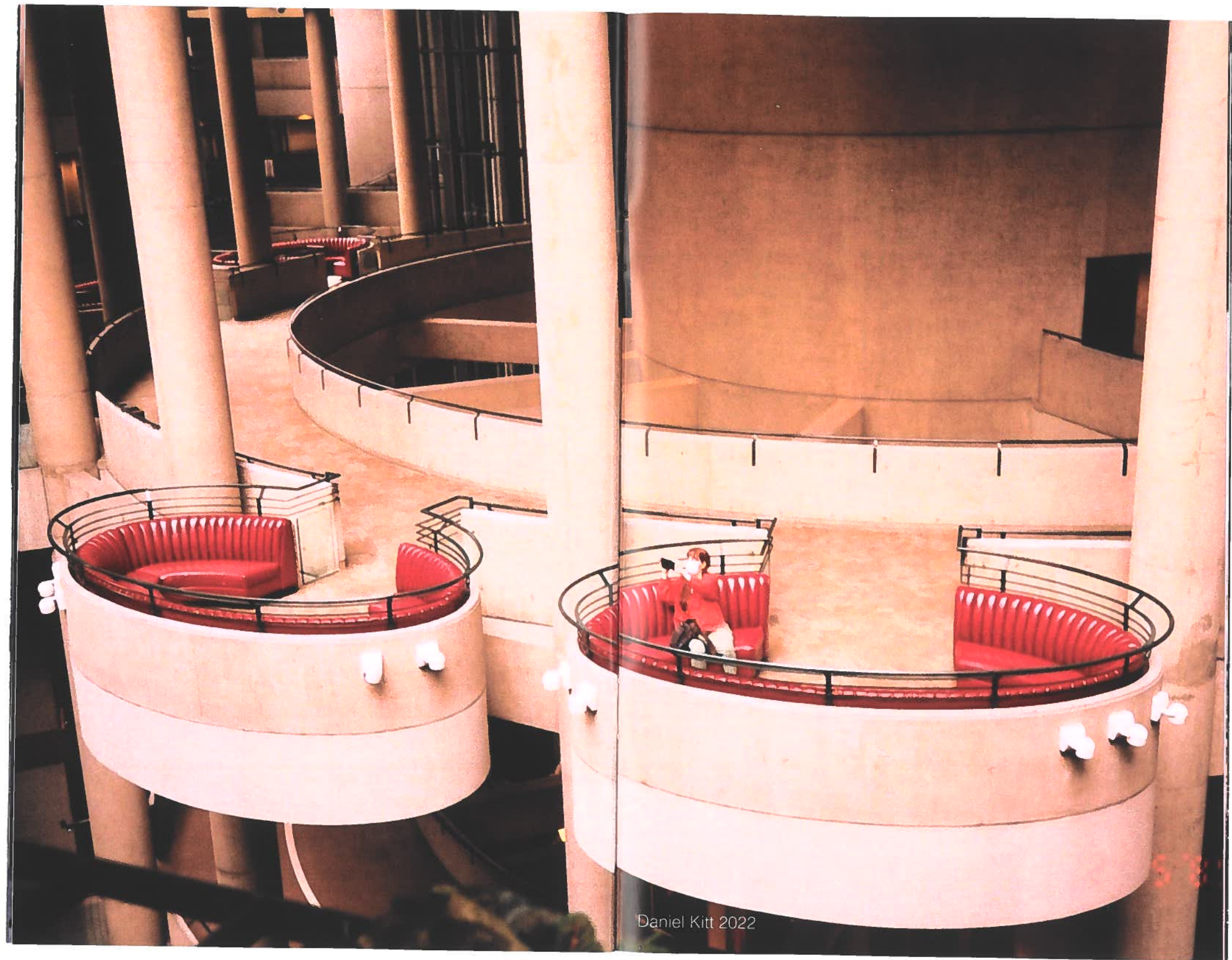
Oh my favorite song is probably Flowing. That song always stuck with me.

*Damn respect.*

Should I play that shit or what?







Daniel Kitt 2022





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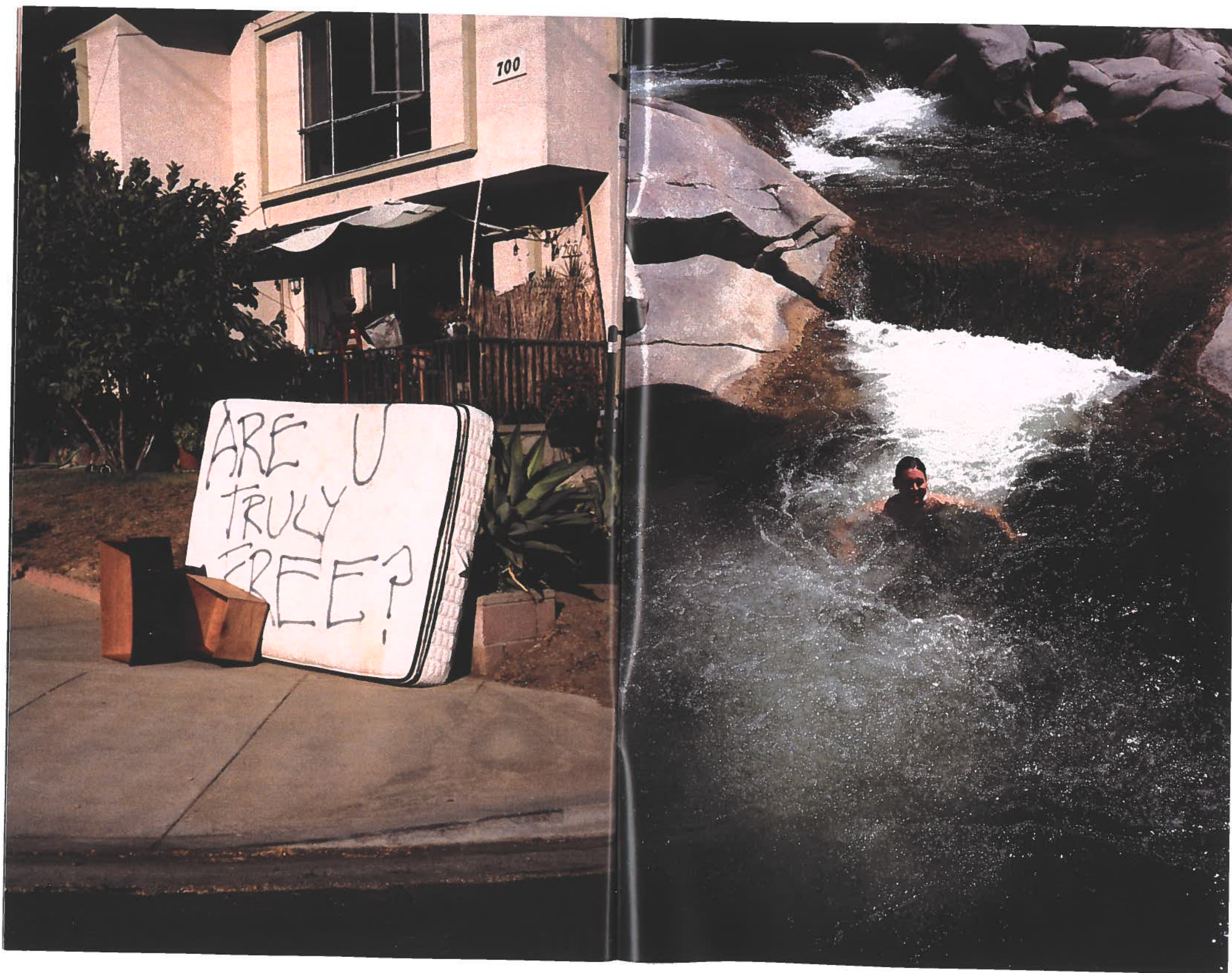


Dream on, child of change  
 Throw your javelin through  
 the sun  
 Pierce the heart of everyone  
 Though we push to slave the  
 days  
 This is not reality, this is just formality  
 The cup is only being filled for the  
 chance to have it spilled  
  
 Flowing just like the  
 days  
 Sailing just like the days  
 Flowing just like the days  
 Sailing just like the days  
 Flowing just like the days  
 Sailing just like the days  
 Flowing just like the days  
 Sailing just like the days  
 Flowing

Wondering Boy Poet  
 Guided By Voices









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