A Theatre of Darkness: Valencia Grace

They are a graceful goddess of darkness as the curtain rises on their performance. With an irresistible power, Valencia Grace draws audiences and listeners alike under their spell. Theatre, music and visual art merge into a work that moves and empowers.

Beginnings

Valencia began posting videos on TikTok at just 16, describing them as a way to pass the time during lockdown. Nevertheless, those videos helped them find her first management team and hone their craft.

The queer artist explains that their songs are often born out of dark moments. “I am a visual artist, and that darkness is reflected in my visuals.” As someone with synaesthesia, they interweave sensory impressions in their art, offering listeners an all-encompassing experience.

Valencia comes from a traditional musical theatre background and has always enjoyed playing characters. “When I was living in Los Angeles, classic musicals such as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* were central to my life. All my relatives said the same thing: I had always been a performer.” The desire to be seen is not theirs alone: Valencia observes that many artists may themselves have experienced systems in which they went unseen.

Identities

At the beginning of their career, Valencia felt compelled to hide an important part of their identity. “I have always been queer, but early in my career I was advised not to speak about it. Yet choosing that path of concealment made me increasingly uncomfortable. My queerness is part of my identity, and I felt trapped.” When Valencia began advocating for the LGBTIQA+ community, however, they realised just how much it meant to them—and today they have become an important voice for that community. “I simply don’t want anyone to have to feel the way I did or hide who they are! Now I am just myself. And if I can do it, others should be able to as well!”

The Power of Art

The power of music reaches far beyond a single lifetime. It is medicine, it connects people—and often it is their salvation. Even in survival mode, music is often the only language that can still reach someone.

For Valencia Grace, music means even more. After their mother’s death in late September 2026, they discovered her CDs. Valencia’s mother, Amy Sanchez, was herself a musician and artist. Inspired by that legacy, Valencia wants to carry it forward.

They explain: “I never had a close relationship with my mother. It was only after her death that I discovered her music and was able to connect with her as a person. I listened to her songs, and now I know: I am a singer because she was.”

Valencia's Muses

Valencia Grace's commitment to the queer community and to authenticity is rooted in their own musical journey. They write for that community, they say, because having to hide who you are is the worst thing of all. "The times when I listened too much to other people almost destroyed me."

Their body of work reflects those struggles. "Super Elastic" and its "tailored smiles" explore the ways we mask ourselves in front of others to fit in. With lines such as "From the body I was given [...] become who I've been" from "Exorcism", on their latest EP, Parasite, Valencia makes one thing clear: their inspiration comes from those who manage to break free from the constraints of hiding who they are.

Colour is the starting point for their music. Whether it is a colour palette, a fashion aesthetic or a social media post, Valencia draws on the world around them in their songs. On their mood board, these ideas begin to take shape, eventually coming together as powerful pieces of music. "I have found my muses—and they are part of my story and my art."



Picture: Billy Cole Landers

Further Information

The latest EP: PARASITE

At the heart of the latest EP lies "Exorcism", a track that explores the central themes of redemption and transformation. Notably, a portion of the proceeds associated with the single is being donated to *The Trevor Project*, an organisation dedicated to suicide prevention and crisis intervention for young people in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Tour

Valencia Grace will embark on a tour of the UK and the USA from late November. Tour dates can be found online.