



JAKE SCOTT

STORY BY TRICIA DESPRES

In 2018, Jake Scott made a promise to himself. He promised that each and every month, he would find a day to put out new music to his fans. It was a promise he made with outward confidence, but inward trepidation.

And it ended up becoming a promise that changed his life.

“I knew that I was committing to the long game,” Scott tells *Celebrate Arkansas* in the days leading up to the release of his new EP *Goldenboy*. “Sure, I could have released one song and go viral and be just another flash in the pan. But I wanted more.”

The talented singer/songwriter leaning on that sweet pop/rock/country fringe certainly got more than he could have envisioned, with his music now having amassed well over 250 million streams, with 150 million of those coming during his song-per-month release strategy that concluded in December 2020. He even sold-out his first headline tour in the process.

But he’ll never forget where he got his start.



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They never tried to
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JAKE SCOTT

Born and raised in the small town of Danville, Ark., Scott was a rather rambunctious kid, who found himself getting in trouble more times than not. He loved football and baseball and skateboarding, and at 6 years old, he took up the drums — much to the chagrin of the rest of the house.

“Back in the day, I kept the house very noisy,” laughs Scott, who also remembers the house being filled with music from the greats such as Bob Dylan, Jackson Browne, and Neil Young. “My parents lost a lot of sleep in those days. But I have to hand it to them. Whatever phase I was into, they let me run with it. They never tried to talk me out of it.”

Indeed, music was in fact becoming a more and more important piece in the life of Scott, having joined the church band at Shiloh Christian School as a high schooler. After the bell would ring on yet another day, Scott was increasingly intrigued with the sounds of hard-core rock and screamo, and occasionally even some good ole pop music pumping through the radio.

But everything changed the first time he heard John Mayer.

“His music was the lightbulb for me,” remembers Scott, who just so happened to write the songs on his new EP in a barn in his home state of Arkansas. “I realized how much I loved music that moved me. I became passionate about it, and his music opened up this whole rabbit hole of artists in that songwriting world.”

Soon, Scott sold his drums and bought a guitar and began his quest to become the next great songwriter of his time. He was such a huge admirer of the craft that Scott ultimately found himself getting increasingly hesitant about allowing the songs swirling in his head into the world.

“There were things I wanted to say, but I was scared, so I never let myself try to put them into a song,” Scott remembers. “I made a decision that I was just not going to open that door.”

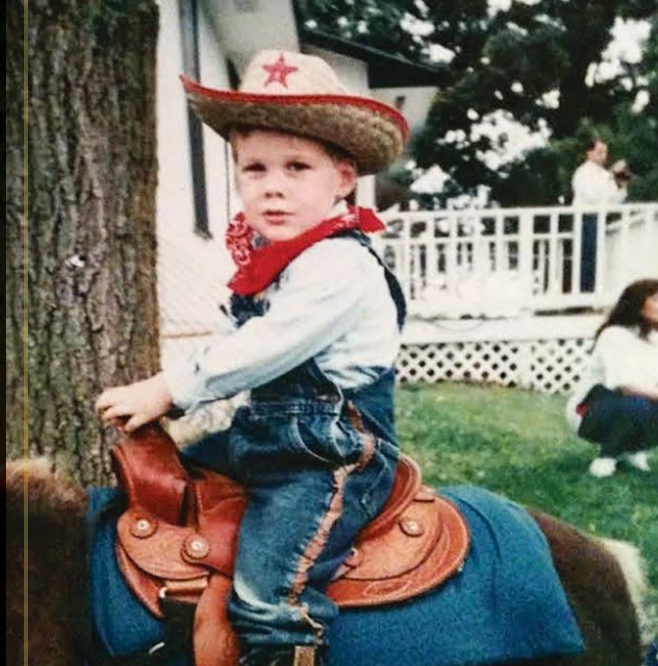


photo by Brenton Giesey

GOLDENBOY

JAKE SCOTT

5AM WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT | OFF WRITTEN BY JAKE SCOTT & JOSH KERR PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT
MEET MY SHADOW WRITTEN BY JAKE SCOTT, JOSH KERR, MARTIN JOHNSON & BRANDON PADDOCK PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT & NOAH CONRAD
OVERTHINKING WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT & JOSH KERR | GEORGE BAILEY WRITTEN BY JAKE SCOTT PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT &
CHAD COPELIN | GOLDENBOY WRITTEN BY JAKE SCOTT PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT & CHAD COPELIN | ANYMORE WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY
JAKE SCOTT | SLEEPTALKING WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY JAKE SCOTT

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2021

GOL
DEN
BOY

"GOLDENBOY"
EP

But soon, Scott went to college, and a creative writing class allowed him to become comfortable with putting his lyrics and poetry on a page. During his junior year of college, he released his first EP.

And then, he happened to come across one of his biggest breaks.

"My best friend was dating a girl from Nashville, and her dad had a studio there," remembers Scott. "He heard my music and said I could come in and do some recording in the summer going into my senior year. I put it out on iTunes, and it caught some traction and I ended up having this miniature viral moment where labels were reaching out to me. It was in that moment that I began to think that maybe I could make a career out of this."

Scott would then connect with Grammy®-award winning songwriter and fellow Arkansas native David Hodges, and after college graduation, Scott moved to Los Angeles to be mentored by the industry great. And ever since, Scott has made a living as an independent artist known for his almost effortless way of putting his heart on the page via songs such as "Like No One Does," "Off," and the heart-tugging "Tuesdays."

"It's very enticing to get offers from big labels and publishing companies," says Scott, who has collaborated in recent years with everyone from Aloe Blacc to Jason Mraz. "But I turned a lot of those down. I had to look at the pros and cons of what I was going to give up. Right now, streaming is the No. 1 way people consume music, and to own the right to the masters of your music is the way people are making money."

Being able to withstand the traps of the somewhat complicated music industry is something Scott says he is able to do, thanks to his Arkansas roots.

"Growing up in Arkansas playing sports, there was just this work ethic that was instilled in me," concludes Scott, whose wife is currently expecting their first baby. "Nearly everyone in the music industry is here because they are talented. It just matters who is going to work the hardest." ■



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