



Interview ▶ We talk to the Andorran artist 'Rokyo', who is currently in Enderrock's Sona9 con

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Roc Tarruell is a 21-year-old who has a musical project called 'Rokyo' and started it at the end of 2020. So far, he has released six songs and is working on an EP that will be released between September and October. Currently, he is doing concerts around the country accompanied by a band, but he composes and produces the songs himself at home. From EL PERIÒDIC we interviewed him to find out how he is living the Sona9 contest of Enderrock from the inside and to learn about his beginnings in the world of music.

-When did your interest in music begin?

-I started playing the drums between the ages of eight and nine, I did it at the Escola Moderna which is near Plaça de les Arcades. I was also in the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of Andorra (JONCA). After a few years I started playing the guitar on my own and at school I did some classes at noon. My interest in the guitar led me to composition. Then I said: «Since I can't compose with the drums and I want to learn to write songs, I start to play the guitar». And at that time I started taking guitar and solfeggio lessons to learn to compose.

-Where did the artistic name of 'Rokyo' come from?

-My middle brother Lluç told me. I wanted to say it in a different way, I won't say it [laughs] because it didn't fit at all with what I'm doing now. Then my brother said to me: «Rokyo looks pretty good» and besides, the 'ky' are two letters that visually look very good. I spent a few days thinking about his proposal and finally, I decided to give myself this stage name.

-What is music for you?

-For me, making music is something that makes me happy, it amuses me. I see it as a game that doesn't have a specific goal, but that people can have fun and discover emotions through music.

-How did the opportunity to prepare for Enderrock's Sona9 contest arise?

-At Sona9 I presented myself last year, but I did it in Catalonia because I am Spanish even though I live in Andorra and they are not going to take me because there are many more people there and, therefore, more competition. This year, when the opportunity arose I was already alert, but my teachers also told me to apply because there is less competition than in Catalonia. Six or seven of us showed up and half got in. The opportunity presented itself to me and I wanted to take advantage of it. I already know who has passed to the next phase, but it is not yet possible to say, at the end of the month they will communicate.

-How many phases are left for the final?

-There are four phases. We've had



PAU RIBERA PERRAMON

'Rokyo'

Artist

«I want people to have fun and discover emotions through music»

the first where 30 groups played, the second which will be 11, the third with five and the final with three. I think now is the most complicated phase because they go from 11 to five.

-Does a jury decide or is there also a popular vote?

-From now on it's just a jury.

-How would you define the experience of having participated in this competition?

-Very good because in the end it is a platform that even if you don't win it gives you visibility. I, for example, from just doing a phase I have already appeared on iCat where I was interviewed together with Juli Barrero and Quim, which was broadcast last



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week. Also, we appeared in Enderrock's magazine and, in addition, there are people from the country who came to see the concert, who might have come for other bands and there they discovered me. In the end I think it's a platform that helps people get to know you and value what you do because sometimes it's hard to reach everyone.

-Which songs did you present?

-I presented four. One is Because you pay attention to me, which I released two months ago, and then three new ones that haven't come out yet. The next one will come out in September and the others are from the EP.

-What was the reason for first publishing songs as Roc Tarruell and then as 'Rokyo'?

-First it was Roc Tarruell because since he didn't have a stage name, he didn't know if it would be something serious or not. I just made a song, I upload it as Roc Tarruell, I don't know how far this will go, if I'll get tired of it or people won't like it. As I saw that I liked making songs and the audience's response was positive, I said: «I'll do more». At that point I saw that I needed a stage name because I didn't call myself by my na-

me. Singer-songwriters have their own name like Lluís Llach, but I wanted a stage name that represented me more.

–Your first single «Començar de nou» talks about an anxiety that we have all felt at one time or another. How did this song come about?

–I was inspired when my mother died and I made it when I was doing the baccalaureate. From this feeling of redoing yourself and starting over, this song came out. First, I say I want to start over, but then I say: «You don't really have to start over, but accept what has happened and take it with you. You can't get rid of it because it's a feeling that's with you every day.».

–«Pròxima estació» has a much more cheerful and freestyle vibe. It could be a song that pushes you to let yourself go. What inspired you to compose it?

–I started with songs like this that were a little sadder and now what I try is to make more cheerful songs. Although the sad ones will come because I have them stored in a drawer. The song *Pròxima estació* came from I always go by train and is about the crushes that can arise in this public transport. Talk about people you see on the train and you like them, but for whatever reason you don't dare say anything to them. It's about what it would be like to fall in love with someone on the train and work up the courage to tell them, even though I've never done it.

–The rumba is the protagonist of his latest single «Perquè em facis cas». It is a very appropriate title in today's society. Is it based on or inspired by a real experience?

–We could say yes, because it costs a lot, since more and more attention is focused on pills. We've gone from replying to Instagram stories to liking and people have to understand that they want to hook up with you or not because there's a chance they'll give you a heart just because they like the photo you've uploaded. It is increasingly difficult to get people's attention, also because we are full of stimuli



► 'Rokyo' accompanied by his band at the Sona9 concert at the National Auditorium of Andorra, in Ordino.



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and are on our mobile phones all day. In the end, it's about the sadness of saying that the girl I like doesn't pay attention to me, but sometimes she gives me that little attention so that I get hooked and end up going crazy saying, «Will she or won't she?».

–Where was the video clip recorded? Is this your first music video? how about the experience?

–It was recorded in my grandmother's yard. We have a house in Sabadell, we live upstairs and she lives downstairs. In the yard in the spring it is very beautiful because it is full of flowers and we said: «You really don't have to look far if we have a magnificent skate». Then we asked her kindly because sometimes it bothers her to have so many people, and she said

yes. With *Pròxima estació* we also recorded a video clip, so this is the second one. Very good experience. The director of the video clip was my older brother, Marc Tarruell, who studied at ESCAC and the way I do Audiovisual Communication is that we do the creative process together, I start from an idea and from here we both make the script and in the end we help each other. It's great to work with someone who knows you so well and trusts you so much.

–What projects do you have in mind?

–Now we have two concerts pending for September and we are already rehearsing. Between September and October, the EP will be released for which we will have T-shirts to sell

and for now, that's all.

–What is your goal for the rest of the year?

–It is to release the EP, which is well received and I would like to do a presentation concert. Although they are songs that have not been released, but that I am already playing in concerts, because otherwise I would only sing six of them. I would like to do a presentation concert and have them listen to the whole EP during the event. The idea is to present it mainly in Catalonia, it's like a pending subject that people around me ask me to do. The aim is to try to do a concert in Barcelona, because it will help more people to come. And in the long term it would be to continue releasing music. ≡

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