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Jason Derulo: Fresh Prince of R&B

After a high-profile split from ex-girlfriend Jordin Sparks, the singer, 28, returns with a club-ready album (out now), a grown-up outlook on life, and a new appreciation for Stevie Wonder. —KYLE ANDERSON

Your new album is titled *Everything Is 4*. What does that mean?

Four is a number that follows us around. Four legs on a chair—that means a strong foundation. Four seasons, four states of matter—that means change and being able to accept change. And it's also my fourth album.

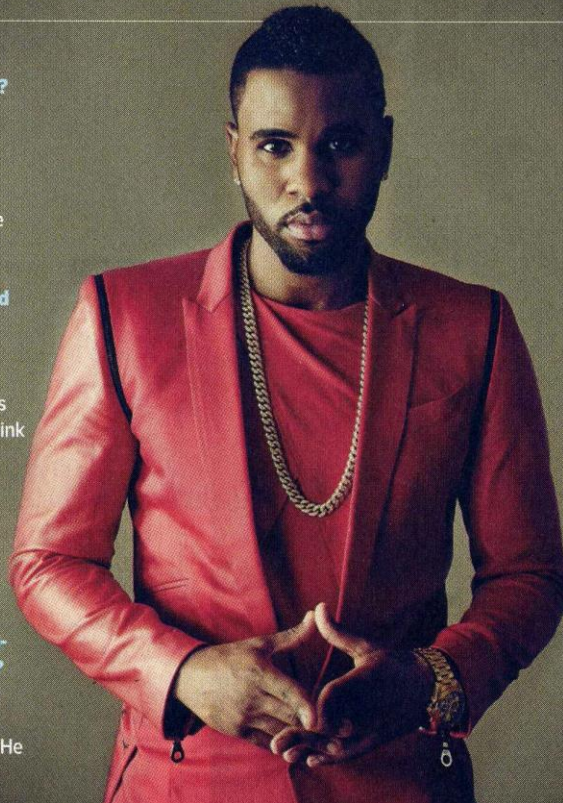
Much of this record was inspired by your breakup with Sparks.

Was it more difficult writing about something so personal?

I don't think it was harder. I always write songs about myself, and I think with time I'm just able to express things a lot better. I was 19 when I came out with my first album. The way I can explain things as a man is far different than the way I explained things as a teenager.

Why did you tap producer Ian Kirkpatrick, who has mostly handled rock bands like Neon Trees?

He was working with [songwriter] Lindy Robbins, who I work with all the time, and I trust her judgment. He brought this '80s experimentation



vibe that really brought my Michael [Jackson] and Prince influences to life. **Stevie Wonder appears on the song "Broke." How was it working with such a legend?**

Watching him go through different harmonicas was so entertaining. He went through 15 before he found the right one!

You also collaborated on a song with Meghan Trainor.

She's a firecracker. We actually recorded that song together in the booth at the same time. We really got in tune, no pun intended. Does that song sound like a single?

It does.

I've been asking the fans what the next single should be, but it's just so mixed, it's not helping at all. [Laughs]

Either way, your music is perfect for clubs. What's it like seeing people freak out to your songs?

It's kind of crazy that my music would do that, to drive people to want to move their bodies. In the club, it's really fly to see. It's such an amazing part of life, to dance, right?