**JAMES BLAKE ANNOUNCES NEW ALBUM *PLAYING ROBOTS INTO HEAVEN***

**RELEASES FIRST SINGLE “BIG HAMMER” WITH ACCOMPANYING MUSIC VIDEO**

**& ANNOUNCES 2023 HEADLINE TOUR INCLUDING DATE AT ALEXANDRA PALACE IN LONDON**

**A group of people climbing up a hill

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Credit: Thibaut Grevet**

**Download artwork** [**here**](https://umusic.box.com/s/yy7h37k52o58v0tuqrum1uv3zztjzxc0)

**WATCH THE MUSIC VIDEO FOR “BIG HAMMER”** [**HERE**](https://jamesblake.lnk.to/bighammer/YouTube)

**PRE-ORDER *PLAYING ROBOTS INTO HEAVEN*** [**HERE**](https://jamesblake.lnk.to/PRIH)

**London, UK, 28th June, 2023 –** Gearing up for another pivotal creative chapter, Mercury Music Prize and GRAMMY® Award-winning UK singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer **James Blake** has released **“Big Hammer”**, with accompanying music video directed by **Oscar Hudson** (Radiohead, Bonobo).

**“Big Hammer”** is the debut single from James’ forthcoming, sixth studio album ***Playing Robots Into Heaven*** whichwill be released on the 8th of September via Polydor/ Republic records.

***Playing Robots Into Heaven*** follows the critically acclaimed ***Friends That Break Your Heart*** *-*James’ highest charting album in the UK to date - and will seeJames return to the electronic roots of his Hessle, Hemlock and R&S records days. It will also nod to his latest creation, the CMYK event series with Ronda INTL which kicked off in LA last March and will be coming to London on the 6th of July. All the CMYK events over the past year have sold out within minutes and have featured appearances from special guests including, Steve Lacy, Channel Tres and HAii (to name but a few).

 To mark the release of ***Playing Robots Into Heaven*,** James will be embarking on a headline international tour, with dates in the UK, Europe and North America. Kicking off at the Fabrique in Milan on the 18th of September, it will see James travel to his home town in London for an Alexandra Palace show on 28th of September, before wrapping up in Los Angeles on 19th of October. See below for full list of dates.

Fans who pre-order the album from [www.jamesblakemusic.com](http://www.jamesblakemusic.com) by 6pm on Monday July 3rd will get access to exclusive ticket pre-sale for James' Alexandra Palace show on 4th July ahead of general sale on 7th July.

**JAMES BLAKE 2023 TOUR DATES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **CITY** | **VENUE** |
| 18 Sep | Milan, Italy | Fabrique |
| 21 Sep | Brussels, Belgium | Forest National Club |
| 22 Sep | Paris, France | L'Olympia |
| 24 Sep | Berlin, Germany | UFO im Velodrom |
| 26 Sep | Tilburg, Netherlands | O13 |
| 28 Sep | London, UK | Alexandra Palace |
| 3 Oct | Atlanta, GA , U.S. | Coca Cola Roxy |
| 5 Oct | Queens, NY, U.S. | Knockdown Center |
| 9 Oct | Boston, MA, U.S | MGM Music Hall at Fenway |
| 10 Oct | Montreal, QC, Canada | L’Olympia |
| 12 Oct | Toronto, ON, Canada | Rebel |
| 14 Oct | Chicago, IL, U.S. | Aragon Ballroom |
| 16 Oct | San Francisco, CA, U.S. | The Masonic Theater |
| 19 Oct | Los Angeles, CA, U.S. | Hollywood Forever Cemetery |

**CMYK**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 6 July | London UK | Here |

**ABOUT JAMES BLAKE:**

The GRAMMY® Award-winning UK singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer unassumingly operates as the enigmatic engine behind some of the most influential albums of the 21st century.

He produced choice cuts on Frank Ocean’s *Blonde*, Kendrick Lamar’s *DAMN.* and Dave’s *We’re All Alone In This Together*, as well as JAY-Z’s *4:44* and Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*—to which he also lent his voice in both cases. Feature appearances span “Stop Trying to Be God” with Stevie Wonder and Kid Cudi on Travis Scott’s epic ASTROWORLD and “King’s Dead” with Jay Rock, Kendrick Lamar, and Future from the chart-dominating Black Panther: The Album. The latter not only went triple-platinum, but it also earned Blake his first GRAMMY® Award in the category of “Best Rap Performance.”

Simultaneously, James emerged as pop’s most celebrated outlier with his dynamic solo output. He introduced a singular sound on 2011’s *James Blake*. Awarding the record a rare 9.0-out-of-10 score, Pitchfork crowned it one of “Top 100 Albums of the Decade So Far (2010-2014).” On its heels, the 2013 *Overgrown* illustrated his rare magnetic ability to align the likes of Brian Eno and RZA on the same project. It notably received the 2013 Mercury Prize and secured Blake’s “Best New Artist” nomination at the GRAMMY® Awards. After 2016’s The Colour In Anything, he reached new critical and commercial peaks with Assume Form during 2019. It bowed at #21 on the Billboard Top 200, marking his highest entry to date. Beyond clocking 300 million cumulative streams in under a year, it garnered the GRAMMY® nomination for “Best Alternative Album” and graced “Best of 2019” lists for outlets including Time Magazine, Harper’s Bazaar, Stereogum, Consequence of Sound, Billboard, DJ Booth, and Esquire. Since then, Blake has treated fans to Instagram live performances, new music sneak peaks and two critically acclaimed EPs; Before and Covers. The artist entertained fans through COVID-19, while live music was put on hold.

James released his fifth studio album *Friends That Break Your Heart* in October 2021, debuting at #4 on the UK charts and receiving mass critical acclaim. He has recently collaborated with Metro Boomin for the Spider-Verse soundtrack on tracks "Hummingbird" and "Nonviolent Communication" ft. A$AP Rocky & 21 Savage.

As he prepares for the release of his sixth album, James Blake’s shadow over popular music only continues to grow.

**DOWNLOAD HI RES *PLAYING ROBOTS INTO HEAVEN* ALBUM ARTWORK** [**HERE**](https://umusic.box.com/s/r1d5mrdcvvkmsvhnn0wvs24ja482d1ti)

**DOWNLOAD HI RES “BIG HAMMER” SINGLE ARTWORK** [**HERE**](https://umusic.box.com/s/57xf3xwiz578ib7yvwx2l54gexmpqp2a)

**DOWNLOAD JAMES BLAKE PRESS SHOT** [**HERE**](https://umusic.box.com/s/j7dwpdkcfm850cuh3sq2inuw5imoxz4x)

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