# Sade's first new song in 14 years celebrates her trans son



After a 14-year hiatus, legendary singer-songwriter Sade has returned with a poignant new track titled Young Lion. Set against a gentle piano riff, the song is a deeply personal dedication to her son, Izaak Theo Adu, who came out as a transgender man several years ago.

In the emotional lyrics of Young Lion, Sade expresses a mixture of empathy and regret over her initial failure to understand her son's struggle. "Young man, it’s been so heavy for you/You must have felt so alone," she sings, capturing the essence of a mother's lament. The song also carries an optimistic message of empowerment, with Sade assuring Izaak, "Shine like a sun/You have everything you need."

The track's release has drawn significant acclaim, particularly from the transgender community. Massima Bell, a musician, model, and activist who is transgender, shared her thoughts on the song's impact. "It’s amazing to hear a legendary musician like Sade sing about her heartfelt experience as the parent of a trans child," Bell remarked in an interview. "It’s incredibly powerful."

"Young Lion" is part of a broader musical initiative titled "Transa," an album orchestrated by Red Hot, an organisation founded 35 years ago by John Carlin in response to the AIDS epidemic. Red Hot aims to leverage the cultural influence of music to address pressing issues and foster empathy. The organisation's first effort was the album "Red Hot + Blue," featuring numerous celebrated artists and designed to raise funds in the fight against AIDS.

Bell, who has collaborated on "Transa" as a creative producer, sees the album as a groundbreaking effort. "It's not just about the music; it's about humanising experiences that are often marginalised," Bell explained. The inclusion of Sade's track underscores this mission by offering a deeply personal narrative that resonates with many, particularly those within the LGBTQ+ community.

Sade's comeback with "Young Lion" marks a significant moment not just in her career, but in the landscape of contemporary music. By sharing her family's journey, she adds an important voice to the conversation about love, acceptance, and understanding, making a substantial contribution to Red Hot's mission.